

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 11 October 1545 and proved 27 October 1545, of Sir John Baldwin, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, father-in-law of Robert Pakington (d. 13 November 1536), great-uncle of Humphrey Martyn, the addressee of the *Langham Letter* describing Leicester's entertainment of Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth in the summer of 1575.

The testator's granddaughter, Elizabeth Ramsey, was the wife of Lord Burghley's long-time servant, Roger Alford (d. 16 July 1580).

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator's parentage is uncertain. He is said to have been born before 1470, and to have been a younger son of William Baldwin (died c.1479) of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, and to have had an elder brother, Richard Baldwin (d.1484), and an uncle, John Baldwin (d.1469), who was a Bencher of Gray's Inn and a common serjeant of the City of London. See the entry for the testator in the *ODNB*.

For the Baldwin pedigree, see Phillimore, W.P.W., ed., *The Visitation of the County of Worcester Made in the Year 1569*, (London: Harleian Society, 1888), Vol. XXVII, pp. 101-3 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ECoeEAAAIAAJ&pg=PA103#v=onepage&q&f=false>

MARRIAGES AND ISSUE

First marriage

The testator married firstly Agnes Dormer, the daughter of William Dormer (d.1506) of West Wycombe, and the sister of Sir Robert Dormer (d.1552). It seems likely that Agnes Dormer's father, William Dormer (d.1506), was the half brother of Sir Michael Dormer (d. 20 September 1545), Lord Mayor of London in 1541. For the will of Sir Michael Dormer, see TNA PROB 11/30/546.

By Agnes Dormer, the testator had a son and three daughters:

* **William Baldwin** (d.1538), a lawyer of the Inner Temple. About 1529 he married Mary Tyringham, the daughter of Thomas Tyringham (d. 28 September 1526) of Tyringham near Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire, by Anne Catesby, daughter of Sir Humphrey Catesby of Whiston, Northamptonshire, but predeceased his father, leaving no issue. See Lipscomb, George, *The History and Antiquities of Buckingham*, (London: J. & W. Robins, 1847), Vol. IV, p. 374. (However note that according to Brydges, Mary Tyringham's father was John Tyringham; see Brydges, Egerton and Stebbing Shaw, *The*

Topographer for the Year 1789, Vol. I, (London: Robson, 1789), pp. 497-8, available online).

The testator states in the will below that he had purchased the manor of Aylesbury from Thomas Boleyn, Earl of Wiltshire, and his mother, Margaret, and that it is 'my daughter Baldwin's jointure', i.e. the jointure of the testator's daughter-in-law, Mary Tyringham, widow of William Baldwin (d.1538).

For the will of the testator's son, William Baldwin (d.1538), see TNA PROB 11/27/450.

* **Agnes Baldwin**, who married Robert Pakington (1489-1536), who was murdered on the morning of Monday 13 November 1536 while crossing Cheapside on his way to early Mass at the Mercers' chapel of St Thomas of Acre. As noted above, Robert Pakington was the great-uncle of Humphrey Martyn, the addressee of the *Langham Letter* describing Leicester's entertainment of Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth in the summer of 1575. For the will of Robert Pakington, see TNA PROB 11/27/46.

By Robert Pakington, Agnes Baldwin had two sons and three daughters:

-**Sir Thomas Pakington** (d. 2 June 1571), who married Dorothy Kitson (d.1577), the daughter of Sir Thomas Kitson (d.1540) of Hengrave by his second wife, Margaret Donnington (d. 12 January 1561), the only child of John Donnington (d.1544) of Stoke Newington.

-**John Pakington**, of whom nothing further is known.

-**Elizabeth Pakington**, who married firstly John Lane (d. 12 September 1557) of Walgrave, Northamptonshire, and secondly Sir Richard Malory, Alderman of London and Lord Mayor in 1564.

-**Anne Pakington**, who married Richard Cupper (d.1584), esquire, of Glympton, Oxfordshire.

-**Margaret Pakington**, who married firstly Benedict Lee (d.1559), esquire, of Burston, Buckinghamshire, henchman to King Henry VIII. Benedict Lee was the son of Sir Robert Lee (d.1539) by his second wife, Lettice Peniston (d.1557), and the half brother of Sir Anthony Lee (d.1549), a son of Sir Robert Lee by his first wife, a member of the Cope family. Sir Anthony Lee (d.1549) was the father of Queen Elizabeth's Champion, Sir Henry Lee (d.1611). After the death of Benedict Lee, Margaret Pakington married secondly Thomas Scott, esquire, of Yorkshire. See Chambers, E.K., *Sir Henry Lee; An Elizabethan Portrait*, (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1936), pp. 28, 247-8.

* **Parnell Baldwin** (d.1527), who married firstly Thomas Ramsey (d.1524), son of Thomas Ramsey (d. 30 January 1510) and his wife, Margaret Danvers (d.1515), daughter of Sir William Danvers (d. 19 April 1504), Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. See

Macnamara, F.N., *Memorials of the Danvers Family*, (London: Hardy & Page, 1895), p. 190 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/memorialsdanver00macngoog#page/n241/mode/2up>

Margaret [Danvers], the fourth of Sir William Danvers' daughters, married Thomas Ramsey of Hedsore and Hitcham, Bucks, of a family descended from Adam Ramsey, squire of the body to Richard II. Thomas and Margaret had a son, Thomas, who married Parnell, daughter and coheir of Sir John Baldwin, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas.

By Thomas Ramsey, Parnell Baldwin had a only child:

-Elizabeth Ramsey, who married firstly Nicholas Clerke (d.1551), and secondly Lord Burghley's servant, Roger Alford (d. 16 July 1580). See the pedigree of Clerke of North Weston in Lee, Frederick George, *The History, Description and Antiquities of the Prebendal Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Thame*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1883), p. 310 at:

<https://archive.org/details/PrebendalChurchOfTheBVM/page/n183>

For the will of Roger Alford, see TNA PROB 11/62/442. For the will of Elizabeth Ramsey Clerke Alford, proved 23 December 1598, see TNA PROB 11/92/437. The testator bequeaths to his granddaughter, Elizabeth (nee Ramsey), £10 in the will below as 'my cousin, Elizabeth Clerke'.

See also:

'Parishes: Hitcham', *A History of the County of Buckingham: Volume 3* (1925), pp. 231-235. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=42551>

His son and heir Thomas Ramsay (fn. 35) died in 1510, (fn. 36) and by his will left a life interest in Hitcham to his wife Margaret. (fn. 37) She died in 1515, and the manorial rights vested in their son and heir Thomas, aged thirteen, (fn. 38) on whose death in 1524 Hitcham was granted in dower to his wife Parnel. (fn. 39) A posthumous daughter Elizabeth, born two months after her father's death, inherited the property on the decease of her mother Parnel in 1527. (fn. 40) Elizabeth Ramsay married as her first husband Nicholas Clarke, who died in 1551. (fn. 41) In 1553 the manor was settled to the use of Elizabeth Clarke and her heirs, (fn. 42) and on her subsequent marriage with Roger Alford further settlements were made in 1561 and 1562. (fn. 43) Elizabeth was again left a widow on the death in 1580 of Roger Alford, who left instructions for his burial in the chancel of Hitcham Church, his motto, 'trie, trust and mistruste not,' to be placed on his tomb. (fn. 44) The manorial rights were exercised by Elizabeth Alford (fn. 45) until her death in 1598, when she left Hitcham Manor by will to Sir William Clarke, her son and heir by her first husband. (fn. 46)

For a letter dated 9 January 1564 from Sir William Cecil to Bridget (nee Hussey), (1526-1601), then Countess of Rutland, stating that Oxford was at Hitcham near Burnham in Buckinghamshire (and likely at Roger Alford's home there), see Historical Manuscripts Commission, Twelfth Report, Appendix, Part IV, *The Manuscripts of His Grace the Duke of Rutland, G.C.B., Preserved at Belvoir Castle*, (London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1888), Vol. 1, p. 89.

Parnell Baldwin married secondly the London mercer, Edward Borlase (d.1544), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/30/136. By Edward Borlase, Parnell Baldwin had one son:

-John Borlase (c.1527 – 6 May 1593), who married Anne Lytton, the daughter of Sir Robert Lytton (d.1550) of Knebworth, Hertfordshire. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, p. 461; and the History of Parliament entry for John Borlase at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/borlase-john-1527-93>

For the will of John Borlase dated 25 March 1593 in which he mentions his wife, Anne, and his son, William Borlase (d. 4 September 1629), see TNA PROB 11/81/387.

William Borlase (d. 4 September 1629) was a 'friend of Ben Jonson', and appears to have painted Jonson's portrait. In return, Jonson wrote verses to William Borlase beginning:

Why, though I be of a prodigious waist

* **Alice Baldwin** (d.1546), the last Abbess of Burnham Abbey, for whom see her will, TNA PROB 11/31/79, and the Wikipedia article edited by the author of this website.

Second marriage

The testator married secondly, in 1518, Anne (née Norris), widow of William Wroughton, and daughter of Sir William Norris (d.1507) of Yattendon, Berkshire, by his third wife, Anne Horne. She is said to have become insane before Baldwin's death, and in October 1545 Edward Seymour, Earl of Hertford, suggested that she be placed in the care of her son by her first marriage, Sir William Wroughton (d. 4 September 1559). Three months later Anne was sent to live with her kinswoman, Mary (née Norris) Carew (d.1570), widow of Vice-Admiral Sir George Carew (c.1504 – 19 July 1545), and daughter of Henry Norris (b. before 1500, d. 1536) of Bray, Berkshire, and his wife, Mary. See Bindoff, S.T., *The House of Commons 1509-1558*, (London: Secker & Warburg, 1982), Vol. III, p. 668. See also the History of Parliament entry for Sir William Wroughton at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/wroughton-sir-william-150910-59>

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

For the will of the testator's cousin, John Galy (d.1546), who survived the testator by only a few months, see TNA PROB 11/31/215.

LM: Test{amentu}m Ioh{ann}is Baldwyn M{ili}t{i}s

In the name of God, Amen. The 11 day of October in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred forty and five, I, Sir John Baldwin, knight, Chief Justice of the King's Common Pleas at Westminster, being whole of mind and perfect of remembrance, laud and prising to God, my Saviour, make this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I give and bequeath my soul to Almighty God, Our Lady Saint Mary, and to all the holy company in heaven, my body to be buried where it shall please God Almighty;

Item, I give and bequeath for tithes forgotten, if any such be, to the vicar of Aylesbury 3s 4d;

Item, I [+will] that there shall be spent for me at my burying and month's mind twenty pounds to [+poor?] people, and as much more as my brother Dormer shall assign, name and appoint;

Item, I will yearly an obit to be kept in Aylesbury Church, and that to be kept the day of my decease, and to be spent at the same yearly twenty shillings, the substance thereof to poor people dwelling in Aylesbury, and the same obit so to continue 21 years next after my decease, and after the said 21 years to be kept yearly by my heirs if they will;

Item, further I will my household be kept by the space of 12 weeks next after my decease, and as many of my household servants as will take meat and drink and lodging for the said time;

I will to the Master of the Fraternity of Aylesbury forty shillings;

Item, I will to every of my servants, as well men as women, continually being in my household and to such only as I give wages unto, to every of them 20s;

To Thomas Somner 10s, Thomas Wyatt 10s, Edmund Wolfe 10s, Thomas Dygnam, my velvet doublet, John Smyth my gown lined with damask, to George Annesley my best satin doublet;

I will also to every of my servants, as well men as women, three yards of black cloth, price every yard 5s;

And whereas I had before this time given and granted by my deed to John Bosse all my manors, lands and tenements, rents, reversions and services in Aylesbury, Walton, Bierton, Ludgershall within the county of Buckingham, and the manor of Stratton Audley within the county of Oxford, except all those manors, lands and tenements which I purchased of Thomas, late Earl of Wiltshire, in Aylesbury within the county of Buckingham, to have to the said John Bosse for term of one month, remainder to Alice Baldwin, my daughter, for term of her life, as by my deed bearing date the first day of March in the 31st year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Henry the 8th plainly appeareth, and according to the same deed I myself gave possession to the said John Bosse in my close in Aylesbury in the name of all my lands in Buckinghamshire according to the said deed, and Thomas Somner, my bailiff, gave possession at Stratton Audley to the said John Bosse, being present at the said possession Thomas Lee, clerk to the said Bosse, and noinoo(?) made privy at that time, and the courts in Stratton Audley and Ludgershall kept in the name of the said Alice Baldwin, and agreed upon the said estates making that I should take the profits of all the premises during my will, and yet forasmuch as I know the experience what business hath been before the Master of the King's Wards for proving of livery and seisin for women's jointures and other estates, to the intent I would have my daughter more surely served for term of her life, I will, give and bequeath to her all the said manors, lands and tenements in the county of Buckingham and Oxford, except before excepted, to my said daughter for term of her life, which I take to be only a confirmation of her interest, and if the said estates were not made, then this taketh effect here by this my will;

Item, I will to my cousin, William Welche, five pounds and the dun gelding that he is used to ride on;

Item, I will and bequeath to him also all my lands and tenements in Tynsewyke [=Tingewick?], and all my lands and tenements in Hartwell, late Woodford's, for term of his life, of all which lands I have made him estate by deed for term of life, yet for his more assurance I will to him the same;

Item, I will to my cousin, John Galy, all my lands and tenements [f. 303r] in Haddenham and Bipthorpe which I purchased of Sir John Norris, and all the lands and tenements there which I did purchase of John Benett, of all which lands I have made him estate by deed for term of life, yet for his more assurance I will to him the same;

Item, I will to William Haynes of Byfield my gown at Aylesbury furred with cony;

Item, I will to William Bradley and to John Galy my years and term to come in the parsonage of Aylesbury, and to William Bradley also 20s;

Item, I will to every of my daughter Pakington's children except Thomas Pakington, for that he is one of my heirs, 20s;

Item, I will to Robert Heynes his wife and children 40s;

Item, I will to Joan Heynes, daughter of Robert Heynes, towards the preferment of her marriage, three pounds 6s 8d;

Item, I will to Anne Prynce to be delivered her at time of her marriage, ten pounds, and if she die before marriage, then my legacy to be void;

Item, I will to William Prynce, brother to the said Anne, to be given to him at the age of 24 years, 20s, and if he die before, then the legacy to be void;

Item, I will to Francis Gross, my cousin of London and now dwelling with me at Marlow, five pounds;

Item, I will to my cousin Margaret, William Welche's mother, five pounds, and to every of her children of her body begotten five pounds except William Welches and his sisters, Margaret Webbe and Mary Sowthall, for that I have given them already;

Item, to my cousin Francis Durraunt three pounds;

To Anne Durraunt, his mother, and to every other of her children being my cousins, 40s;

Item, I will to my cousin John Borlase the three goblets and the cover which I bought of his father, and to him also all my books of law, and twenty pounds in satisfaction of William Baldwin[s] legacy;

Item, I will to my cousin, Elizabeth Clerke, ten pounds;

Item, I will to my cousin, Thomas Pakington, thirty pounds in satisfaction of William Baldwin's legacy;

Item, I will to my cousin, John Pakington, 20s;

Item, to Anne Pakington, 20s;

Item, to Margaret Pakington 20s;

Item, to my cousin, Bess Lane, 20s;

Item, I will to my trusty friend, John Bosse, gentleman, desiring him to be good counsellor, as I have trust [+in] him, to the furtherance of my heirs and to the furtherance of my will, my gown lined with satin;

Item, I will that my daughter, Alice, take the rents, issues and profits of all my manors, lands and tenements except such which be assigned to the King's Majesty for his third part for primer seisin and wardship, except also such manors and tenements as I have given her or willed her, except also all other lands which I have given away or willed away for any time, except also Henry Kenys' [=Kene's?] farm of the yearly value of nine pounds, whereof I will declare my will in writing to Thomas Pakington, John Borlase, William Welche and John Galy or to part of them which I intend to declare it unto, and that to be disposed after such sum as I shall declare unto them or to two of them or to one of them, and of the residue of my lands my said daughter, Alice, to take the profits unto such time she have received of the rents and profits thereof six hundred pounds towards the performance of my will, and the residue of my will to be performed and paid of my debts, and if that will not perform it fully, then that that lacketh to be performed of my said lands;

Item, I will to my sister Dormer my bay gelding that I use to ride on;

Item, I will to my cousin, William Dormer, 26s 8d for a black gown;

Item, I will my collar of gold be sold towards the performance of my will;

Item, I will to my daughter, Alice, half my plate not willed away, and I will her also half my stuff of household, and the other half of my stuff of household to be divided between Thomas Pakington and John Borlase, and that division to be made by my said daughter without any denial of the said Thomas and John, and after the said goods divided indifferently in two parts, then my daughter to choose which part she will to her own use;

Item, I will to Thomas Pakington and to John Borlase half my plate, and to my daughter the other half;

I revoke and annul by these presents all other wills be [=by] me before this time made of my goods and chattels;

I make my daughter, Alice Baldwin, my sole executrice, to whom I give as is above, trusting that she will be good unto her poor kin and to other poor people;

And I make my trusty friend, Sir Robert Dormer, one of my overseers, to whom I give for his pain my velvet gown;

And I make also John Galy another of my overseers of this my last will & testament, to whom I give and will toward his long pain and service that he hath done and in this will do twenty pounds;

Hijs testib {us} John Bosse, Ric {hard} o Capper [=Cupper?], Thoma Pakington Ioh {ann}e Burlace

LM: vltima voluntas eiusdem Ioh{ann}is

Be it had in mind that I, Sir John Baldwin, knight, make and declare this my last will and testament of all my manors, lands and tenements within the realm of England in form following:

First I assign and appoint to the King's Majesty for his title of wardship and primer seisin the manor of Aylesbury which I purchased of late [+of] the Earl of Wiltshire and Dame Margaret Boleyn, his mother;

And also I assign and appoint to the King's Majesty for his third part of his primer seisin and wardship the manor of Broughton and Upton which I lately purchased of his Grace, which is the full third part of all my lands which his Grace is entitled to have by wardship and primer seisin, that is to say, the moiety for primer seisin for Thomas Pakington and the other moiety for wardship of John Borlase;

And whereas I by my deed before the Statute of Wills gave to John Bosse of Aylesbury, gentleman, all my manors, lands and tenements, rents and services in Aylesbury, Walton and Bierton except the said manor of Aylesbury lately purchased, and also gave to the said John Bosse my manors of Ludgershall and Stratton Audley for term of one month, the remainder to my daughter, Alice Baldwin, for term of her life, to the which manors so given to my said daughter for term of her life the King's Grace is not entitled to have any part thereof during [-during] her life but only to the reversion thereof when it chanceth to fall after the death of my said daughter, Alice, and if his Grace shall be entitled to the same manors, lands and tenements or any parcel thereof after my decease by any ways or means as I know not, then I give, will, assign and appoint the said manors, lands and tenements so to her given by my deed for term of her life by force of this my will as parcel of my second part of my manors, lands and tenements;

I will to my said daughter also for term of fifty years as parcel of the second part of my manors, lands and tenements all the lands and tenements which I lately purchased of the King's Grace late the Grey Friars in Aylesbury, provided always that when the said Alice shall decease, the said years to be ended;

And whereas I have given also to my cousin, William Welche, all my lands and tenements in Tynseyke and all my lands and tenements in Hartwell late Woodford's for term of his life, and also whereas I have given to my cousin, John Galy, all my lands and tenements in Haddenham and Biphroppe for term of his life, as by my several deeds appeareth, which several gifts I gave for that they be nigh of my kindred and for the long service done to me, which was given before the said Statute, and so the King's Grace not to be entitled to no part thereof during their several lives, and if his Grace shall be entitled to the same after my decease, then I give, will, assign and appoint the said lands and tenements in Tynseyke, Hartwell, Haddenham and Biphrope to the said William Welche and John Galye for term of their several lives according to their deeds as parcel of my second part of my lands and tenements;

And I will my manors, lands and tenements hereafter following for the performance of my will, that is to say, my manor of Weskynton [=West Kington?] in the county of Wiltshire, my lands and tenements in Bodicote in the county of Oxford, and my manors, lands and tenements in Little Marlow, Hamulden [=Hambledon?], Farnham Royal, Stoke, Brill, Oakley and Wingrave, all which lands and tenements after my will performed to remain to my heirs according to the law, and if the first part assigned to the King's Majesty for title of wardship and primer seisin be not the full third part which his Grace shall be entitled to have by wardship and primer seisin, I will then that the Master of the King's Grace['s] Wards for the time being shall take out of the manor of Weskynton [=West Kington?] as much as shall make up with the manors above assigned to the King's Majesty the full third part, and to take it of no other lands for that I intend to make my will according;

Whereas my daughter, Alice Baldwin, William Welche and John Galy stand and be now seised of and in the manor of Broughton which I late purchased of Mr Staveley, I will that William Welche and John Galye or one of them and the executors of the survivor of them shall receive and take the rents, issues and profits of the farm now being in the occupation of one Henry Kene of Broughton, which is £9 by the year, by as long time and to such intent and purpose as I have declared by my writing to my cousin, John Galye, subscribed with my own hand;

I will also to my daughter, Alice, as much wood to be taken out of my manor of Ellesborough as she will spend at Aylesbury at all times that she is disposed to dwell there during her life;

I will my new house in Little Marlow with the closes about it and all my lands and tenements in the tenure or occupation of John Barnard to my said daughter for term of fifty [f. 304r] years, provided always that if she die within the term then the years to cease;

I will also to my said daughter as much wood to be taken in my woods of Little Marlow as she will spend at Little Marlow;

I will to Thomas Pakington towards his charges for suing of his livery thirty pounds, and to John Borlase £20;

Item, I will also that if it fortune that John Borlase to decease without heirs of his body lawfully begotten (as God forbid), that then I will all my manors, lands and tenements to him appointed by the law or otherwise shall remain unto Elizabeth Clerke, my cousin, and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten, and if it fortune the said Elizabeth to decease without heirs of her body lawfully begotten, that then I will all my said manors, lands and tenements to the said Elizabeth appointed to remain unto my right heirs forever;

Memorandum, that Preston and Cowley upon my first purchase is conveyed to me by fine with remainders over, by reason whereof the King's Grace is not entitled to have no primer seisin nor wardship during the title of them in remainder.

Memorandum that Chaddesley is my daughter Baldwin's jointure.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascripti defuncti vna cum vltima voluntate eiusdem habentis &c xxvijmo Die mensis Octobris Anno Domini Millesimo quingentesimo quadagesimo quinto Coram domino apud London auctoritate domini nostri Regis Iuramento Alicie Baldwin filie et executricis vnice in huiusmodi testamento nominatim In persona xpoferi Robynson procuratoris in hac parte Ac approbatum & insinuatum Commissa que fuit administrationis omnium & singulorum bonorum Iurium & creditorum defuncti prefate executrici In persona defuncti procuratoris De bene & fideliter administrationis Ac de pleno & [+fidei] Inuentorio secundo die post festum sancti Hillarij proximum futurum exhibendo Necnon de plano et vero compoto reddendo Ad sancta dei Evangelia in debita iuris forma iurat

[=The testament of the above-written deceased, together with the last will of the same, having etc., was proved on the 27th day of the month of October in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred forty-fifth before the Lord at London by the authority of our Lord the King by the oath of Alice Baldwin, daughter and sole executrix named in the same testament, in the person of Christopher Robinson, proctor in that behalf, and probated & entered, and administration was granted of all & singular the goods, rights & credits of the said deceased to the forenamed executrix in the person of the said proctor, sworn on the Holy Gospels in due form of law to well & faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full & [+faithful] inventory on the second day after the feast of Saint Hilary next to come, and also to render a plain and true account.]