

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 25 August 1563 and proved 26 November 1563, of Elizabeth (nee Harding) Pakington (d. 28 September 1563), grandmother of Humphrey Martyn (d.1587?), the addressee of the *Langham Letter*, to whom she bequeaths ‘£3 6s 8d in money’. See the Langham page on this website.

The testatrix was the mother of John Pakington (1530-1578), who married Elizabeth Newport, the sister of Sir Richard Newport (d.1570), owner of a copy of Hall’s *Chronicle*, formerly Loan 61 in the British Library, now in the hands of a trustee, Lady Hesketh, containing annotations thought to have been made by Shakespeare. See Keen, Alan and Roger Lubbock, *The Annotator*, (London: Putnam, 1954); the will of Sir Richard Newport, TNA PROB 11/53/456; and the Annotator page on this website.

The testatrix was the aunt of Ellen Harding Knyvet Browne (1537-1601), whose second husband, Sir Thomas Browne (d. 9 February 1597), signed Lady Russell’s petition against James Burbage’s Blackfriars theatre. For Sir Thomas Browne and Lady Russell’s petition, see Laoutaris, Chris, *Shakespeare and the Countess: The Battle That Gave Birth to the Globe*, (London: Fig Tree, 2014).

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testatrix was the daughter of the London goldsmith, Robert Harding (d.1515), about whose family background little is known, although it seems likely he was related to the Harding family of Aspley, Bedfordshire. See the pedigree in Blaydes, Frederic Augustus, ed., *The Visitations of Bedfordshire, Annis Domini 1566, 1582, and 1634*, (London: Harleian Society, 1884), Vol. XIX, p. 114 at:

<https://archive.org/details/visitationsofbed19blay/page/114>

The will of the testatrix’ father, Robert Harding, indicates that he married more than once. The name of his first wife is unknown.

The testatrix was likely the daughter of Robert Harding by his second wife, Marion, widow of the London mercer, William Ipswell (d.1507). By William Ipswell, Marion had a daughter:

-Mary Ipswell (d. 21 September 1538), the testatrix’ half sister, who married, as his first wife, Sir John Gresham (c.1495 – 23 October 1556) of Titsey, Surrey, Lord Mayor of London in 1547. See the will of Sir John Gresham, TNA PROB 11/38/241, the will of William Ipswell (d.1507), TNA PROB 11/15/406, and Howard, Joseph Jackson and Frederick Arthur Crisp, eds., *Visitation of England and Wales*, Vol. I, 1896, pp. 76 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofengl22howa#page/76/mode/2up>

See also:

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Ipswell-2>

See also TNA C 1/554/43, and the will of Robert Harding (d.1515), TNA PROB 11/18/194. See also:

<https://wc.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=ancestorsearch&id=I69526>

See also:

<http://newsgroups.derkeiler.com/Archive/Soc/soc.genealogy.medieval/2010-04/msg00602.html>

According to her father's will, in addition to her half sister, Mary Ipswell, the testatrix had four brothers and a sister, all underage and unmarried at the date of the will, 22 August 1515:

-Robert Harding, eldest son, who may have been the testatrix' half brother. He appears to have died before 1529, as he is not named as a defendant in the Chancery suit brought by the testatrix and her sister between 1518 and 1529 against their brothers concerning the manors of Watvile and Knowle. See TNA C 1/554/43.

-Thomas Harding, second son, who may have been the testatrix' half brother. He, too, appears to have died before 1529, as he is not named as a defendant in the Chancery suit brought by the testatrix and her sister between 1518 and 1529 against their brothers concerning the manors of Watvile and Knowle. See TNA C 1/554/43, *supra*.

-William Harding (d. 7 September 1549), third son, mercer of London. He appears to have been heir to his brothers, Robert and Thomas, as he died seised of the manors of Watvile and Knowle. He married Cecily Marshe, daughter of the London mercer, Walter Marshe (d.1540), by his wife, Eleanor, and sister of John Marshe (c.1516–1579), Governor of the Company of Merchant Adventurers. For John Marshe, whose wife, Alice Gresham, was a first cousin of Sir Thomas Gresham (c.1518–1579), founder of the Royal Exchange, and the only child of the mercer William Gresham (d.1547) by Ellen Bodley, see the *ODNB* entry for John Marshe; the will of Walter Marshe (which mentions his son, John Marshe, and daughter, Cecily Harding), TNA PROB 11/28/26; the will of William Gresham (d.1548), brother of Sir John Gresham (c.1495–1556), TNA PROB 11/32/156; the will of Ellen Gresham, TNA PROB 11/36/194; Leveson Gower, Granville, *Genealogy of the Family of Gresham*, (London: Mitchell & Hughes, 1883), pp. 86-7, 150, 161; and the History of Parliament entry for John Marshe at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/marshe-john-1516-79>

By Cecily Marshe, William Harding had three daughters:

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(1) **Ellen Harding** (1537-1601). In 1537 the testatrix stood godmother to her niece, Ellen Harding, daughter of her brother, William Harding (d. 7 September 1549). See Howard, Joseph Jackson and Frederick Arthur Crisp, eds., *Visitation of England and Wales*, Vol. I, 1896, pp. 76 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofengl22howa#page/76/mode/2up>

Ellen Harding married firstly the Gentleman Pensioner, Richard Knyvet (d. 1 November 1559) of Radford, Warwickshire, cousin of the half blood of Sir Henry Knyvet (d.1546?), Gentleman of the Privy Chamber, grandfather of Oxford's mistress, Anne Vavasour, and father of Sir Thomas Knyvet (1546 – 27 July 1622), who fought with Oxford over the 'quarrel of Anne Vavasour', an altercation in which Oxford was hurt and his man 'Gerret' slain, according to an entry in the diary of Richard Madox for 1-3 March 1582 (see BL MS Cotton, Appendix 47, f. 7v). See the will of Sir Henry Knyvet, TNA PROB 11/32/4, and the will of his wife, Anne (nee Pickering) Weston Knyvet Vaughan (1514 – 25 April 1582), TNA PROB 11/64/217.

By Richard Knyvet, Ellen Harding had a son, Henry Knyvet and a daughter, Mary Knyvet, who married Sir Henry North (1556-1620).

Ellen Harding married secondly, before 1 August 1575, as his second wife, Sir Thomas Browne (d. 9 February 1597) of Betchworth Castle, Surrey, who signed Lady Russell's petition against James Burbage's Blackfriars theatre. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 414; the will of Sir Thomas Browne's father-in-law, Sir William Fitzwilliam (c.1506 – 3 October 1559), TNA PROB 11/42B/624; the *ODNB* entry for Elizabeth (nee Cooke) Hoby Russell (1528-1609); Laoutaris, Chris, *Shakespeare and the Countess: The Battle That Gave Birth to the Globe*, (London: Fig Tree, 2014), pp. 121, 123, 130, 176-7, 277-8; and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/browne-thomas-1597>

By Sir Thomas Browne, Ellen Harding had a son, Richard Browne.

For the will, dated 18 August 1601, of Ellen Harding Knyvet Browne, see TNA PROB 11/98/226.

(2) **Frances Harding** (b. May 1540, d. July 1540?).

(3) **Katherine Harding** (1 July 1542 - 1599), who married firstly, on 7 August 1559, Richard Onslowe (d. 2 April 1571), by whom she had two sons and five daughters, including Sir Edward Onslowe (d.1615). See the will of Sir Edward Onslowe, TNA PROB 11/126/380; the will of Richard Onslowe, TNA PROB 11/53/193; and the *ODNB* article on Richard Onslowe:

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His will mentions lands in Buckinghamshire, Gloucestershire, Kent, Middlesex, Shropshire, Surrey, Sussex, Warwickshire, and Wiltshire, and a house in the Blackfriars, London, which his widow had as part of her jointure. Among his bequests were a standing cup and cover for the earl of Leicester, to whom he was 'most bounden', and a gilt bowl for Lord Burghley. His second son (and eventual heir), Sir Edward Onslow (d. 1615), was the father of Sir Richard Onslow (d. 1664) and ancestor of the earls of Onslow.

See also the History of Parliament entry for Richard Onslow at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/onslow-richard-152728-71>

Although the *ODNB* entry above states that Richard Onslow's property in the Blackfriars was part of his widow's jointure, it appears from his will that he left two-thirds of his lands, including the Blackfriars property, to his widow for life towards the preferment in marriage of his five daughters, rather than as her jointure. It is possible that the testatrix purchased the rights of her five nieces, since she states in her will that 'I have heretofore purchased th' inheritance of the house, gardens, wharf and buildings in the Blackfriars, London, now in my own use and possession'. On 26 April 1561, Sir William More (1520-1600) of Loseley leased to Richard Onslow, esquire, and Katherine, his wife, a little garden plot formerly occupied by Sir Philip Hoby, and on 28 May of the same year quitclaimed the property to them. See LM/348/15/1 and LM/348/15/2. The identification of this property is of particular interest since Katherine Harding's brother-in-law, Sir Thomas Browne (d. 9 February 1597), signed Lady Russell's petition against James Burbage's Blackfriars theatre, and Sir Philip Hoby (d. 9 May 1558) was Lady Russell's brother-in-law by her first marriage, and she and her husband, Sir Thomas Hoby (1530-1566), inherited Sir Philip Hoby's Blackfriars property at his death.

After Richard Onslow's death, Katherine married secondly Richard Browne (d.1614?), half-brother of Sir Thomas Browne (d. 9 February 1597). See *Plantagenet Ancestry*, *supra*, Vol. I, pp. 413-14, and the History of Parliament entry for Richard Browne at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/browne-richard-i-1614>

-**Anthony Harding** (living 18 July 1526), fourth son. He is named as a defendant in the lawsuit brought by the testatrix and her sister between 1518 and 1529 against their brothers concerning the manors of Watvile and Knowle. See TNA C 1/554/43, *supra*. He stood godfather at the baptism of James Gresham (b. 18 July 1526), the son of Sir John Gresham, Lord Mayor of London. See Leveson Gower, Granville, *Genealogy of the Family of Gresham*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1883), p. 21 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YNQKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA21>

-Agnes Harding, who married William Harlowes, son of the London grocer, Richard Harlywes (d.1505?) and his wife, Joan. See TNA C 1/554/43, *supra*; the will of Richard Harlywes, proved October 1505, TNA PROB 11/14/698; and Appleford, Amy, *Learning to Die in London 1380-1540*, (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015), p. 172 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=gKKnBAAAQBAJ&pg=PA172>

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testatrix married Humphrey Pakington (1502-1556), for whose will, dated 14 September 1555 and proved 11 November 1556, see TNA PROB 11/38/212.

For the Pakington family, see the pedigree in Phillimore, W.P.W., ed., *The Visitation of the County of Worcester Made in the Year 1569*, (London: Harleian Society, 1888), Vol. XXVII, p. 103 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ECoeEAAAIAAJ&pg=PA103>

See also the Pakington pedigree in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitation of Buckinghamshire in 1566*, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1883), p. 27 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=VgpBAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA27>

See also Betham, William, *The Baronetage of England*, Vol. I, (Ipswich: Burrell and Bransby, 1801), pp. 185-9 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=LIQOAAAQAQAJ&pg=PA185>

See also the pedigree of Pakington of Harvington Hall in Hussey, Christopher, *Harvington Hall Near Kidderminster Worcestershire*, (Exeter: Catholic Records Press, 1981), p. 31.

The testatrix had ten children living when she made her will, three sons (John, Edward and William) and seven daughters (Jane, Katherine, Martha, Anne, Alice, Margery and Margaret).

The testatrix' daughter, Lettice Pakington, wife of Sir Roger Martyn, and mother of Humphrey Martyn, addressee of the *Langham Letter*, and the testatrix' son, Humphrey Pakington, had predeceased her. For the will of the testatrix' son-in-law, Sir Roger Martyn, see TNA PROB 11/56/48. For the will of the testatrix' son, Humphrey Pakington, see TNA PROB 11/42B/454.

For the testatrix' children and their marriages, see the will of the testatrix' husband, Humphrey Pakington, TNA PROB 11/38/212.

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For the testatrix' nephew, Sir Thomas Pakington (d. 2 June 1571), and his wife, Dorothy Kitson (1531-1577), to whom the testatrix bequeaths rings of gold, see his will, TNA PROB 11/53/397.

LM: T{estamentum} Elisabethe Pakington

[f. 278v] In the name of God, Amen. In London the 25th day of August in [=f. 279r] the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred threescore and three and in the 5th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., I, Elizabeth Pakington of the city of London, widow, of the parish of St Michael in Bassishaw in London, at this present in health of body and in good and perfect memory, all laud and praise be given unto Almighty God therefore, do make and ordain this my present testament and last will in manner and form following, that is to say:

First, I commit and bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my only Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, my Redeemer, who for my sins and for the sins of the whole world suffered death upon the Cross, by whose death and passion I trust only to be saved and by none other ways or means; I acknowledge three persons in Trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, to whom be all honour and glory forever and ever, Amen;

My body I commit to the earth to be buried in the parish church of St Michael in Bassishaw in London if I fortune to die within the said city, and if I shall happen to die in any other place forth of the said city, then I will my body to be buried in Christian burial decently as it shall seem good by the discretion of mine executors and overseers;

And as touching such goods as God have lent me the use of here in this world during my natural life, I do hereafter declare my mind, and I will for the disposition thereof, my body being buried, my funerals paid, that then all my debts which I shall owe by writing or other ways being duly proved, I will shall be paid immediately after my death by mine executors;

Item, I will and bequeath to 24 poor people, 12 women and 12 men, every of them a gown of cloth of the value 6s 8d the yard, the same poor people to be appointed by mine executors, sum of the cloth and making well amount unto £21 7s;

Item, I will and bequeath to my son, Edward Pakington, two hundred and £20 in money;

Item, I will and bequeath to my son, John Pakington, one hundred pounds in money;

Item, I will and bequeath to my daughter, Margery Pakington, three hundred pounds in money;

Item, I will and bequeath to my daughter, Margaret Pakington, three hundred pounds in money;

Item, I will and bequeath to my daughter, Anne Style, £20 in money;

Item, I will and bequeath to my daughter, Alice Lambert, £20 in money;

Item, I will and bequeath to my daughter-in-law, the wife of my son, John Pakington, £5 in money;

Item, I will and bequeath to my god-daughter Elizabeth, the daughter of my son, John Pakington, 40s in money;

Item, I will and bequeath to my two god-children, Richard and Elizabeth, the children of my son-in-law, Humphrey Baskerville, by my daughter Jane, every of them 40s in money;

Item, I will and bequeath to my godson, the son of Richard Lambert, whose name is Richard, by my daughter Alice, 40s in money;

Item, I will and bequeath to Joan Martyn, my god-daughter, the daughter of Roger Martyn, alderman, 40s in money;

Item, I will and bequeath to the relief of the poor in these 3 houses or hospitals following £60 in money, to wit, to the poor in Christ's Church, £30; to St Bartholomew's by Smithfield, £15; to Saint Thomas in Southwark, £15;

Item, I will and bequeath to the poor prisoners within 7 houses within the city of London and Southwark £20 in money to be distributed by the good discretion of my executors, to wit, £10 immediately after my death and £10 within one year following;

Item, I will and bequeath to the relief of the poor people within the ward of Bassishaw in London £10 in money, whereof £3 6s 8d to be distributed immediately after my death and £6 13s 4d within one year next following;

Item, I will and bequeath to Annes Pinder, widow, sometime being my servant, a featherbed and a bolster which she hath already in her keeping; more, I will shall be delivered to the said Agnes Pinder immediately after my death a pair of blankets, a pair of sheets and a coarse covering of imagery;

Item, I will and bequeath to Annes Hollyman, the wife of Hugh Welles of Worcester, which Annes was sometime my maid, 20s in money;

Item, I will and bequeath to Joan, Eyes Ansell's wife, which was sometime my maid, 20s in money;

Item, I will and bequeath to my god-daughter, Elizabeth Ansell, 10s in money;

Item, I will and bequeath to Edith [], sometime my maid, 20s in money;

Item, I will and bequeath to my god-daughter, Elizabeth Gwillam, the daughter of Edward Gwillam, wax-chandler, 20s in money;

Item, I will and bequeath to my two daughters which at this present be unmarried one chest with linen to be betwixt them equally divided, to wit, thone half to my daughter Margery and the other half to my daughter Margaret Pakington;

Item, I will and bequeath to my two sons, William Pakington and Edward Pakington, all my household stuff being in my house at the time of my death and not before bequeathed, my plate only except, the same household stuff to be betwixt them equally divided;

Item, I will and bequeath to my said two sons, William Pakington and Edward Pakington, the lease of my house wherein I now dwell to be betwixt them equally divided, with all the profit thereof for so many of the years as shall be unexpired at time of my death;

Item, I will and bequeath to my godson [], the son of Sir Thomas Pakington, 40s in money;

Item, I will and bequeath to Sir Thomas Pakington and to my lady his wife, to every of them a ring of gold, value of 40s the piece, to be delivered to them by mine executors in token of love borne towards them;

Item, I will and bequeath to my son, John Pakington, a ring of gold which was my wedding-ring, being a hoop of gold;

Item, I will and bequeath to my son, William Pakington, a ring of gold with a stone and my husband's arms graven in it;

Item, I will and bequeath to my son, Edward Pakington, a ring of gold, being a hoop, and graven within it *Laudes Deo*;

Item, I will and bequeath to my daughter, Jane Baskerville, a ring with a table diamond set in gold;

Item, I will & bequeath to my daughter, Katherine Lambert, a ring of gold, and there is graven within it *Such is fortune*;

Item, I will and bequeath to Martha Hollyman a ring of gold, and there is graven within it *Memento mori*;

Item, I will and bequeath to every of the children of my son, John Pakington, being alive at the time of my death £3 6s 8d, and every of them to be other's heir thereof;

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Item, I will and bequeath to the children of my son-in-law, Humphrey Baskerville, alderman, by my daughter Jane, to every of them being alive at the time of my death £3 6s 8d in money, and every of them to be other's heir;

Item, I will and bequeath pf. 279v] to the children of Roger Martyn, alderman, by my daughter Lettice, being alive at the time of my death £3 6s 8d in money, and every of them to be other's heir;

Item, I will and bequeath to the children of my son-in-law, John Lambert, by my daughter Katherine, being alive at the time of my death, to every of them £3 6s 8d, and every of them to be other's heir;

Item, I will and bequeath to the children of my son-in-law, Richard Lambert, being alive at the time of my death, to every of them £3 6s 8d, and every of them to be other's heir;

Item, I will and bequeath to my four children, to wit, William Pakington, Edward Pakington, Margery Pakington and Margaret Pakington, all my plate which at the time of my death shall be found in my custody and not in my will bequeathed, the same plate to be betwixt them equally divided, every one portion and portion like;

Item, I will and bequeath to the ten children born of my body and at this present alive, to every of them fifty pounds, and every of them to be other[s] heir, equally divided;

Item, I will and bequeath to the children of my son-in-law, Richard Hollyman, by my daughter Martha, to every of them being alive at the time of my death £3 6s 8d, and every of them to be other's heir;

Item, I will and bequeath to my two sons, William Pakington and Edward Pakington, as well all such money as shall be due to me by an obligation of Mr Humphrey Baskerville, as also all such money as shall be due unto me for one lease of my house wherein John Sutton now dwelleth in Bassishaw by the said Mr Humphrey Baskerville, the same money and so much as shall be unpaid at the time of my death both of the lease and obligation to be equally betwixt my said two sons divided, the one half to William Pakington and the other half to Edward Pakington;

And further I ordain, constitute and make to be mine executors of this my last will and testament my son Edward Pakington, my daughter Anne Style, and my daughter Alice Lambert, now the wife of Richard Lambert, grocer, and for their pains therein to be by every of them to be taken I have as before in this my last will and testament given to every of them £20 in money;

I, Richard Lambert, do witness this to be the last will and testament of Elizabeth Pakington, widow, late the wife of Humphrey Pakington, deceased.

Memorandum. That the aforesaid Elizabeth, the 27th day of September anno Domini predicto, being then in perfect mind and memory, did add to her former will and declare the same in some part thereof, giving, willing and bequeathing as hereafter followeth, viz.:

I give and bequeath to my daughter-in-law, the wife of my son, John Pakington, one little cross of gold, to be delivered unto her immediately after my death by mine executors;

Item, I will and bequeath to my daughter, Martha Hollyman, three little silver pots, to be delivered unto her immediately after my death;

Item, I will and bequeath to my daughter, Alice Lambert, the wife of Richard Lambert, one little standing cup of silver and gilt, to be delivered unto her immediately after my death by mine executors;

Item, I will and bequeath to my son, John Pakington, three deep goblets of silver, to be delivered to him immediately after my death by mine executors;

Item, I will and bequeath to my daughter, Margaret Pakington, one chain of gold, to be delivered unto her by mine executors immediately after my death;

Item I will and bequeath to my daughter, Katherine, the wife of John Lambert, two silver pots white which heretofore I did lend unto her, and my will and mind is that she shall enjoy them as her own after my death;

Also I will and bequeath unto my said daughter, Katherine, a little flower of gold wherein is stone and pearl, to be delivered unto her immediately after my death by mine executors;

Item, I will and bequeath to my daughter, Margery Pakington, one tablet of gold, to be delivered unto her immediately after my death by mine executors;

Item, my mind and will is that of the debts which I do owe for the rest of my husband's requests in deeds of charity, £6 13s 4d thereof to be given to the mending and finishing of the highway by Essam, betwixt Essam and Worcester;

Also I will that of the same debts there shall be given to the preferment of John Johnson, born in Barlowe in Brabant, so much as shall be needful:

Memorandum. That the above-named Elizabeth Pakington, the next day before her death, viz., the 27th day of September anno predicto, in the afternoon of the same day, being then in perfect mind and memory, did confess and acknowledge this to be her last will and testament above-written in all points and clauses, these being witnesses: Richard Lambert, Edmund Style, Isabel Mere, Margaret Lawse and divers other moe.

Probatum fuit h{uius}mo{d}i Testamentum coram Mag{ist}ro waltero haddon legum doctor{e} Curie Prerogatiue cant{u}ar{iensis} Comissar{io} apud london xxvjto Die mensis Novembris anno 1563 Iuram{ento} Edwardi Pakington personalit{er} p{rese}ntis Anne Stile et Alice Lambert liberorum in persona mag{ist}ri Georgij Harison Notarij publici procuratoris Executor{um} in h{uius}mo{d}i Testamento no{m}i{n}ator{um} Quibus Comissa fuit Administrac{i}o om{ni}um bonorum de bene etc Ac de pleno Inventario &c Exhibend{o} necnon De plano et vero Comp{o}to reddend{o}

[=The same testament was proved before Master Walter Haddon, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the 26th day of the month of November in the year 1563 by the oath of Edward Pakington, personally present, Anne Style and Alice Lambert, children, in the person of Master George Harrison, notary public, proctor of the executors appointed in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all the goods, [+sworn] to well etc., and to exhibit a full inventory etc., and also to render a plain and true account.]