

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the undated will, proved 4 November 1458, of the London mercer, John Rich, who died 29 July 1458, predeceasing his father.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator was the son of the London mercer, Richard Rich (d.1464), and his wife, Katherine. The testator had a brother:

-Thomas Rich (d. 1475?), mercer of London, who married Elizabeth Croke (d.1479), the daughter of John Croke, alderman of London.

-Katherine Rich, who married, as his second wife, William Marowe (c.1419-c.1464), three times Master of the Grocers' Company, and Lord Mayor of London in 1455. For his will, see TNA PROB 11/5/139.

-Margaret Rich, who married John Walden.

-Isabel Rich, who married Thomas Urswick (d. 19 March 1479).

For the will of the testator's father, Richard Rich, see TNA PROB 11/5/84. For the will of the testator's brother, Thomas Rich, see TNA PROB 11/6/296.

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testator married Isabel Pulter, by whom he had three sons, Richard, Thomas and John. From the fact that they are named in the will in that order, it appears that Richard was the eldest. According to Collins,

* Richard Rich (d.1469/70), eldest son, who married Joan Dingley [=Dyneley?], by whom he had three sons, Richard Rich, Robert Rich and Hugh Rich, and died in 1469-70. It seems almost certain that Richard Rich (d.1469/70) was the grandfather of Richard Rich (1496/7 – 12 June 1567), Lord Chancellor of England, by reason of the fact that the Lord Chancellor's residuary legatee was Edward Rich (d.1599) of Horndon, the grandson of the testator's second son, Thomas. For the residuary bequest to Edward Rich, see the will of the Lord Chancellor, TNA PROB 11/50/176.

* **Thomas Rich**, second son, who married Margaret Shaa, the daughter of Sir Edmund Shaa, Lord Mayor of London. For the will of Sir Edmund Shaa, see TNA PROB 11/8/187.

By his wife, Margaret Shaa, the testator's second son, Thomas, had a son, Thomas Rich (d. 3 March 1531) of South Weald, Essex, who married Rachel Newburgh, the daughter

of Thomas Newburgh, esquire, of Berkley, Somerset, and is said to have had a daughter, Katherine Rich, who married firstly a husband named Barker, and secondly Sir Ralph Wiseman of Rivenhall, Essex. For the will of Thomas Rich of South Weald, Essex, dated 3 January 1531 and proved 4 April 1531, in which he mentions his wife, Rachel, and son, Edward (the residuary legatee of Lord Chancellor Rich), see TNA PROB 11/24/36.

* **John Rich**, third son, about whom nothing further is known.

For the foregoing discussion of the testator and his children, see Collins, Arthur, *The Peerage of England*, 3rd ed., (London: W. Innys and J. Richardson, 1756), Vol. II, pp. 233-5 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=QIkUAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA235>

See also Nicolas, Nicholas Harris, *Testamenta Vetusta*, Vol. I, (London: Nichols and Son, 1826), pp. 299, 339; Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, p. 55; and Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex*, Vol. XIII, (London: Harleian Society, 1878), pp. 276-7 at:

<http://audio35.archive.org/stream/visitationsofess1314metc#page/276/mode/2up>

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

The testator appoints his brother-in-law, John Pulter of Hitchin, Hertfordshire, as one of his executors. John Pulter's own will, dated 18 June 1485, mentions several persons in the will below, including the testator's wife, Isabel, the testator's second son, Thomas Rich, and the testator's sister-in-law, Anne Alburgh:

To Anne Alburgh my suster v mark. To Thos Ryche my newew 3 playn bolles which among other I had of the yeft and bequest of my suster Isabelle Ryche moder to the said Thomas.

For a transcript of the will of John Pulter, see:

<http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/Research/Libr/Wills/Bk08/154.htm>

For the will of the testator's overseer, John Lok, mercer, see TNA PROB 11/5/16.

In the name of God, Amen. I, John Riche, citizen and mercer of the City of London, whole of mind, blessed be God, make, ordain and dispose my present testament in this wise:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, Our Lady Saint Mary, and to all the whole company of heaven, and my body to be buried in the church of Saint Thomas of Acres in London before Saint Thomas' shrine there, and I bequeath to the same place £10;

Also I will that mine expenses funeral be made with 12 torches and 4 tapers, of the which 12 torches I will that 2 be given unto the said church there to serve at Saint Thomas' altar in the body of the said church, also [sic?] long as they will endure;

Also I bequeath to the high altar of Our Lady of the Bowe 40s & 2 torches of the said 12 to be occupied and spent at the said high altar;

Item, I bequeath to the Trinity altar in the said church of Our Lady of the Bowe 2 torches of the same 12;

And I bequeath to the altar of Our Lady of Pity in the said church 2 torches;

And I bequeath to the altar of Saint Nicholas in the said church 1 torch;

Item, I bequeath to the altar in Saint Thomas' chapel in the said church 1 torch;

Item, I bequeath to the chapel of the Mercery in the church of Saint Thomas of Acres abovesaid 2 torches;

Item, I bequeath to the hospital of Our Lady of Bedlem [=Bethlehem], 5 year to endure, every year(?) 1 quarter of wheat and 1 quarter of green peas at Lent to be delivered;

Item, I bequeath to the poor men of the hospital of Saint Bartholomew in Smithfield for bedding to be bought and there to serve for poor folks as long as it will endure 33s 4d;

Item, I bequeath to the poor men of the hospital of Saint Thomas in Southwark for bedding to be bought and there to serve as long as it will endure 33s 4d;

Item, I bequeath to the house of lepers at Kingsland beside Hackney 6s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to the lepers at the lock without Saint George's Bar in Southwark 13s 4d;

Item, I bequeath to the nuns of Holywell 6s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to the nuns of Clerkenwell 6s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to the nuns at Stratford of the Bowe 20s;

Item, I bequeath to my cousin, Dame Alice Clerk, being in the said house, 20s;

Item, I bequeath to the prior and convent of the Charterhouse at Sheen as much linen cloth as will repair and serve to make of new ornaments for all the altars being in the church of the said Charterhouse;

Item, I bequeath to mine aunt dwelling in Hoddesdon every year while she liveth 20s;

Item, I bequeath to the almsmen being in my father's almshouse in Hoddesdon, to every of them 1 gown of cottoned cloth and 3s and 4d in money;

Item, I bequeath to Thomas, my [f. 108v] brother, my best gown and my best hood;

Item, I bequeath to every child of Thomas Urswick, Recorder of London, that is to say, Katherine, Avice(?) and Margaret, 5 mark for a cup to be bought at their marriage;

Item, I bequeath to my mother my tablet of gold;

Item, I bequeath to my father my signet of gold;

Item, I bequeath to the high altar of Our Lady of the Bowe for blue cloth of gold to be bought according to Malvern suete(?) of the price of £20 to serve to hang afore the altar there;

Item, I bequeath to Anne Malvern £5 for a cup to be bought at her marriage;

Item, to John Malvern for a cup to be bought at his marriage £5;

Item, I bequeath to Johanna Pulter for a cup to be bought at her marriage £4;

Item, to William Pulter 5 mark for a cup;

Item, to John Pulter the elder 5 mark;

Item, to Alice Pulter, his wife, 5 mark;

Item, to Anne Albourgh [=Alburgh?] 5 mark;

Item, to my cousin, William Durraunt, and his wife, each of them a black gown;

Item, to Nicholas Muston, tailor, 40s and a black gown;

Item, I bequeath to Isabelle, my wife, 12 mark and all my household [+stuff?] and the fells that been at Ipswich(?) that were purchased(?) of Jone Mattok;

Item, I bequeath to Richard, my son, 250 mark and a standing cup gilt;

Item, I bequeath to Thomas, my son, 250 mark and a standing cup gilt;

And I bequeath to John, my son, 250 mark and a standing cup;

Item, I bequeath to the Friar Minors in London 6s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to the Friar Austins in London 6s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to the Friar Preachers 6s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to the Crutch[ed] Friars in London 6s 8d;

item, I bequeath to the White Friars in London 6s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to the prisoners of Newgate 1 ox, price 16s;

Item, I bequeath to the prisoners of Ludgate 1 ox, price 16s;

Item, I bequeath to the prisoners of Fleet 1 ox, price 16s;

Item, I bequeath to the prisoners of the King's Bench in Southwark 1 ox, price 16s;

Item, [+I?] bequeath to the prisoners of the Marshalsea 1 ox, price 16s;

Item, I bequeath to a priest to sing at the altar of Saint Thomas of Acres in the body of the church by 5 year every year 10 mark for his salary;

Item, I bequeath to Hugh, my prentice, 5 mark;

Item, to Richard Bulle, my prentice, 5 mark;

Item, I will that John Nollton, mine prentice, come out prison at his own surety for the sum of 24s that he oweth me;

The residue of my goods to be disposed by mine executors for my soul as they hopen best to please God and most health for my soul;

Item, I bequeath to Maykyn Thorpe [=Mackenthorpe?] of Cholbent [=Chowbent?] in Lancashire per 6s 8d of him received, sum 30s;

Item, I bequeath to Thomas Elys of [] 30s which that he oweth to me;

Item, to remember John Marshall, mercer, for to reckon between him and me as he will answer tofore God;

And I make and ordain mine executors Isabelle, my wife, John Pulter of Hitchin, and John Albourgh, and I make mine overseer John Lok, mercer of London, these being witness: William Durraunt, Nicholas Muston and Nicholas Beville.

Probatum fuit sup{ra}dictum Test{amentu}m coram Domino Apud lamehith Quarto Die mens{is} Nouembr{is} Anno Domini Mill{es}imo CCCC Quinquagesimo octauo Et com{m}iss{a} fuit admi{ni}stracio o{mn}i{u}m & sing{u}lor{um} bonorum Dict{i} defunct{i} Isabelle Relict{e} & Executr{ici} in D{i}c{t}o testamento nominat{e} De bene et fidelit{er} admi{ni}strand{o} bona h{uius}mo{d}i Ac de pleno et fideli Inuentario o{mn}i{u}m et sing{u}lor{um} bonor{um} h{uius}mo{d}i conficiend{o} & domino cit{ra} festum Ann{un}ciacionis b{ea}te Marie V{ir}ginis p{ro}x{imum} post Dat{um} p{rese}ncium exhibend{o} Necno{n} de fideli compoto calculo siue Raciocinio &c in debit{a} iuris forma Iurat{e} Res{er}uat{a} p{otes}tate com{m}ittend{o} Admi{ni}stracionem alijs coexecutor{ibus} cum Ven{erun}t

[=The abovesaid testament was proved before the Lord at Lambeth on the fourth day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand 400 fifty-eighth, and administration was granted of all & singular the goods of the said deceased to Isabel, relict & executor named in the said testament, sworn in due form of law to well and faithfully administer the same goods, and to prepare a full and faithful inventory of all and singular the same goods, & to exhibit [+it] to the Lord before the feast of the Annunciation of Blessed Mary the Virgin next after the date of [+these] presents, and also a faithful account, calculation or reckoning etc., with power reserved for the administration to be committed to the other co-executors when they shall have come etc.]