

SUMMARY: The document below is the will, dated 3 September 1568, of Oxford's first cousin, Robert Darcy, a younger brother of John, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lord Darcy of Chiche. The latter, together with Sir William Waldegrave, jointly entered into guarantees amounting to £5000 for Oxford's debt to the Court of Wards (see TNA C 2/Eliz/T6/48). One of the principal legatees in Robert Darcy's will is his brother-in-law, Edmund Pyrton, who is also mentioned in the will of Oxford's first cousin John Vere (d.1624) of Kirby Hall (see PROB 11/143, ff. 510-15), and who purchased the manor of Little Bentley from John Vere in 1596 (see CP 25/2/137/1741). For the wills of Robert Darcy's father, mother and elder brother see PROB 11/44, ff. 75-6, PROB 11/48 ff. 256-7 and PROB 11/63, ff. 3-4.

LM: Testamentum Roberti Darcy

In the name of God, Amen. I, Robert Darcy of Saint Osyth in the county of Essex, do make & ordain this my last will and testament, being in perfect mind and memory, the third day of September and the tenth year [=3 September 1568] of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., in manner and form following:

First, I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my maker & redeemer, & my body to the earth from whence it came;

Item, I bequeath to my Lord & brother one basin & ewer parcel-gilt;

Item, I give to his two elder sons two standing gilt pots;

Item, I give to my sister Pyrton two beds with all the furniture thereunto belonging, with all other implements, whatsoever they be, with my part of the hangings;

Item, I give to my brother Pyrton my brooch with a diamond;

I give to my sister Thomasine a silver drinking-pot with ribs;

Item, I give to my nephew Pyrton a dozen of silver trenchers;

Item, I give to Thomas Tey a black guarded cloak with velvet and with a cap being in my Lord's chest at London, and my white leather hose being in my press at St. Osyth;

Item, I give to my brother Pyrton a plain cloak with a cap lined throughout with unshorn velvet, and a red pair of carnation hose trimmed fair with lace and never worn, being in my press at St. Osyth, and also a black Dutch cloak trimmed with lace;

Item, I give to my servant Valey all my cast apparel with my doublets and jerkins and 20s;

And I do ordain and make my brother, Edmund Pyrton, and Constance, his wife, my sister, my executors, the Lord John Darcy, my brother, supervisor of this my last will & testament;

In witness of this my last deed(?) & testament have put to my hand & seal the day and year abovewritten, per me, Robert Darcy, these being witnesses: George Knightley. Per me, Robertum Cotton.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum coram Magistro Waltero Haddon Legum doctore Curie prerogatiue Cantuariensis commissario apud London xxij die Novembris anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo sexagesimo nono Iuramento Iustiniam Kydd procuratoris Edmundi Pyrton et Constancie vxoris eius executorum in testamento huiusmodi nominatorum Quibus commissa fuit administracio omnium et singulorum bonorum &c De bene &c. Ad sancta dei Evangelia Iuratorum.

Collacio ffacta per me Iustinianum Kydd

[=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 22nd day of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixty-ninth by the oath of Justinian Kydd, proctor of Edmund Pyrton and Constance, his wife, executors named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods etc., to well etc. Sworn on the Holy Gospels.]

Collation(?) made by me, Justinian Kydd