

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 10 July 1551, together with a codicil dated 1 September 1555, proved 7 October 1555, of Walter Yonge, whose nephew, George Saunders, was murdered on 25 March 1573 by Oxford's former servant, George Browne. The murder was the subject of a pamphlet by Oxford's uncle, Arthur Golding (1535/6-1606), *Brief Discourse of the Late Murther of Master George Saunders*, and an anonymous play, *A Warning for Fair Women*, performed by the Lord Chamberlain's Men.

For the testator's family background and his relationship to Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham (d.1612x13), see the will of the testator's sister, Dorothy (nee Yonge) Haddon Saunders Dayrell (d. 18 January 1574), TNA PROB 11/56/39, second wife of the testator's executor, brother-in-law and father-in-law, Paul Dayrell th' elder (d. 25 May 1556) of Lillingstone Dayrell, Buckinghamshire.

According to the will below, the testator was thrice married. His third wife was Dorothy Dayrell, daughter of Paul Dayrell th' elder (d. 25 May 1556) and his first wife. After the testator's death his widow married John Quarles (d.1577), draper. John Quarles (d.1577), draper, was one of the executors of the will of Anne Watson (d.1561), mother of the poet, Thomas Watson (d.1592). For the will of Anne Watson (d.1561), see TNA PROB 11/44/183. For the will of John Quarles (d.1577), see TNA PROB 11/60/37. See also Westerweel, Bart, ed., *Anglo-Dutch Relations in the Field of the Emblem*, (Leiden: Koninklijke Brill, 1997), p. 125 for a reproduction of the lost mural table from the former church of St Peter le Poor, London, showing John Quarles, draper (d.1577), and his three successive wives, the second of whom was Dorothy Dayrell.

The names of the testator's first two wives and the order of his marriages to them are unknown. The pedigree of Yonge in Phillimore, W.P.W., ed., *The Visitation of the County of Worcester Made in the Year 1569*, (London: Harleian Society, 1888), pp. 152-3 states that the testator married the daughter of 'Rooe of Kent', and this may be the wife the testator refers to as 'Elizabeth, my late wife', buried in the church of St Mary Aldermary, since the testator also makes a bequest to 'my brother, Thomas Rowe' in the will below.

For the will of the testator's brother, Thomas Yonge (d.1545), see TNA PROB 11/30/593. The testatrix' brother, Edmund Yonge, is said to have been 'slain at London by chance with an arrow'.

For the will of the testator's executor, brother-in-law and father-in-law, Paul Dayrell th' elder (d. 25 May 1556) of Lillingstone Dayrell, Buckinghamshire, dated 8 October 1555 and proved 14 June 1556, see TNA PROB 11/38/54. The testator must have died shortly after making the codicil to his will on 1 September 1555, since in his own will, dated a month later on 8 October 1555, Paul Dayrell th' elder bequeaths:

*To my daughter Yonge, widow, the gold ring that her late husband, deceased, whose soul God pardon, bequeathed me.*

The testator is mentioned in the will, dated 10 December 1556, of Sir Thomas Cave (d.1558), TNA PROB 11/41, ff. 36-40:

*mine nephew Matthew Cave . . . should have been prentice with Walter Yonge, Merchant Taylor, in London.*

LM: T{estamentum} Walteri Yonge

In the name of God, Amen. The tenth day of the month of July in the year of Our [f.246r] Lord God a thousand five hundred fifty and one in the fifth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord Edward the Sixth by the grace of God King of England, France and Ireland & Defender of the Faith, I, Walter Yonge, citizen and Merchant Taylor of London, whole of mind and perfect of remembrance, lauds and praising be to Almighty God, remembering the uncertainty and mutability of this frail and transitory life, do make, ordain and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following, revoking all former wills and testaments heretofore by me made and declared;

And first and before all things I utterly renounce and forsake this wretched world, and commit me to the infinite mercy of Almighty God, to whom I give and bequeath my soul, most humbly beseeching my Maker and Redemptor to take me unto his mercy and grace, and that I may be partaker of the joys in his everlasting kingdom which he hath prepared for me and all mankind;

My sinful body I will shall be buried in Our Lady chapel within Aldermary church in London as near unto Elizabeth, my late wife, as may be;

And I will that mine executors hereafter named within the space of three months next after my decease shall provide a stone of marble to cover my grave withal, whereupon I will shall be engraven one picture of myself, three for my 3 wives, and five for my children;

And as touching th' order of the rest of the [-of the] charges of my burial and funerals, I remit it wholly to the discretion of mine executors hereafter named and ordained, minding and willing the same to be done honestly without pomp or vainglory;

And that done, then I will that all such debts and duties which I owe of right or of conscience be well and truly contented and paid;

And that also performed, then I will that all my goods, chattels and debts be egally divided in three parts according to the laudable custom of the City of London, whereof I will one part thereof to Dorothy, my well-beloved wife;

And one other part thereof I will shall be egally divided amongst my children, and if any of them do die or depart this transitory life before his or her part and portion be delivered him or her according to the said custom of the City of London, then I will his or her part so deceased and departed be egally divided to and amongst thother of my said children then living;

And thother part of the said three parts of my said goods, chattels and debts I do reserve to myself to be distributed as hereafter shall be declared;

Item, I will to Dorothy, my well-beloved wife, all that my messuage with th' appurtenances wherein I now dwell, and also one tenement with the appurtenances thereunto next adjoining wherein William Maior, Merchant Taylor, now dwelleth, situate, lying and being in Bow Lane within the parish of Aldermary of London, to have and to hold the said messuage and tenement with th' appurtenances unto the said Dorothy and her assigns for term of her life natural, paying therefore yearly to the chief lord and lords of the fee the rents and farms thereof due and accustomed, and keeping and maintaining the premises from time to time sufficiently repaired in all manner of reparations tenantable, provided alway and it is my mind and will that the said Dorothy, my wife, shall have the said messuage and tenement to her bequeathed before for and in the name of her third part of all and singular my lands and tenements to her due according to the course of the common law of this realm, and therewith to hold herself contented;

Also I will that after the decease of the said Dorothy all and singular the said messuage and tenement with their appurtenances to her before bequeathed shall remain and be to Harry Yonge, Edmund Yonge and Walter Yonge, my sons, to have and to hold the said messuage and tenements [sic?] with their appurtenances unto the said Henry Yonge, Edmund Yonge and Walter Yonge, my sons, and to their heirs forever of the chief lords of the fee by the service thereof due and of right accustomed;

Item, I give, will and bequeath to the said Harry Yonge, my son, all and singular my lands, tenements, housing and gardens with th' appurtenances set, lying and being without Moorgate in the parish of Saint Giles without Cripplegate in London, to have and to hold the same lands, tenements, housing and gardens with th' appurtenances unto the said Henry Yonge and to his heirs forever of the chief lords of the fee by the service thereof due and accustomed;

Item, I will, give and bequeath all that my messuage or tenement situate, lying and being in Bow Lane in the parish of Aldermary wherein Robert Hawes, Merchant Taylor, now dwelleth, unto my son, Edmund Yonge, to have and to hold the said messuage or tenement with th' appurtenances unto the said Edmund Yonge and to his heirs forever of the chief lord or lords of the fee by the service thereof due and of right accustomed;

Item, I bequeath to my brother, Edmund Yonge, forty pounds of lawful money of England;

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Item, I do remit and forgive unto my sister Dayrell the debt of forty pounds which she doth owe unto me by obligation, and I bequeath to her a black gown;

Item, I bequeath unto my brother, Paul Dayrell th' elder, my ring of gold with the seal of my arms therein engraven, and a black gown;

Item, I bequeath unto the poor men's box in Aldermary church twenty shillings;

Item I bequeath unto the same church towards the making of the battlements of the said church and of the steeple three pounds six shillings eight pence upon this condition, that the same be bestowed thereupon within two years next after my decease, or else to be bestowed to and amongst poor people after the discretion of my executors hereafter named;

Item, I bequeath unto the parishes [sic?] of Mary Magdalene in Croome d'Abitot towards the relieving of the poor there where most need shall be ten pounds, so that it be bestowed within three years next after my decease, or else I will the same to be bestowed in deeds of charity within the same shire;

Item, I give unto my brother Lydington and his wife, either of them a black gown;

And whereas my tenant, William Maior, doth pay to me five pounds six shillings eight pence a year for the rent [f. 246v] of my house he now dwelleth in, my will is that from henceforth he shall pay me yearly for the same but five pounds a year, and to have it for the same rent so long as he dwelleth therein and useth himself like an honest man, but he shall have no lease thereof;

Item, I will there shall be made the day of my burial in the said church of Aldermary a sermon, and he to have therefore six shillings eight pence;

Item, I give unto my brother, Edmund, my best bow and a dozen of my best shafts, and my sword and sword-girdle and my dagger;

Item, I give to Crakinge Thorpe my new colour gown furred with budge;

Item, I give unto Richard Evaunce [=Evans?], Thomas Baynham and William Smyth, my servants, either of then [sic] twenty shillings apiece;

Item, I give unto Richard Evaunce a black gown;

Item, I give to Robert Hawes' wife a black gown of like price;

Item, I give to Mistress Dave [=Dawe?] a black gown;

Item, I give unto Mistress Nicholson a black gown, and to her husband another black gown;

Item, I give to March's wife a black gown;

Also I will that the livery of my company of Merchant Taylors shall be present in their livery at my burial, and they to have a drinking provided for them, that is to say, spice-bread, cheese, ale, wine and beer;

And I bequeath for a refection or dinner to be made within Taylors' Hall for the whole livery of the same company five pounds;

Item, I bequeath unto the poor prisoners in the three prison-houses, that is to say, the King's Bench, Marshalsea and Newgate, in meat and drink to every house thirteen shillings four pence;

Item, I bequeath to every one of the said three prison-houses six shillings eight pence towards the payment of the fees of such poor prisoners as lieth there and hath most need;

Also I bequeath to the poor prisoners in Ludgate and in the two Counters in Bread Street and in the Poultry in bread and meat to every of the said prison-houses six shillings eight pence;

Item, I bequeath to the poor prisoners in the Castle of Worcester to be given them in bread and meat five shillings, and I bequeath towards the payment of the fees of such prisoners as do remain there for the payment of their fees ten shillings equally to be distributed amongst them [sic?];

Also I give and bequeath unto the making, mending and repairing of the common highways in Worcestershire which shall be in most ruin and decay ten pounds, the which ten pounds I will shall be bestowed upon the same within three years next after my decease;

Item, I bequeath to my brother, Thomas Rowe, and his wife, and John Goodwyn and his wife, to every one of them a black gown of the price of ten shillings the yard;

Also I do remit and forgive unto my cousin, Humphrey Blackton, all such debts and money as he doth owe unto me by specialty or otherwise;

Item, I do remit and forgive John Mattison all such debts as he doth owe unto me;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the helping and relieving of the poor people within the Hospital of Saint Bartholomew's in Smithfield and the other houses newly erected twenty pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath to the poor people inhabiting within the several wards in London, that is to say, in alleys and elsewhere, to every ward twenty shillings, to be given and distributed according to the discretion of my executors;

Item, I bequeath to Robert Hawes a black gown;

Item, I bequeath to James Pryme, dyer, twenty shillings;

Item, I bequeath to Henry Auncell twenty shillings;

Item, I give to every of my menservants and maidservants as well apprentices as other being in my service at my decease, to every of them a black gown;

The residue of all my goods, chattels and debts movables and unmovables, my debts truly contented and paid and this my will wholly performed, I will shall be equally divided and distributed to and amongst my said wife and children;

And of this my present last will and testament I do constitute, ordain and make the said Dorothy, my well-beloved wife, Paul Dayrell th' elder, and Henry Yonge, my son, my executors;

And I do make and ordain John Goodwin, merchant, to be overseer of the execution of this my said last will and testament, and for his pain I give him forty shillings;

In witness of all and singular the premises to this my said last will and testament I put my seal and subscribed my name the day and year first above-written. Per me, Walterum Yonge.

Item, I give unto Master Dawson & his wife, either of them a black gown;

Item, I will that the Goodwife March shall have her house that she dwelleth in during her natural life, paying no rent for the same, and after her decease I will the said house with th' appurtenances to my well-beloved wife during her life, and after her decease to remain to Harry Yonge and to his heirs forever;

Item, I give unto Anne Yonge, my daughter, over and above her portion of my goods, twenty pounds;

In witness whereof I, the above-named Walter Yonge, have set to my hand and seal the first day of September anno a thousand five hundred fifty and five. By me, Walter Yonge. By me, Albane Hill, physician. By me, Robert Hawes. By me, Edmund Yonge. By me, John Goodwin.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum Coram Mag{ist}ro Will{el}imo Cooke Legum doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cantuarien{sis} Custode siue Com{m}issario Sede Archiep{iscop}ali ib{ide}m tunc vacan{te} septimo die mens{is} Octobris Anno Domini mill{es}imo Quingen{tesim}o quinquagesimo quinto Iuramento Dorothee rel{i}c{t}e et executricis Cui Comissa fuit Administratio omni{u}m bonorum etc De bene et fideli{te}r administrand{o} eadem Ac de pleno et fideli Inuentario omni{u}m et sing{u}lorum bonorum iur{ium} et creditor{um} exhibend{o} Necnon de plano et vero compoto cal[c]ulo siue rac{i}ocinio in ea parte reddend{o} Ad Sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{e} Reseruate p{otes}tate similem comissionem faciend{o} Paulo Darrell et henrico yonge executoribus etiam cum venerint

[=The above-written testament was proved before Master William Cooke, Doctor of the Laws, Keeper or Commissary of the Archiepiscopal Seat of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury there, then being vacant, on the seventh day of the month of October in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-fifth by the oath of Dorothy, relict and executrix, to whom administration was granted of all the goods etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to exhibit a full and faithful inventory of all and singular the goods, rights and credits, and also to render a plain and true account, calculation or reckoning of the same(?), with power reserved for a similar grant to be made to Paul Dayrell and Henry Yonge, also executors, when they shall have come.