

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 28 June and 18 July 1554, and proved 11 August 1556, of Elizabeth Onley, maternal grandmother of the poet, Thomas Watson (d.1592), who dedicated *Hekatompathia* to Oxford in 1582 (see STC 25118a), and served as a tutor to the son of Sir William Cornwallis (c.1551-1611), who purchased the lease of Oxford's manor of Fisher's Folly in the parish of St. Botolph's in Bishopsgate.

The testatrix was born Elizabeth Rolleston or Rowlston, the daughter of Thomas Rolleston of Swarkestone in Derbyshire (see Chambers, E.K., *Sir Henry Lee; An Elizabethan Portrait* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1936), p. 256). It would appear that the testatrix' mother was Katherine Fitzwilliam, the sister of Lady Burghley's grandfather, Sir William Fitzwilliam (d.1534). Katherine Fitzwilliam married, firstly, Thomas Rolleston, and secondly, Richard Francis of Foremark, while Katherine Fitzwilliam's sister, Mary Fitzwilliam, married, firstly, Thomas Waddington, and secondly, Richard Ogle (d.1506) (see Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 2004), p. 333, and the pedigree of Ogle of Pinchbeck in Madden, Frederic, ed., *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica*, Vol. VI, (London: John Bowyer Nichols, 1840), pp. 194-6). The hypothesis that the testatrix' mother was Katherine Fitzwilliam is thus supported by the fact that the testatrix and Sir William Fitzwilliam (d.1534) both refer to Richard Ogle (d.1555) and Richard Waddington (d.1565?) as 'cousin', although Sir William Fitzwilliam (d.1534) appears to use the word 'cousin' for 'nephew', according to common usage at the time. The hypothesis that the testatrix' mother was Katherine Fitzwilliam is also supported by the fact that the testatrix and Sir William Fitzwilliam (d.1534) both appoint Sir John Baker (c.1489-1558) as an executor. Sir William Fitzwilliam (d.1534) was Sir John Baker's brother-in-law, both men having married daughters of Richard Sackville of Withyham, Sussex. The hypothesis that the testatrix' mother was Katherine Fitzwilliam is further strengthened by a bequest in the will, dated 3 June 1520 and proved 20 June 1520, of Richard Fitzwilliam (d.1520), one of the brothers of Sir William Fitzwilliam (d.1534):

Item, to my cousin Whitlokkes children, 40s.

'My cousin Whitlokkes children' would appear to be the children of the testatrix by her first husband, William Whitelocke, whose will, dated 2 August 1520, was proved 30 August 1520. For the will of Richard Fitzwilliam, see TNA PROB 11/19, f. 233. For the will of William Whitelocke, see TNA PROB 11/19, f. 247.

By her first marriage to William Whitelocke, the testatrix had two daughters, Margaret and Elizabeth, both deceased by the time the testatrix made her will in 1554. For the will of Margaret's husband, Richard Botill (d.1565), merchant tailor of London, see TNA PROB 11/48, ff. 83-5. By her second marriage to Thomas Lee, the testatrix had a son, Thomas Lee (d.1572), and a daughter, Anne Lee (d.1561), mother of the poet, Thomas Watson. By her third marriage to Robert Wade, the testatrix became the stepmother of Guy Wade, mentioned in her will below.

For the will of Elizabeth Rolleston's first husband, William Whitelocke (d.1520), see TNA PROB 11/19, f. 247. For the will of Elizabeth Rolleston's second husband, Thomas Lee (d.1527), see TNA PROB 11/22, f. 174. For the will of Elizabeth Rolleston's third husband, Robert Wade (d.1529), see TNA PROB 11/23, ff. 63-4. For the will of Elizabeth Rolleston's stepson by this marriage, Guy Wade (d.1557), see TNA PROB 11/39, f. 303. For the will of Elizabeth Rolleston's fourth husband, John Onley (d.1537 or 1538), see TNA PROB 11/27, ff. 132-3.

For the will of the testatrix' daughter, Anne (nee Lee) Watson (d.1561), see TNA PROB 11/44, f. 132. For the will of Anne Lee's husband, William Watson (d.1559), see TNA PROB 11/43, ff. 26-7. For the will of the testatrix's son, Thomas Lee (d.1572) of Clattercote, see TNA PROB 11/54, ff. 172-4.

The testatrix died on 2 August 1556, and according to the will of her son, Thomas Lee (d.1572), was buried in the parish church of St Mary the Virgin in Cropredy.

LM: Testamentum Elizabethe Onley vidue

In the name of God, Amen. The 28th day of June in the year of our Lord God a thousand five hundred fifty and four and in the first year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Mary the First, by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, I, Elizabeth Onley, widow, being of whole mind and of good & perfect memory, laud and praise be unto Almighty God, make and ordain this my present testament and last will in manner and form following:

First, I commend my soul to Almighty God, my Maker & Redeemer, and my body to be buried in the parish church of Saint John Zachary's within the city of London or elsewhere in such other place as it shall please Almighty God to provide for me by the discretion of mine executors, and I bequeath to the high altar of such church as it shall fortune me to be buried in 6s 8d;

Item, I will all such debts and duties as I owe of right or in conscience to any person or persons be well and truly contented and paid by mine executors hereafter named without any delay or contradiction;

Item, I will that mine executors hereafter named give, deal and bestow within five days next after my decease to one hundred poor folks, being householders, where most need shall be and least comfort, a hundred shillings;

Item, I will that for the space of five years next after my decease that mine executors shall distribute and dispose to every of the prisons within the city of London and suburbs of the same, viz., unto Newgate, Ludgate, the two Counters, the King's Bench and the Marshalsea, and the poor and most needy prisoners of the Fleet, 6s 8d in money to every

house, or else the same to be bestowed in bread or meat or otherwise for the most comfort of the prisoners there by the discretion of my executors;

Item, I give and bequeath to every of the children of Margaret Buttell, my late daughter, being living at the time of my decease twenty pounds, to be delivered unto them being married out of hand, and to thother of them as they shall attain their full age or ages, marriage or marriages, and if any of the children of my said daughter, Margaret, die before the time of their full age or marriage, that then I bequeath his, her or their part so deceasing to thother of them then surviving, to be delivered unto them when they shall accomplish their full ages or marriages, which sums of money so to them by me bequeathed I have delivered to Richard Buttell, their father, for the same intent and purpose, which faithfully he hath promised to pay and deliver to them accordingly, and besides that I give amongst all the said children of my said daughter Buttill forty pounds, to be delivered likewise unto them as also I have delivered to the said Richard Buttell, their father;

Item, I bequeath to Elizabeth, daughter of John Cannon by my daughter, his late wife, forty pounds of good and lawful money of England, to be delivered unto her when she shall attain unto her full age or marriage, and if it fortune the said Elizabeth to decease before she shall come to her full age or marriage, that then I will and bequeath the said sum of forty pounds to her bequeathed to my children, Thomas Lee and Anne Watson, equally to be divided between them, and if they be not then living, then to the children of the said Thomas and Anne equally amongst them to be divided;

Item, I give and bequeath to the right worshipful and my very good friend, Sir John Baker, knight, twenty pounds of good and lawful money of England, desiring him to be one of mine executors and that he will vouchsafe to counsel, aid and assist in the perfect and full execution of this my last will and testament thother mine executors underwritten;

Item, I give to the aforementioned Richard Buttell ten pounds;

Item, I give to my cousin, Richard Waddington, 66s 8d;

Item, I give to my cousin, Richard Ogle, 66s 8d;

Item, to every of my servants being in service with me at the time of my decease, over and above their wages to them due, five shillings;

Item, I give to Ellyn Bullington, my sister's daughter, four pounds;

Item, I will that my said executors shall bestow on frieze to be made in garments and canvas to be made in shirts and smocks to be given to the poor inhabitants of the parishes of Saint John Zachary's, Saint Mary Staining's and St Alban's in Wood Street or elsewhere I shall be at the hour of my death, at sundry times when they shall think need, the sum of £18 sterling, requiring the same poor people to pray for my soul;

Item, where I was executrix to my late husband, Robert Wade, deceased, whose testament, according to the trust he put me in I have truly executed and performed, and that in conscience there remaineth nothing in my hands to be administered or paid to the children of my said late husband or otherwise but only the sum of £6 13s 4d assigned to William Pickering and Maryan, his wife, daughter of my said late husband, by the Lord Audley, late Chancellor of England, upon a demand by the said William Pickering and Marian, his wife, then made for certain desperate debts received by me, I will that the said William and Maryan shall have the said £6 13s 4d, and besides that, I bequeath unto them other £6 13s 4d upon condition that they shall make mine executors one acquittance general, and not otherwise to have the said £6 13s 4d of my gift;

Item, I bequeath to Thomas Onley, my late husband's son, twenty pounds;

Item, I bequeath to my son-in-law, Guy Wade, for his gentleness showed unto me, twenty pounds;

Item, I give unto John Predyaux [=Prideaux] of th' Inner Temple of London the sum of ten pounds in money;

Item, I give and bequeath to Thomas Lee, my son, such state, interest and term of years as I have of and in the house wherein I dwell in Wood Street of London yet to come which I have of the demise and grant of the foresaid Richard Buttell, charging the said Thomas Lee, my son, to perform the covenants contained in the same lease;

The residue of all my goods, chattel[s] and other whatsoever not given nor bequeathed I will shall be divided and shifted equally and indifferently into two equal and indifferent parts by Sir John Baker, knight, and Thomas Argall of London, gentleman, or by their appointment and assignment, whereof thone part I give and bequeath to Thomas Lee, my son, and thother part to my daughter, Anne Watson, and in no wise I will that my son, Thomas, nor my daughter, Anne, nor her husband shall meddle with any part of the said residue before division shall be made;

And of this my present testament and last will I make and ordain the said Sir John Baker, knight, the said Thomas Lee, my son, Anne Watson, my daughter, and th' afore-named Thomas Argall my executors, requiring them to see this my testament performed and fulfilled accordingly to the trust I have put them in, and I bequeath to the said Thomas Argall for his labour and pains therein to be taken ten pounds;

In witness whereof hereunto I have put my hand and seal the day and year above-written;

And overseers of this my testament and last will I make and ordain the above-named Richard Waddington, my cousin, and the afore-named Richard Buttell.

RM: Vltima voluntas eiusdem Elizabethæ

This is the last will of me, the said Elizabeth Onley of London, widow, made the day and year abovesaid concerning the disposition of my manor or lordship of Severn Stoke in the county of Worcester with th' appurtenances and also of the park of Severn Stoke and all messuages, mills, lands, tenements, meadows, pastures, leasows, rents, reversions, services, woods, underwoods, waters and hereditaments whatsoever with their appurtenances unto the said manor or lordship in any wise appertaining or belonging which I late purchased and bought of the right honourable Lord Henry, now Earl of Cumberland, as by the indenture of purchase thereof made more plainly appeareth;

And whereas the said right honourable Henry, now Earl of Cumberland, by one deed bearing date the fifteen day of June in the first year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady and Queen, Mary the First, hath given & granted unto me, the said Elizabeth, mine executors and assigns, one annuity or yearly rent of £14 by the year going out of the manor of Lytton and Lytton Dale in the county of York for and during the term of threescore years (if Sir John Bourne, knight, one of the Queen's Majesty's Secretaries, so long live), as by the said deed more plainly appeareth;

And also whereas the said Henry, Earl of Cumberland, by one other deed bearing date the fifteenth day of June in the said first year of the Queen's Majesty's reign that now is hath given and granted unto me, the said Elizabeth, mine executors or assigns, one other annuity or yearly rent of ten pounds by the year issuing and going out of the said manor of Lytton and Litton Dale in the said county of York for and during the continuance of such terms of years, demise or lease as the said Sir John Bourne yet hath to come of and in one piece of enclosed ground or park commonly called Stoke Park in the county of Worcester, as by the said deed more plainly it doth and may appear;

I do give, bequeath and assign the said several rents of £14 and ten pounds and every of them unto Anne Watson, my daughter, now wife of William Watson of London, draper, for and during the continuance of every of the said several terms and rents due by the said deeds as is aforesaid, so that the said Anne and the said William Watson, her husband, their executors or assigns, or executors or assigns of any of them, do discharge or save harmless during the life of the said Sir John Bourne, knight, as well Thomas Lee, my son, and his heirs as the manor of Severn and Severn Stoke in the county of Worcester of and from one annuity or yearly rent of four pounds by the year given and granted by the said Henry, Earl of Cumberland, to the said Sir John Bourne, knight, during the natural life of the said Sir John Bourne for such considerations as in a certain grant to the said Sir John Bourne made doth plainly appear;

And after the final determination or expiration of the rest of the term of years to the said Sir John Bourne made of the said enclosed ground or park called Stoke Park, parcel of the said manor of Severn Stoke in the said county of Worcester, I do give and bequeath the said park or enclosed ground called Stoke Park with all the commodities of the same to the said Anne Watson, my daughter, and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue the remainder thereof to Thomas Lee, my son, and to th' heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue the remainder thereof to the heirs of

my daughter, Margaret Buttell, lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue the remainder thereof to th' heirs of my daughter, Elizabeth Canon, lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to the right heirs of me, the said Elizabeth, forever;

And I do further grant, give and bequeath to the said Anne Watson and to th' heirs of her body likewise lawfully begotten one annuity or yearly rent of three pounds by the year to be issuing and going forth of the manor of Severn Stoke in the county of Worcester and out of all and singular th' appurtenances to the same manor in any wise appertaining or belonging, to be paid unto her and her said heirs at two terms in the year, that is to wit, at the feast of the Nativity of Our Lord and Saint John Baptist by even portions, with a clause of distress for non-payment of the same rent;

And for default of such issue the remainder thereof to th' heirs of the body of Thomas Lee, my son, lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue the remainder thereof to th' heirs of my daughter Buttell lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue the remainder thereof to th' heirs of the body of my daughter, Elizabeth Cannon, lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to the right heirs of me, the said Elizabeth, forever;

Provided always that if the said Anne Watson do alien, bargain and sell, or mortgage the said land or any other the premises to her by this my present will given and bequeathed, then I will the said gift and bequest to her so made shall cease, determine and be utterly void and of none effect;

Provided always that if my said son, Thomas Lee, or his heirs at any time within the space of 17 years next after my decease do make or convey or cause to be made and conveyed unto my said daughter, Anne Watson, or to her heirs a good, sure, sufficient and lawful estate in the law to her and to her heirs of her body lawfully begotten of and in lands, tenements and hereditaments of the clear yearly value of twenty-three pounds by the year over and above all charges and reprises, to be deemed so good in value by the rest of my executors and overseers or the most of them as is the same lands which is to her by this my present testament bequeathed, with the like condition that she shall not alien, bargain and sell, or mortgage the same, then and from thenceforth the legacy made unto her of all and singular the lands, tenements, rents and other hereditaments by this my present testament to her afore appointed and assigned shall be utterly void and of none effect, and the interest and estate which she or her heirs shall have therein or any part thereof utterly to cease, be extinguished & be determined;

Also I give and bequeath to Thomas Lee, my son, and to th' heirs of his body lawfully begotten my said manor of Severn Stoke with all and singular th' appurtenances to the same in any manner appertaining or belonging not before given and granted, with th' advowson of the parish church of Stoke and all and singular profits and commodities to the same appertaining or belonging, and for default of such issue the remainder thereof to Anne Watson, my daughter, and to th' heirs of her body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue the remainder thereof to th' heirs of the body of my daughter, Margaret Buttell, lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue the remainder thereof to

the heirs of my daughter, Elizabeth Cannon, lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue to the right heirs of me, the said Elizabeth, forever;

Provided always that if the said Thomas do alien, bargain and sell, or mortgage the said manor or any part thereof to him by this my will given & bequeathed, then I will this my present gift and bequest to him so made shall be utterly void, frustrate and of none effect, anything in this my present will to the contrary notwithstanding;

And if there fortune any ambiguity or doubt to rise about the devise of this my last will concerning the disposition of such lands, rents, reversions and services as I by this my last will and testament have given, willed and appointed to my daughter, Anne Watson, then I will the same ambiguity and doubt shall be expounded, interpreted, explained & declared by Sir John Baker, knight, or some of the Justices of the King's Bench or Common Pleas(?), and such exposition, interpretation, explanation and declaration as shall be made by them or any of them I accept and take for my very will and intent, and will the same to be taken and accepted by the same Thomas Lee, my son, and Anne Watson, my daughter, as though it had been written in this present testament and last will;

In witness hereof I have set to my hand and seal the day and year above-written. Per me Richard Botyll. This testament was read afore the said testatrix the 18th day of July Anno 1554, and by her approved, sealed and delivered for her last will and testament in the presence of Mr Buttell, Edmund Brudenell and Justinyan Kydd. Per me Justinian Kydd.

Probatum fuit Testamentum Coram Magistro Willelmo Cooke legum doctore Curie Prerogative Reuerendissimi in xpo Patris et domini nostri domini Reginaldi Cantuariensis Archiepiscopi Custode siue Commissario xj die Mensis Augusti Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo quinquagesimo sexto Iuramento Thome Lee et Anne Watson Executorum in huiusmodi testamento nominatorum Quibus commissa fuit administracio omnium bonorum &c dicti defuncti De bene et fideliter administrando eadem Ac de pleno Inuentario &c Exhibendo Ad sancta dei Euangelia Iuratis Reseruata potestate &c Iohanni Baker Militi et Thome Argall Executoribus &c cum venerint &c Admissuris

[=The testament was proved before Master William Cooke, Doctor of the Laws, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of our most Reverend Father and Lord in Christ the Lord Reginald, Archbishop of Canterbury, on the 11th day of the month of August in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-sixth by the oath of Thomas Lee and Anne Watson, executors named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all the goods etc. of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to exhibit a full inventory etc., with power reserved etc. to John Baker, knight, and Thomas Argall, executors etc. when they shall have come etc. to be admitted.]