

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Count of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 14 September 1555, of Humphrey Pakington (1502-1556), brother of Augustine, Sir John (d.1551), and Robert Pakington (1496-1537), and grandfather of Humphrey Martyn, the addressee of the *Langham Letter*. At the time of the making of his will he had eleven living children, four sons (John, Humphrey, Edward and William), and seven daughters, four married (Jane, Katherine, Anne and Alice) and three unmarried (Margery, Martha and Margaret), his daughter Lettice, wife of Sir Roger Martyn, and mother of Humphrey Martyn, addressee of the *Langham Letter*, having predeceased him. For the wills of his brothers Sir John Pakington (d.1551) and Robert Pakington (1496-1537) see PROB 11/34, ff. 233-4 and PROB 11/27. For the will of his widow, Elizabeth (d.1563), Humphrey Martyn's grandmother, see PROB 11/46, ff. 278-9. For the will of his son Humphrey (d.1558/9), see PROB 11/42B, f. 318. The daughter-in-law mentioned in Humphrey Pakington's will, wife of his eldest son and heir John, who is bequeathed five pounds 'to buy her a bracelet withal' is Elizabeth (nee Newport), the sister of Sir Richard Newport (d.1570), owner of a copy of Hall's *Chronicle* in the British Library containing annotations thought to have been made by Shakespeare.

RM: Testamentum Humfridi Pakington Armigeri

In the name of our Lord God, to whom be praise forever, Amen. The 14th day of September in the year of our Lord God a thousand five hundred fifty and five, I, Humphrey Pakington of the city of Worcester, gentleman, being of perfect memory and mind, thanks be [+to] God, do make and ordain this my testament and last will in manner and form following, that is to say:

First, I commit my soul to Almighty God, my Maker and Redeemer, as a creature full of sin, trusting through the merits of his passion and by him only to have forgiveness of my sins with life everlasting, Amen;

And as for my sinful body, when it shall please God to take it out of this world, if I happen to die in Worcester, that then I will it shall be buried in the cathedral church of the same city, and if I happen to die in any other place, that then I will it shall be buried in Christian man's burial as it shall please God without any great solemnity or sumptuous expenses, the charges thereof not to extend above ten pounds by th' advice of mine executors;

And as touching such goods as God hath lent me the use of, hereafter I do declare my mind and will as shall appear, that is to say:

First, I will (my body so being buried and my funerals paid), that then all my debts which I do owe by writing or otherwise to be approved by right, to be truly paid by mine executors;

And I do give & bequeath to my well beloved wife, Elizabeth, for her full part and portion of my said goods one thousand pounds of lawful money of England and all my household stuff whatsoever it be (my plate, jewels, money and apparel only excepted);

Item, I will that the said Elizabeth, my wife, shall peaceably have, receive and take of the rents and revenues of my manor and lordship of Ditton in the county of Salop immediately after my death or decease for and during her natural life thirty pounds yearly, as by a deed thereof made unto Humphrey Pakington, my son, and William Adys to th' use of my said wife for the term aforesaid and enrolled in the King's Bench more plainly doth appear, and to th' intent that my said wife may the more peaceably and quietly have and enjoy the said rent of thirty pounds out of my said manor, my son John Pakington is thereunto condescended and agreed, & thereunto hath bound himself and his heirs unto my said wife in the sum of five hundred pounds for the performance thereof, and the residue of the rent of the said manor or lordship I will that my son, John Pakington, shall have;

Item, I will that the said Elizabeth, my wife, shall have and enjoy all the rents and profits of my house in London which I lately dwelled in, with the profits of the house thereunto adjoining, which is in the whole by year £8 6s 8d, now in the holding of my son-in-law, Humphrey Baskerville of London, mercer (as doth appear in a pair of indentures and an obligation therefore made for the term of 26 years) for term of her life, which said house or tenement with th' appurtenances I do give and bequeath to my son Edward Pakington and to th' heirs of his body lawfully begotten immediately after the death of me and of my said wife, his mother, and if it shall fortune the said Edward to die without issue of his body lawfully begotten, then I will that the same house or tenement shall come and remain unto William, my son, and to th' heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to my right heirs forever;

Item, I do give and bequeath to my four children which yet be unmarried and unbestowed, that is to say, Edward, Margery, Martha and Margaret, one hundred and fifty pounds apiece, summa £600, and if it happen any of them four to die before their lawful age or marriage, that then his or their parts or portions that so shall happen to die to remain amongst thother of them living equally;

Item, I do give and bequeath to William, my son, a hundred pounds;

Item, I do give and bequeath unto every of my 11 children now living out of my part fifty pounds apiece, summa five hundred fifty pounds, and if any of them do die before their lawful age or marriage, that then his or their parts or portions thereof to remain to the rest of them living equally;

Item, I do give and bequeath to the Company of the Mercers of London, for a dinner to be made shortly after my death for a loving remembrance, ten pounds;

Item, I do give and bequeath to the poor people of the parish of Saint Michael's in London in the ward of Bassishaw where I lately dwelled, to be distributed within one year next after my death, ten pounds;

Item, I do give and bequeath to the children of my son-in-law, Roger Martyn, that were begotten upon my daughter Lettice, his late wife, £13 6s 8d equally amongst them to be divided;

Item, I do give and bequeath to the children of my son-in-law, Humphrey Baskerville, £13 6s 8d equally amongst them to be divided;

Item, I do give and bequeath to the children of my son-in-law, Richard Lambert, £6 13s 4d equally amongst to be divided;

Item, I do give and bequeath to the children of my son-in-law, Edmund Style, if God send him any before my death, five pounds;

Item, I do give and bequeath to the children of my son-in-law, John Lambert, £6 13s 4d;

Item, I do give and bequeath to Edward Gyllam, wax-chandler of London, for pains taken with me, 40s;

Item, I do give and bequeath to Sir Rowland Hill, knight and alderman of London, for a ring of gold, 40s, for the kindness he hath showed me;

Item, I do give and bequeath to the new hospital in London twenty pounds;

Item, I will that Roger Martyn, my son-in-law, shall execute the remainder of my late brother Augustine's will like as I should have done if I had lived as it shall appear by a book therefore made, and he to have the remainder thereof in his keeping so to do if any remainder at the time of my death be;

Item, I do owe unto th' account of Richard Fisher, late mercer of London, to whom I was executor, £12, his will being fulfilled, which I will that mine executors shall bestow in deeds of charity for his soul and all Christian souls, being unbestowed when I shall die, and first to remember Eleanor, his poor sister in London, and his poor brother, John Fisher of Dudley;

Item, I do give and bequeath to 38 persons whose names appear hereafter following, to every of them a ring of gold, price 30s, that is to say, first to my sister-in-law, my Lady Dormer, widow; to my cousin, my Lady Denys; to my sister, Margery Neve, widow; to Richard Hunt, my neighbour; to my brother-in-law, Mr John Corbet, esquire; to my cousin, Thomas Blount of London, mercer; to my cousin John Littleton, esquire, and to my cousin, his wife; to my cousin, William Scudamore, and my cousin, his wife; to my cousin Jenkes' wife; to Thomas Abraham of London, leather-seller; to my god-daughter,

wife to my cousin Vincent Randall; to my five sons-in-law, Roger Martyn, Humphrey Baskerville, Edmund Style, John Lambert and Richard Lambert, and to their five wives; to my cousin, Sir Thomas Pakington, knight, and his wife; to my cousin, John Pakington, and his wife; to my cousin, John Lane, and his wife; to my cousin, Richard Cupper; to my cousin Abell and his wife; to John Afflete of Worcester, mercer; to John Walker, my neighbour; to gentle John Hare of London, mercer; to Edward Porter of Worcester, gentleman; to William Jenyns and Richard Hill, late my servants, summa £52, and for the making of every ring 2s, summa totale of both, £60 16s;

Item, I do give & bequeath to the marriage of twenty poor maids within the city of Worcester ten shillings apiece, summa £10;

Item, I do give and bequeath to the poor people within the city of Worcester and in the suburbs of the same, to be distributed within one year next after my death, twenty pounds;

Item, I do give and bequeath to the mending of the highway between the city of Worcester and Kempsey, to be done by the discretion of mine executors, ten pounds;

Item, I do give and bequeath to the mending of the highway between the city of Worcester and Evesham, thereas my executors shall think most need, ten pounds;

Item, I do give and bequeath to the poor people of the parish of Stanford where I was born in the county of Worcester, to be distributed within one year next after my death, ten pounds;

Item, I do give and bequeath to the poor people of the parish of Ditton in the county of Salop that I am owner of, to the most poorest of my tenants there amongst them all, ten pounds;

Item, I do give and bequeath to the mending of the highway between Ditton and Bridgnorth, where it shall be thought most needful by mine executors, five pounds;

Item, I do give and bequeath to the marriage of ten poor maidens in the said parish of Ditton, ten shillings apiece, summa £5;

Item, I do give to Adam Lutley, my steward at Ditton and my loving friend, five pounds;

Item, I do give and bequeath to my cousin, Nicholas Grasbenor of Whittynmere, five pounds;

Item, I do give and bequeath to my loving neighbour, John Hill of Worcester, mercer, five pounds;

Item, I do give and bequeath to Mrs Walker of Worcester, my neighbour, forty shillings, and to Thomas, her covenant servant, 20s;

Item, I do give & bequeath to my servant, Richard Reynolds of Ditton, five pounds;

Item, I do give unto my two maiden servants that shall happen to dwell with me at the time of my death 40s apiece, summa £4;

Item, I do give & bequeath to every man-servant that I shall have at the time of my death 20s;

Item, I will that all the parts, portions and legacies which I have before given by this my testament and last will to my four children being within age and not married when it shall please God to call me out of this world shall be divided into four parts, and by mine executors to be put in th' hands of four honest substantial men that will put in sufficient sureties to my said executors for the repayment thereof as my said children or any of them shall come to his or their full age or marriage, and to give yearly for the custody and keeping of my said children during their nonage such a reasonable sum of money as shall be thought meet by my executors, and if my four sons-in-law, Roger Martyn, Humphrey Baskerville, Edmund Style and Richard Lambert will do the same, then I will that they shall have it before any other man, doing as before is said, or else not;

Item, I do give and bequeath to the widow Bogas that dwelleth before the house that I lately dwelled in at London 40s;

Item, I will and bequeath to John Basford, my late apprentice, four pounds;

Item, I give to my five godsons in Worcester, that is to say, Humphrey Woodward, Humphrey Hill, Humphrey Davy, Richard Cooksey and Humphrey Grenfyll 20s apiece, summa £5;

Item, I do give and bequeath to my five sons-in-law all my apparel equally amongst them to be divided, saving my best gown furred with martens which I do give to my son-in-law, Humphrey Baskerville;

Also, I do ordain, make and constitute my well beloved wife, Elizabeth, and Humphrey Pakington, my son, my executors of this my testament and last will, and to th' intent that the same Humphrey shall truly and justly execute everything according to the true meaning of this my last will and testament, and to help my said wife to do the same, I do give and bequeath to the said Humphrey for his pains therein to be taken £20;

Item, I do give and bequeath to my friend, William Adyes of Worcester, clothier, for his pains that he hath taken with me at divers times, and for that that I desire him to be good and helping to my said wife and her co-executor in their causes, and for that that they may have his lawful help and counsel at such times as they shall have need thereof after

my death, as my trust is he will, £15, and besides that, look what charges he doth sustain therein to be well and truly paid therefore by mine executors;

And to be overseer of the same my last will and testament I do desire my son-in-law, Roger Martyn, mercer, to take the pain therein, and to be good and loving to my said wife and children, as my trust is he will do, and to see my said children to have their learning and to be well used, and as for his pains therein to be taken, I do give him ten pounds;

Item, I do give and bequeath to be bestowed for black gowns for my wife, my children, my servants and other that shall mourn at my burial twenty pounds;

Item, I will that six persons that shall bear me to be buried shall have every one of them 3s 4d for their pains, summa 20s;

Item, I do give and bequeath unto all my children that shall be living at the time of my death over and besides their legacies abovesaid equally amongst them to be divided two hundred pounds;

The residue of all my goods and chattels not given nor bequeathed, my debts and funerals discharged, I will to be bestowed in deeds of charity for my soul and all Christian souls as shall be thought most meet by mine executors;

In witness whereof I have caused this my last will and testament to be written, and have subscribed it with mine own hand and thereunto have set my seal the day and year first abovewritten, thanks be given to Almighty God, Amen;

Item, I do will and bequeath to my daughter-in-law, the wife of my son John, to buy her a bracelet withal, five pounds;

Item, I do will and bequeath to Humphrey, my godson, son of my said son John, other five pounds;

Item, I do will and bequeath to Elizabeth, my wife's god-daughter, daughter of my said son John, £3 6s 8d;

Item, I do will and bequeath to Luke, my godson, the son of the glazier at Severn Bridge 20s, and this I will to be given by my said executors as well as any other legacy above bequeathed.

Per me, Humphrey Pakington th' elder. These be the names of them that be witnesses to this will as follow: John Bullingham, parson of St. Ellen's; John Pakington, son of the said Humphrey; Richard Hunt of the city of Worcester, gentleman; William Adyes; Humphrey Pakington, junior.

RM: Executrix computavit

Probatum fuit testamentum Coram Magistro Willelmo Cooke legum doctore Curie Prerogative Reuerendissimum in Xpo patris et domini nostri domini Reginaldi Cantuariensis Archiepiscopi Custode siue Commissario xjmo die Mensis Novembris Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo quinquagesimo sexto Iuramento Christofori Robynson procuratoris Elizabethe Pakington Relicte et humfridi pakington filij ipsius defuncti Executorum in huiusmodi testamento nominatorum Quibus commissa fuit administracio omnium bonorum &c Dicti Defuncti prefatis Executoribus De bene et fideliter administrando eadem Ac de pleno Inuentario &c exhibendo Ad sancta dei Euangelia in debita Iuris forma Iuratis

[=The above-written testament was proved before Master William Cooke, Doctor of the Laws, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of the most reverend Father in Christ and lord of Our Lord, Reginald, Archbishop of Canterbury, on the 11th day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-sixth by the oath of Christopher Robinson, proctor of Elizabeth Pakington, relict, and Humphrey Pakington, son of the same deceased, executors named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted to the forenamed executors of all the goods etc. of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels in due form of law to well and faithfully administer the same, and to exhibit a full inventory etc.]