

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 24 May 1562 and proved 26 January 1563, of Katherine (nee Dallam) Collier Pakington Dormer, whose second husband, 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.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testatrix was the daughter of Thomas Dallam, a member of the Worshipful Company of Skinners and the Company's Warden in 1497.

FIRST MARRIAGE

The testatrix married firstly a wealthy London mercer, Richard Collier (d.1533?), by whom she had a son and a daughter, George Collier and Dorothy Collier, both of whom died about the time of her marriage to her third husband, Sir Michael Dormer. For Richard Collier, see the *ODNB* article; his will, TNA PROB 11/24/111; and Sutton, Anne F., *The Mercery of London*, (Aldershot, Hampshire: Ashgate Publishing Company, 2005), pp. 366-7, 528-9.

SECOND MARRIAGE

Between 1533 and November 1535 the testatrix married secondly, as his second wife, Robert Pakington (d.1536), a London mercer 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. There were no issue of the marriage. 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.

THIRD MARRIAGE

On 21 August 1539 the testatrix married thirdly Sir Michael Dormer (d. 20 September 1545), the son of Geoffrey Dormer (d. 9 March 1503) of West Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, by his second wife, Alice Collingridge. There were no issue of the marriage. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, pp. 420-3. Dormer was a wealthy mercer, and Lord Mayor of London in 1541. For the will of Sir Michael Dormer, see TNA PROB 11/30/546.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

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For the testatrix' executor, Valentine Dale (c.1520 – 17 November 1589), and his daughter, Dorothy (nee Dale) North (d.1618) and her husband, Sir John North (c.1550–1597), who were granted administration after Dale's death, see the *ODNB* articles on Sir John North and Valentine Dale. From the *ODNB* article on the latter:

Dale resided in the parish of St Gregory by Paul's in London from at least 1560 until his death. It was there on 5 August 1560 that Dorothy was baptized and there also that she was married on 13 November 1581 to Lord John North, eldest son and heir of Roger North, second Baron North, and his wife, Winifred. Dale died on 17 November 1589 in his home parish. His will was proved next day and he was buried in his parish church on 2 December.

The testatrix is mentioned as a friend in the will of Dionyse (nee Bodley) Leveson (d.1560), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/43/645.

LM: T{estamentum} D{omi}ne Katherine Dormer vid{ue}

In the name of God, Amen. The 24th day of May in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred threescore and 2, I, Dame Katherine Dormer, Lady Dormer, of the City of London, widow, make my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God and unto the holy company of heaven, and my body to be buried decently and worshipfully in Christian burial according to my degree;

Item, I will that all my goods movable and unmovable, and all my lands and tenements wheresoever they be sited or being within the realm of England, shall be valued and praised and sold by me [sic] executors or one of them which shall take upon him th' execution of this my last will and testament with as convenient speed as may be;

And I will that my executors shall bestow the money coming of my said goods and lands in manner and form following:

First I will that my executors shall therewithal pay all my debts which I do owe to any manner of person;

Secondly, that they shall pay and discharge all such legacies & sums of money as I am bound to pay unto any manner of person or persons by the last will and testament of any man unto whom I have been executrix and do remain yet unpaid, and shall also do and perform or cause to be done and performed all such things as I am bound to by their said last will and testament;

The residue of all my said goods movable and unmovable together with all my said lands & tenements I give unto my said executors, willing them to bestow the same in deeds of charity for my soul[‘s] health;

And I do ordain and make executors of this my last will and testament Valentine Dale, Doctor of Law, and Sir Thomas Silvester, clerk, these being witness, Robert Forth, John Forth, Elizabeth Dale and Elizabeth Jukes.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum Testamentum coram Mag{ist}ro Waltero Haddon Legum Doctore Curie prerogatiue Cant{uariensis} Comissario apud London Vicesimo sexto Die mensis Ianuarij Anno Domini mill{es}imo quingentesimo sexagesimo Secundo Iuramento xpoferi Smyth notarij publici procuratoris magistri Valentini Dale Legum Doctoris executoris &c Cui comissa fuit administrac{i}o &c de bene &c Ac de pleno Inventario Necnon de vero et plano computo Reddend{o} Ad sancta Dei Evangelia Iurat{i} Res{er}uata pot{est}ate &c Thome Silvester ex{ecutori} cu{m} venerit qui quidem Thomas Silvester xvto ffebruarij A{nn}o d{omi}no p{re}d{i}c{t}o &c Ren{un}ciauit oneri executionis &c

[=The above-written testament was proved before Master Walter Haddon, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at London on the twenty-sixth day of the month of January in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixty-second by the oath of Christopher Smyth, notary public, proctor of Master Valentine Dale, Doctor of the Laws, executor etc., to whom administration was granted etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc., and [+to prepare] a full inventory and also to render a true and plain account, with power reserved etc. to Thomas Silvester, executor, when he shall have come, which same Thomas Silvester on the 15th February in the year of the Lord aforesaid etc. renounced the burden of the execution etc.]

Tercio Octobris Anno 1590 emanavit com{m}issio Iohanni Northe armigero necnon Dorothee Northe al{ia}s Dale filie naturali et l{egi}time Valentini Dale Ad admi{n}istrandum bona iura et credita eiusdem defuncti [sic] per prefatum Valentinum Dale executorem non plene admi{n}istrat{a}

[=On the third October in the year 1590 a grant issued to John North, esquire, and also to Dorothy North alias Dale, natural and legitimate daughter of Valentine Dale, to administer the goods, rights and credits of the same deceased by the forenamed Valentine Dale, executor, not fully administered.]