

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 20 December 1546 and proved 28 February 1547, of Richard Trentham. The testator's wife, Maria Ireland, predeceased him, leaving him with six children, all under the age of 21 years: his son and heir, Thomas Trentham (d.1588), the father of Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham (d.1612), and five daughters, presumably listed in order of age, Elizabeth, Joan, Joyce, Katherine and Margaret. Richard Trentham's son and heir, Thomas Trentham (d.1588), married Joan Sneyd, the daughter of Sir William Sneyd (d.1571). According to various sources, the marriages of his daughters were as follows: Elizabeth married Thomas Hakluyt of Eyton Court; Joan married Godfrey Foljambe (d.1591) of Moor Hall in Derbyshire; Joyce married Edward Mynors, a descendant of John Mynors and Isolda, the daughter of Sir William Trussell; Katherine married Thomas Lane of Hyde and Bentley in Staffordshire, and Margaret married Sampson Meverell of Throwley in Staffordshire. For the testator's lease of the parsonage of Trentham, see TNA E 328/86, which states that it was granted by King Henry VIII by indenture dated 21 November 29 Henry VIII for 21 years. The reversion was granted by the King by letters patent of 19 December 30 Henry VIII to his brother-in-law, Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk. The terms of the will indicate that the testator prepared it with his son's wardship in mind. For the wardship, see TNA WARD 7/3/39 and TNA WARD 7/31/112. For the testator's inquisitions post mortem, see TNA C 142/85/47, TNA C 142/85/57, TNA E 150/863/3 and TNA E 150/944/1. For the inquisition post mortem of the testator's son and heir, Thomas Trentham, see TNA C 142/214/208.

LM: Testamentum Richardi Trentham

In the name of God, Amen. The twenty day of December in the 38th year [=20 December 1546] of the reign of our Sovereign Lord Henry the Eight, by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, and in earth Supreme Head of the Church of England and Ireland, I Richard Trentham, squire, whole of mind and memory, thanks to Almighty God, do make, ordain and declare my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to wit:

First and principally I bequeath and recommend my soul to Almighty God, Maker, Saviour and Redeemer of all the world, and all the company of heaven, and my body to be buried in such place as it shall please Almighty God to provide by the discretion of my executors;

Also, I will and bequeath to my executors after my decease the years of my farm and parsonage of Trentham in the county of Stafford which I, the said Richard Trentham, hold for certain years yet enduring of the lease and grant of the King our Sovereign Lord by indenture or otherwise, and all my right, state, title, interest and term of years of and in the same, to have, hold, occupy and enjoy the said farm, parsonage and other the premises to my said executors for and during all such time and term of years as I, the said Richard Trentham, have in the same, and in as ample and large manner as I, the said

Richard Trentham, the same farm now have, hold or occupy, with all the cattle, corn and grain that shall fortune to be in and upon the said farm and parsonage at the time of my decease, and the issues and profits thereof to be employed by my said executors to the uses and intents and upon condition hereafter specified and declared, that is to say:

My said executors shall after my decease yearly take, levy, perceive and keep all the whole rents, revenues, issues and profits coming and growing yearly of, in and upon the said farm and other the premises that shall fortune to come after my decease and not expired, which said rents, issues, revenues and profits so yearly received, taken and kept I will and bequeath to and for the payment of my debts according to a bill thereof made, subscribed with mine own hand, and also for and to th' use and behoof of Elizabeth, Joan, Joyce, Katherine and Margaret, my daughters, to be equally departed and divided amongst them for their preferments;

Also I will that my said executors shall see that the parts and portions of my said daughters substantially be kept for their use and behoof, and to be delivered to them at the time of their marriage or at such time as they shall come to the age of 21 years;

And that my said executors shall also, with the rents, revenues, issues and profits of the said farm, lands and tenements, corn and grain and stock of cattle being and going upon the same immediately after my decease, find my said daughters convenient and necessary apparel, meat, drink and lodging and all other necessaries to them belonging unto such time they be married or shall come to the age of 21 years, and then my said executors to be discharged of and for the finding and keeping of them or any of them, being married or after they or any of them shall come to the said age of 21 years;

And if my said daughters or any of them fortune to decease before they or she be married or do accomplish the said age of 21 years, then I will that all such part or portion to them due not married or before they come to the said age of 21 years shall be indifferently divided amongst my said daughters then surviving, as is aforesaid;

And if all my said daughters as is aforesaid decease unmarried or before they accomplish the said age of 21 years, then I will that all such sums of money or parcels thereof as shall be then due, levied and received by my said executors to th' use of my said children as is aforesaid shall be delivered by my said executors unto my son, Thomas, if he be then living;

And if my said son be then deceased and dead, I will that the moiety of all such sums of money or parcels thereof as shall be then due, levied and received in form aforesaid shall be delivered by my said executors to my brother, Robert Trentham, if he then be living, and the other moiety thereof to be bestowed by the discretion of my said executors of this my last will and testament for the payment of my debts and to be distributed in deeds of charity for the wealth of my soul and to the honour of God;

Also, if any of my daughters be inobedient or of evil conversation, or refuse to be ordered by my said executors in bestowing them for their most preferment, or do or will follow

evil living and lewd manners, then I will that the one-half of all such parts or parcels of such marriage money pertaining to her or them so being inobedient and of evil conversation, or refuse to be ordered as is foresaid, then being due and payable shall be equally divided and parted amongst the other of my said daughters then surviving and being of honest conversation and ordered as is aforesaid for their preferment;

Also I will that Robert Lowe shall have a certain close or pasture in Trentham called the Grange Fold for and during the residue of my years which I have to come in the same after my decease, freely without any rent therefore to be yielded to my said executors during the said term;

Also I will and bequeath to Thomas Trentham, my son, the sum of forty pounds in money, with my chain of gold being of the value of forty pounds or near thereabout, and half a dozen of silver spoons, and the same money, chain and spoons to be delivered unto him by my executors at such time as the said Thomas shall come unto his full age of 21 years as is aforesaid if he be then living;

And if my said son be then deceased and dead, I will that the said money, chain and spoons shall be by my executors equally and indifferently distributed and divided amongst so many of my said daughters as shall be then living;

The residue of all my goods and chattels I give and bequeath to my executors, therewith to content my debts and pay my funerals, and of this my present last will and testament I constitute, ordain and make my well-beloved cousins, Andrew Corbet, Richard Corbet, esquires, and Edward Draycott, Edward Hosier, Edmond Fox and Thomas Ireland, gentlemen, to be my executors, requiring them in God to take the pains and labour upon them to see this my last will performed and truly executed in everything, and if any doubt, controversy or debate do or may arise or be moved of and upon this my present testament and last will in manner and form as is now made, then I will the same doubt and controversy be ordered and determined by the discretion of my said executors;

In witness whereof I, the said Richard Trentham, have subscribed this with mine own hand, these being witnesses thereunto. Richard Trentham. Richard Clyve, Thomas Cagart, priest, Francis Collyche and Thomas Downe

RM: Vltima Voluntas eiusdem Richardi

In the name of God, Amen. The twenty day of December in the 38th year [=20 December 1546] of the reign of Henry the Eight, by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, and in earth Supreme Head of the Church of England and Ireland, I, Richard Trentham, squire, whole of mind and memory, laud and praise be to Almighty God, do declare, make and ordain by this my writing [+my] last will and testament touching my meses, lands and tenements, rents and hereditaments with all and

singular their appurtenances hereunder written according to an Act of Parliament in such case lately provided, as hereafter followeth, that is to wit:

I, considering my mortality according to the course of nature [+and] I minding also as well the preferment of my children, friends and servants as the payment of my debts for the discharge of my conscience as a true Christian man ought to do, first I devise, will and bequeath to Andrew Corbet and Richard Corbet, esquires, Edward Hosyer, Edmond Fox, Thomas Ireland and Edward Draycott, gentlemen, whom I make mine executors, the lands and tenements hereafter expressed, which do not amount fully to the clear yearly value of two parts of my said lands and tenements, in three parts to be divided, that is to wit:

I devise, will and bequeath to the said Andrew Corbet, Richard Corbet, Edward Hosyer, Edmond Fox, Thomas Ireland and Edward Draycott my pasture in Rocester in the county of Stafford called the Long Close, of the yearly value of 108s;

My pasture in Rocester aforesaid called the Nether Yees, of the yearly value of six pounds and four shillings;

My meadow in two closes in Rocester aforesaid called the Channons Cliffe, of the yearly value of 30s;

My pasture in Rocester aforesaid called Nether Shilderholme, of the clear yearly value of 24s;

My pasture of Rocester aforesaid called the Horse Meadow, of the clear yearly value of four pounds 8s;

My pasture in Rocester aforesaid called Tummiesbury, of the yearly value of 33s;

My pasture in Rocester aforesaid called the Otcroftes with the land and Nederhill, of the clear yearly value of 21s;

My pasture called Wotton in Rocester aforesaid, of the yearly value of 20s;

My meadow in Rocester aforesaid called the Town Meadow with divers parcels of the same to divers tenants there demised with their tenements, of the clear yearly value of 28s;

And all my arable land in Rocester aforesaid containing in the whole threescore and ten acres lying and being in the fields hereunder written, that is to wit:

In a parcel of ground called the Flats or Milne Flats, 30 acres; and in the said field called the Clay Field there 18 acres, of the yearly value of 9s;

And in Burghil Field there 22 acres, of the yearly value of 9s 2d;

Also I will and bequeath to the said Andrew, Richard, Edward, Edmond, Thomas and Edward Draycott 12s to be yearly taken of my walk mill in Rocester aforesaid, and all that my chief rents in Smethcote in the county of Salop, that is to wit:

Yearly going out of the lands of Thomas Partryge, ten shillings;

And out of the lands of Thomas Philippes, yearly 5d;

And that yearly rent of 14d which Thomas Bondeler payeth for a mill in Smethcote aforesaid;

My tenement with a shop set and being in Corsers [=Corvisor's] Row aforesaid with a garden lying nigh the church of Saint Chad of the same town of Shrewsbury in the tenure of John Cotton, of the clear yearly value of 34s 8d;

My tenement with the garden nigh the church of Saint Chad aforesaid in Shrewsbury aforesaid in the tenure of Henry (blank), of the yearly value of five shillings;

My pasture with a garden in John field there in the tenure of Richard Atkes [=Atkins?], of the clear yearly value of twenty-one shillings 8d;

My pasture there in the holding of Robert Gyttyns, of the yearly value of ten shillings;

My pasture there with a[n] orchard in the tenure of Arthur Makeworth, of the yearly value of 22s;

My pool or water called Kingeslands Pools in the tenure of Adam Oteley, esquire, of the clear yearly value of 8s;

My two tenements set and being in the said town of Shrewsbury at the High Cross in the tenure of Roger Bykerstaffe, of the yearly value of 26s 8d;

My tenement with a garden set and lying between the castle gates of the said town of Shrewsbury in the holding of William Alcrofte, of the yearly value of 6s 8d;

My two tenements between the castle gates aforesaid in the tenure of William Modelycote, of the yearly value of ten shillings;

My barn with a garden and the pinfold in the castle foregate aforesaid in the tenure of Thomas Joukes, of the yearly value of 2s 4d;

My tenement with a shop set, lying and being in Corsers Row aforesaid in the holding of John Williams, of the yearly value of 26s 8d;

And my tenement with a garden in Shrewsbury aforesaid and a pasture lying between Coton and Crosshill in the tenure of Robert Spencer, of the clear yearly value of 16s;

To have and hold all the said lands, tenements, pastures, rents and other the premises with all and singular their appurtenances to the said Andrew, Richard, Edward, Edmond, Thomas and Edward Draycott, their executors and assigns, from the time of my decease until the feast of Easter which shall be in the year of Our Lord God one thousand five hundred fifty and nine, to th' intent that the said Andrew, Richard, Edward, Edmond, Thomas and Edward Draycott shall yearly perceive, receive, levy and take the issues, revenues and profits of the premises and therewith shall well and truly satisfy, content and pay my debts according to a bill made and subscribed with mine own hand and bearing date with this my present last will and testament;

Also I devise, will and bequeath to Robert Trentham, my brother, these parcels of lands, meses and tenements hereafter written, that is to wit:

My messuage with divers pastures set and lying in Northwood in the county of Salop in the tenure of Thomas Watkys [=Watkins?] of the yearly value of 20s;

And all that my rent of twenty shillings which Thomas Partrich, John Beche and Rowland Partrich pay yearly for the copies in Smythcote aforesaid;

And also my tenement in Fish Street with my shop set and being in Corsers Row in the town of Shrewsbury in the tenure of Roger Wright, of the yearly value of 18s;

My tenement with a shop set and being in Corsers Row aforesaid in the tenure of Thomas Jowkes, of the yearly value of four shillings [-of the yearly value of four shillings];

My tenement with a shop in Corsers Row aforesaid in the tenure of Richard Jowkes ,of the clear yearly value of 21s;

My tenement with a shop in Mardwall in Shrewsbury aforesaid in the tenure of Roger Luther, of the yearly value of 12s;

And my tenement [+in] Kylne Lane in Shrewsbury in the tenure of Elene Paynter, of the yearly value of 6s 8d;

Of the clear yearly value of five pounds and eight pence, to have and hold the same to the said Robert from my decease during the natural life of the said Robert;

Item, I will that the said Andrew, Richard, Edward, Edmond, Thomas and Edward Draycott shall yearly allow and suffer to go free my well-beloved friend, Richard Atkys of Shrewsbury of one yearly rent of five shillings and nine pence, parcel of a more sum which the said Richard Atkys is charged withal yearly unto me, the said Richard Trentham, and my heirs for a certain pasture which the said Richard Atkys holdeth of the demise and lease of me, the said Richard Trentham, within the liberty of the town of Shrewsbury during the natural life of the said Richard Atkys;

And all the residue of all the said rents, revenues, issues and profits so yearly to be received and taken of the premises afore the said feast of Easter which shall be in the said year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred fifty and nine, I devise, will and bequeath the same to Elizabeth, Joan, Joyce, Katherine and Margaret, my daughters, to be equally divided and parted amongst them for their preferment of marriage, portion and portions like, which I will that my said executors shall deliver to them accordingly;

Also, I will that my said executors shall see that the parts and portions of my said daughters shall be substantially kept for their use and behoof, and to be delivered to them at the time of their marriage or at such time as they shall come to the age of 21 years;

And if my foresaid daughters or any of them fortune to decease before she or they be married or do accomplish the said age of 21 years, then I will that all such part or portion to them due not married or before they come to the said age of 21 years shall be indifferently divided amongst my said other daughters then surviving as is aforesaid;

And if all my said daughters decease unmarried or before they accomplish the said age of 21 years, then I will that all such sums of money or parcels thereof as shall be then due, levied and received by my executors unto th' use of my said children as is aforesaid shall be delivered by my executors unto my said son, Thomas, if he be then living;

And if my son be deceased and dead, I will that the moiety of all such sums of money or parcels thereof as shall be then due, levied and received in form aforesaid shall be delivered by my executors to my said brother, Richard [sic] Trentham, if he be then living, and the other moiety thereof to be bestowed by the discretion of my executors of this my last will and testament for the payment of my debts and to be distributed in deeds of charity for the wealth of my soul and to the honour of God;

Also, if any of my daughters be inobedient or of evil conversation, or refuse to be ordered by my executors in bestowing them for their most preferment, or follow evil living and lewd manners, then I will that one-half of all such parts or parcels of such marriage money pertaining to her or them so being inobedient, of evil conversation, or refuse to be ordered as is aforesaid then being due and payable shall be equally divided and parted amongst the other of my said daughters then surviving and being of honest conversation and ordered as is aforesaid for their preferment;

Item, further I will that after my said will performed and fulfilled, that all my lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances aforesaid and every parcel thereof, as it shall fortune to revert by portions otherwise by the deceases of such person as the same is willed to and otherwise, shall then and immediately as it shall fall, remain, revert, come or be to the said Thomas, my son, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to the right heirs of me, the said Richard Trentham, forever;

Also, the residue of all my lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances not here expressed, which amounteth to the clear yearly value of the third part and more

of all my lands and tenements which I within the realm of England have in three parts to be divided, I leave to Thomas, my son, and his heirs according to the said Statute of Wills in such case ordered and provided;

And if any debate, controversy or doubt do or may arise or be moved of and upon this my present testament and last will in manner and form as it is made now, then I will that the same doubt and controversy be ordered and determined by the discretion of my said executors;

In witness whereof I, the said Richard Trentham, have subscribed this with my own hand, these being witnesses thereunto. Richard Trentham. Richard Clyve, Thomas Cagart, chaplain, Francis Collyche & Thomas Down

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascripti defuncti Vnacum Vltima Voluntate eiusdem Vltimo Die mensis february Anno Domini Millesimo quingentesimo quadragesimo sexto Coram Domino apud London auctoritate Dominj nostri Regis &c Iuramento executorum in huiusmodi testamento nominatorum In persona magistri Iohannis Kydde notarij publici procuratoris sui in hac parte Ac approbatum et insinuatum Commissaque fuit administracio omnium et singulorum bonorum Iurium et creditorum dicti defuncti prefatis executoribus In persona dicti procuratoris De bene & fideliter administrando Ac de pleno & fideli Inventario secundo die post festum sancti Iohannis proximum futurum exhibendo Necnon de plano & vero compoto reddendo Ad sancta dei Euangelia in debita iuris forma Iurati

[=The testament of the foresaid deceased was proved, together with the last will of the same, on the last day of the month of February in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred forty-sixth before the Lord [+Archbishop?] at London by the authority of our Lord the King etc. by the oath of the executors named in the same testament in the person of Master John Kydde, notary public, their proctor in this matter, and probated and registered, and administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased to the forenamed executors 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 John next to come, and also to render a plain & true account.]