

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 3 March 1580 and proved 21 July 1582, of John Lambert, citizen and grocer of London, brother-in-law of Lettice (nee Pakington) Martyn, the mother of Humphrey Martyn, the addressee of the *Langham Letter* which describes Leicester's entertainment of Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth in the summer of 1575. The testator's first wife, and the mother of his children, was Katherine Pakington, the sister of Lettice (nee Pakington) Martyn. For the will of their father, Humphrey Pakington (1502-1556), see TNA PROB 11/38, ff. 150-1. For the will of their mother, Elizabeth Pakington (d.1563), see TNA PROB 11/46, ff. 278-9. In the will below, the testator makes the following bequests to his nephew, Humphrey Martyn, the addressee of the *Langham Letter*, and to his nephew Edmund Martyn, Humphrey's brother (for the will of Edmund Martyn (d.1596), see TNA PROB 11/87).

*Item, I give and bequeath to Humphrey Martyn and his wife, and to Edmund Martyn, to every one of them a gown of twenty shillings a yard, and every of them a ring of gold of like value of forty shillings apiece.*

The testator had earlier been the brother-in-law of James Bacon (d.1573), since whose death his widow, Anne (nee Pakington), another of Lettice Pakington's sisters, had married Sir Edward Baynton (1517-1593). Both Sir Edward Baynton and his wife, Anne (nee Pakington), are mentioned in the will below.

Another of the Pakington sisters, Margery, had married Robert Burbage, apparently the 'Burbage' referred to in the will below:

*To Burbage and his wife, either of them a gown, price thirteen shillings four pence a yard.*

The wording of the bequest perhaps suggests that Margery (nee Pakington) Burbage had died by this time, and that Robert Burbage had remarried. It also seems possible that Robert Burbage was the brother of James Burbage (c.1531-1597), builder of the first theatre in London, and father of Richard and Cuthbert Burbage, who built the Globe Theatre. James Burbage's brother-in-law, John Brayne, was 'a freeman of the rich and powerful Grocers' Company', as was the testator.

The possibility of a connection between the testator's brother-in-law, Robert Burbage, and the members of the Burbage family who built the Theatre and the Globe is strengthened by the fact that the testator also makes a bequest to Thomas Brend, scrivener, from whom Richard and Cuthbert Burbage leased the land on which the Globe was built in 1598:

*Item, I give and bequeath to Thomas Brend, scrivener in Bassishaw, one gown, price twenty shillings a yard, and a ring of gold of like value.*

The testator's second wife, Blanche (d.1593), the daughter of William Watson (d.1559), mercer of London, had earlier been the wife of Dunstan Walton (d. 19 March 1572),

citizen and mercer of London. After the testator's death, Blanche married the London mercer, alderman, and later Lord Mayor, Thomas Skinner (d.1596), who had purchased Castle Camps from Oxford. For Thomas Skinner's fraudulent dealing against Oxford, see BL Lansdowne 68/11, f. 26 and BL Lansdowne 63/76, ff. 191-2. Blanche was the stepsister of the poet and translator, Thomas Watson (1555/6-1592), who dedicated *Hekatompathia* to Oxford. For the will of her father, William Watson (d.1559), see TNA PROB 11/43, ff. 26-7. For the will of Dunstan Walton, see TNA PROB 11/54, f. 71. For the will of Thomas Skinner, see TNA PROB 11/89, ff. 394-5. For the inquisition post mortem setting out the relationship between the testator, his second wife, Blanche, her father, William Watson, and her first husband, Dunstan Walton, see 'Inquisitions: 1593-4', *Abstracts of Inquisitiones Post Mortem for the City of London: Part 3* (1908), pp. 171-219, available online at <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=65901>.

#### LM: Testamentum Iohannis Lambert

In the name of God, Amen. The third day of March Anno Domini 1579 and in the two and twentieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., I, John Lambert, citizen and grocer of London, being whole in body and of good and perfect mind and remembrance, laud and praise be therefore given to Almighty God, do make, ordain and dispose this my last will and testament, as well of and upon all my goods and chattels, plate, wares and merchandises, debts and household stuff and ready money, as also of and upon all my manors, lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services and hereditaments with th' appurtenances in manner and form following, that is to say:

First and principally I give and commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my Maker and Redeemer, in whom, and by the merits of the second person, Jesus Christ, I trust to be saved and to have full and clear remission & forgiveness of my sins, and I commit my body to the earth to be buried in Christian burial where it shall seem most convenient to my executors hereunder named;

And after my body buried, then I will that all such debts and duties as I owe to any person or persons of right or conscience shall be truly paid or set in good assurance how to be paid, and that done, then I will that all and singular my goods, chattels, plate, debts, jewels, household stuff and ready money shall be divided into three equal and indifferent parts or portions according to the laudable custom of the City of London, whereof one equal third part I give & bequeath unto Blanche Lambert, my well-beloved wife, to her own proper use and behoof;

One other equal part thereof I give and bequeath to and amongst all my children, portion and portion like, to be paid and delivered unto them as they and every of them shall accomplish and come to their lawful ages of twenty-one years, or my daughters to marriage, according to the said custom, and every of my said children to be heir to other (if death shall happen to any of them in the meantime, as God forbid), and my mind and

will is the parts and portions which I have given already to my daughters in marriage shall be deducted and defalked out of their several portions, to th' end and purpose they shall be all preferred and advanced of the same third part, portion and portion like, and not otherwise;

And the third equal part thereof I reserve to myself and to my executors hereunder named to perform my legacies and bequests hereafter following, that is to say:

Item, I give and bequeath unto the said Blanche, my wife, over and above her just part and portion to her due of my goods by the said custom, the sum of two hundred pounds in money and all her jewels appertaining to her body, which sum of two hundred pounds I am bound by sufficient assurance to give her, and also I give and bequeath unto Blanche Duck thirty pounds in money, which in like manner I have entered into bond to pay, and that to be answered accordingly as I have covenanted to do;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my said wife all that my thirds which I late bought of (blank) of, in and to all those messuages, lands and tenements situate and being near the stocks in London, without any manner of account therefore to be by her yielded or done;

And also I will and my mind is that she shall have and enjoy according to assurance in that behalf passed, all that my mansion or dwelling-house with th' appurtenances in London, to have, hold and enjoy the same unto the said Blanche and her assigns during her natural life, she keeping the same in good and sufficient reparations;

Item, I give & bequeath unto my said wife one gown, price twenty-five shillings the yard, and one ring of gold, price fifty shillings;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Sir Edward Baynton and his wife, Mr Clement Paston and his wife, my brother Coles and his wife, my son John Jackman and his wife, Henry Hungate & his wife, Robert Atkinson and his wife, Henry Perpoint and his wife, to my seven children, and to my brother Lambert, viz., Richard Lambert's eight children, to every one of the same persons one gown, price twenty-shillings the yard, and also to every one of them one ring of gold, price forty shillings;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Sir Lionel Duckett and his wife, my Lady Martyn, Mr Cranefelde and his wife, Mr Owen and his wife, Mr Willett and his wife, William Pakington and his wife, to every one of them a black gown, price twenty shillings the yard;

Item, I give and bequeath unto John Jackman of Hornchurch and his wife, to either of them a gown of like price, and also either of them a gold ring, price forty shillings apiece;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Henry Jackman a gown of fifteen shillings the yard, and to Thomas Lambert and his wife, either of them a gown of like price of fifteen shillings the yard, and also twenty marks in money between them;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Thomas Perrye one ring of gold, price forty shillings;

To Burbage and his wife, either of them a gown, price thirteen shillings four pence a yard;

To every one of my servants, both men and maidens, which shall be dwelling with me at the time of my decease, to every of them gowns or cloaks at the discretion of my executors of thirteen shillings four pence a yard;

Item, I give and bequeath to Humphrey Martyn and his wife, and to Edmund Martyn, to every one of them a gown of twenty shillings a yard, and every of them a ring of gold of like value of forty shillings apiece;

Item, I give and bequeath to my godchildren, John Jackman and William Coles, to either of them five pounds in money, and either of them a coat, price fifteen shillings a yard;

Item, I give and bequeath to Thomas Brend, scrivener in Bassishaw, one gown, price twenty shillings a yard, and a ring of gold of like value;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Francis Sturdyvaunte ten pounds, to Robert Conyars five pounds, to John Roberts five pounds, to James Hanscombe three pounds six shillings eight pence, to William Ramsey three pounds six shillings eight pence, to Richard Tompkins five pounds, to Elizabeth Kemster(?) five pounds, and to every one of my maiden-servants thirteen shillings four pence;

Item, I give and bequeath to Mr Greene, parson of Saint Michael's Bassishaw, forty shillings, to Mr Wood and his wife twenty shillings apiece, and to Ione [=Joan?] Ripton forty shillings, to John Consdewe th' elder and John Consdewe the younger, to either of them forty shillings, and to Nicholas Scott twenty shillings;

And to and amongst the poor people at Woodford Row three pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath to Blanche Wright five pounds, to Blanche Ducke a gown, price sixteen shillings a yard, and five pounds in money;

Item, I give and bequeath to Robert Walton, Francis Walton, Henry Walton, Thomas Haselforde [=Haselfoote], Katherine Draper and Thomas Duck, to every one of them a gown, price fifteen shillings a yard, and to every of them forty shillings in money;

Item, I give and bequeath to George, my man, a coat and forty shillings in money, and to widow Glasier a gown and forty shillings in money;

To Thomas, mine apprentice, five pounds in money, and to John Burton, mine apprentice, three pounds six shillings eight pence in money;

Item, I give and bequeath to and amongst the poor inhabitants in Bassishaw ten pounds amongst them to be divided;

Item, I give and bequeath to the Company or Livery of the Grocers in London, to make them a repast, thirteen pounds six shillings eight pence, and to the clerk and beadle of the same Company twenty shillings apiece, and to the alms-houses, viz., the poor people in them, near Grocers' Hall forty shillings;

Item, I give and bequeath to the poor people in Kirton parish four pounds, and to the poor of Saint Christopher's parish in London forty shillings;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Christ's Hospital in London thirty pounds, and to Saint Thomas' Hospital in Southwark twenty pounds, and to and amongst the poor people in the Savoy near London ten pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath to either of the Counters in London, to be distributed amongst the poor prisoners there, three pounds six shillings eight pence;

Item, I give and bequeath to five prisons, viz., Newgate, Ludgate, Marshalsea, King's Bench and White Lion, to every of them three pounds six shillings eight pence;

Item, I give and bequeath thirteen pounds six shillings eight pence to be given by my executors or the survivor of them unto forty poor maidens' marriages, viz., six shillings eight pence apiece, the same to be given within five years after my decease;

Also I give and bequeath unto forty poor men for to accompany me to the church on the day of my burial, to every of them three yards of cloth at seven shillings a yard, to make them gowns withal;

Item, I give and bequeath for forty several sermons to be made by some learned preacher of God's word in the parish church of St Michael Bassishaw in London at the discretion of my executors or the survivor of them the sum of thirteen pounds six shillings eight pence, that is to say, for every such sermon six shillings eight pence;

The residue of my third part and portion remaining wholly I give and bequeath to and amongst all my children, portion and portion like, to be paid and delivered to them and every of them as they and every of them shall come to their lawful ages of one and twenty years or my said daughters to marriage, and every of them to be other's heir if death shall happen to any of them in the meantime, with such assurance for the payment of the same as in such cases is used and accustomed by the order, use and custom of the City of London;

And as touching the order and disposition of all and singular my lands, tenements, rents, reversions, services and hereditaments, as well freehold as copyhold, set, lying and being in the counties of Lincoln and Essex and in the City of London, and I will and devise the same in manner and form following, that is to say:

First, I will and devise unto Humphrey Lambert, my eldest son and heir, and to his heirs forever all those my messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever set and being in Middlereason and Kirton or elsewhere in the county of Lincoln;

Item, I will and devise all that my messuage or mansion house situate and being in the parish of Saint Michael Bassishaw in London to Francis Lambert, my son, to have and to hold to him, the said Francis, and to his heirs forever from and immediately after the decease of my said wife;

And I will and devise unto my son, John Lambert, and to his heirs forever all that my messuage with th' appurtenances situate and being in Marke Lane in London, late in the tenure of Dunstan Walton, merchant;

Item, I will and devise unto my son, Lionel Lambert, all and singular my messuages, lands, tenements & hereditaments, being customary or copyhold, with their appurtenances situate and being at Woodford Row or elsewhere in the county of Essex, to have and to hold to the same Lionel and his heirs forever according to the custom of the manors by the which they are holden, and which I purpose to assure unto the same Lionel by surrender accordingly;

All which lands, tenements and hereditaments before by me given and bequeathed I will and my mind is shall descend and come unto my said children when they shall accomplish their full ages of one and twenty years (if no matter or case be before-mentioned to the contrary), and that my executors hereunder named shall have and receive the rents, revenues, issues and profits that shall be and grow unto such of my children, viz., my sons Francis, John and Lionel, as of the lands and tenements before to them bequeathed and given until they shall come to their several ages of one and twenty years, the same my executors giving good assurance for the answering and paying of the same accordingly, without any fraud or deceit;

And of the execution of this my present testament and last will I ordain and make the foresaid William Coles, my brother-in-law, and John Jackman, my son-in-law, my executors, and I give and bequeath to either of them for their pains to be taken in the true and just execution thereof forty pounds apiece over and besides their former legacies to them before severally given;

And overseer of the same, to see the same my will truly performed accordingly so much as in him shall lie, I ordain and make my trusty friend Mr Alderman Bowyer, and I bequeath to him for his pains to be taken in that behalf ten pounds in money, one gown and one ring of gold of such prices as before is mentioned, and also to his wife one gown and ring;

And for certain causes and considerations me thereunto moving, I do by these presents revoke and annul all former wills and testaments by me in any wise afore this time had, made or devised, and I will that none of them shall stand in strength or effect, but only

this my present testament and last will in such manner and form as I have before willed and devised;

In witness whereof to this my present testament and last will I, the above-named John Lambert, have set my seal and subscribed my name the day and year first above-written, these names who are hereunder written being witnesses, and thereunto specially called at the request and desire of me, the said John Lambert. Per me, John Lambert, grocer. Roger Grene, parson there. Per me, Thomas Cranfelde as witness. Per me, Robert Conyers as witness. Per me, Thomam Brende, Notarium publicum.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum apud London coram venerabili viro magistro Willelmo Drury legum doctore curie prerogatiue Cantuariensis commissario etc Decimo Nono die mensis Ianuarij Anno Domini iuxta cursum et computaionem ecclesie Anglicane millesimo quingentesimo octogesimo primo Iuramento Iohannis Jackman executoris etc Cui commissa fuit administracio etc De bene etc Iurati Reseruata potestate etc Willelmo Coles executori etiam cum venerit etc eam admissuro

Qui quidam Willelmum Coles commissa fuit consimilis administracio et De bene etc Iurato 26 Iulij 1582

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Master William Drury, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury etc., on the nineteenth day of the month of January in the year of the Lord according to the course and reckoning of the English Church the thousand five hundred eighty-first by the oath of John Jackman, executor etc., to whom administration was granted etc., sworn to well etc., with power reserved etc. to William Coles, also executor, when he shall have come etc., to be admitted to the same.

To which same William Coles administration was similarly granted 26 July 1582, sworn to well etc.]