

SUMMARY: The document below is the will, dated 30 April 1577 and proved 21 June 1577, of Dorothy Kitson Pakington Tasburgh (1531 - 2 May 1577), whose brother, Sir Thomas Kitson (1540-1603) is mentioned as being part of Oxford's circle of acquaintances in allegations by Charles Arundel (see SP 12/151/48, ff. 107-8), and whose first husband was the son of Robert Pakington (1489-1536), 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 Sir Thomas Kitson (1485-1540) of Hengrave, Suffolk, by his second wife, Margaret Donnington (1510 - 20 December 1561), the only child of John Donnington (d.1544) of Stoke Newington by Elizabeth Pye. For Margaret Donnington, later Countess of Bath, see her will, dated 10 December 1561 and proved 18 February 1562, TNA PROB 11/45/55; the *ODNB* entry for the Kitson family; and the entry at:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=669

After the death of the testatrix' father, the testatrix mother, Margaret Donnington, married secondly Sir Richard Long (d.1546), a gentleman of the privy chamber. This family relationship continued in a later generation. Sir Walter Long (1555?-1610), grandson of Sir Richard Long's brother, Sir Henry Long (d.1556), married the testatrix' daughter, Mary Pakington.

By her second marriage, the testatrix' mother, Margaret Donnington, had a son and three daughters, the testatrix' brother and sisters of the half blood:

-Henry Long (d. 15 April 1573), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/55/169.

-Jane Long.

-Katherine Long, who married Edward Fisher of Ichington, Warwickshire.

-Mary Long, who is mentioned in the will below.

The testatrix' mother, Margaret Donnington, married thirdly John Bouchier (c.1499 - 10 February 1561), 2nd Earl of Bath, by whom she had two daughters, the testatrix' half sisters:

-Susan Bouchier.

-Bridget Bouchier.

For the testatrix' brother and sisters of the whole blood, see the will of her father, Sir Thomas Kitson, TNA PROB 11/29/2.

MARRIAGES AND ISSUE

The testatrix married firstly, by dispensation dated 20 September 1546, Sir Thomas Pakington (c.1530 - 2 June 1571). As noted above, he was the son of Robert Pakington (1489-1536), 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. See the will of Robert Pakington, TNA PROB 11/27/46.

By Sir Thomas Pakington, the testatrix had three sons and three daughters, including:

* **Sir John "Lusty" Pakington** (1549-1625), a favourite of Queen Elizabeth, and one of Oxford's companions at court (see BL Cotton Titus C.6, ff. 7-8).

* **Margaret Pakington**, who in 1573 married Thomas Lichfield.

* **Mary Pakington**, who, as noted above, married Sir Walter Long (1555?-1610).

For the will of Sir Thomas Pakington, see TNA PROB 11/53/397.

The testatrix married secondly Sir Thomas Tasburgh (c.1554–1602) of Hawridge, a young lawyer and future Teller of the Exchequer, for whom see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/tasburgh-thomas-1554-1602>

See the *ODNB* entries for the testatrix; her father, Sir Thomas Kitson; her father-in-law, Robert Pakington; and her son, Sir John Pakington.

LM: T{estamentum} D{omi}ne Dorathee Pakington

In the name of God, Amen. I, Dame Dorothy Pakington, late wife of Sir Thomas Pakington, knight, deceased, and now wife unto Thomas Tasburgh of Hawridge in the county of Buckinghamshire, esquire, being at the time of the making hereof in good and perfect memory, thanks be given to God, do ordain and make this my last will and testament as followeth:

First, I commend my soul to Almighty God, my Creator, and to his dearly-beloved Son, Jesus Christ, my Redeemer, through whose most victorious death and passion I faithfully believe to be saved, and to be an inheritor of his everlasting kingdom, my body to be

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buried in Christian burial within the church of Hawridge, and that without all vain and worldly pomp and solemnity commonly used therein;

Secondly, where it hath pleased my said husband at my earnest request and desire to suffer me to make my will and thereby to dispose whatsoever and to whom it shall seem good to me, who hath also promised me to see this my will performed to the uttermost he may, in declaration whereof, first I make my said husband my sole and only executor, hoping that he will take upon him the execution hereof, and discharge all such matters wherewith myself or he as in my behalf stand now any way by law charged, which being performed, whatsoever is remaining in me which in law I may dispose, I give and bequeath the same to my husband, my executor;

And if he shall refuse to take the same upon him, then I make my brother Gyll my executor, desiring him to deal therein;

In witness whereof I have hereunto as to my last will put my hand and seal this present Tuesday the 30th of April, 1577.

Vicesimo Primo Die Mens{is} Iunij Anno Domini Mill{es}imo Quingentesimo Septuage{si}mo Septimo in Edibus Mag{ist}ri Drurye Comissarij &c ac coram eo me p{rese}nti me Anthonio Lawe Notario pu{bli}co comp{ar}uit p{er}sonal{ite}r Mag{iste}r Petrus Iohnson Notarius publicus et exhibuit procuratorium suum l{itte}ratorie pro p{re}dict{o} Thoma Tasburghe Armigero et fecit se partem pro eodem et exhibuit testamentum suprascriptum ac nomine eiusdem Thome Tasburghe atq{ue} ex cert{is} causis animu{m} suum moven{tibus} oneri executionis d{ic}t{i} testamenti expresse renunciavit quam quidem renunciac{i}o{n}em D{omi}nus ad eius petic{i}o{n}em admisit Et statim ad petic{i}o{n}em d{ic}t{i} Iohnson ex{hibi}t{i} aliud procuratorium l{itte}ratorie concept{um} pro prefato Iohanne Gill executore in testamento suprascripto nominat{o} et facien{tis} se &c ac peten{tis} idem testamentum probari approbavit et insinuavit eundem testamentum com{m}isitq{ue} administrac{i}onem om{n}i{um} et singulor{um} bonorum iurium et creditor{um} dict{e} def{uncte} eidem Iohanni Gyll De bene &c In p{er}sona eiusdem Iohnson procuratoris sui rite Iurat{o}

[=On the twenty-first day of the month of June in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred seventy-seventh in the house of Master Drury, Commissary etc., and before him in the presence of me, Anthony Law, notary public, Master Peter Johnson, notary public, appeared personally, and exhibited his letters of proxy for the foresaid Thomas Tasburgh, esquire, and made himself party(?) for the same, and exhibited the above-written testament, and in the name of the same Thomas Tasburgh and also for certain causes his mind moving expressly renounced the burden of the execution of the said testament, which his renunciation the Lord [+Archbishop?] admitted at his petition, and immediately, at the petition of the said Johnson exhibiting other letters of proxy received for the forenamed John Gill, executor named in the above-written testament, and making

himself etc. and praying the same testament to be proved, he probated and entered the same testament, and granted administration of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased to the same John Gill, in the person of the same Johnson, his proctor, duly sworn to well etc.]