

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 7 November 1595 and proved 1 December 1595, of Thomas Castelyn, whose sister was the stepmother of Humphrey Martyn (d.1587?), the addressee of the *Langham Letter* which describes Leicester's entertainment of Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth in the summer of 1575, and whose brother married the sister of Humphrey Martyn. See the Langham page on this website.

According to Sutton, in 1576 the testator and his step nephews, Humphrey Martyn (d.1587?) and Edmund Martyn (d.1596), were among seventeen mercers involved in a loan from the Queen. See Sutton, Anne F., *The Mercery of London*, (Aldershot, Hampshire: Ashgate Publishing Company, 2005), p. 483.

In May 1576 the queen proposed to hand over to the city £160,000, which was 'to remain in store' for the service of the realm, and to be lent out for at least one year on interest, no one taking more than £500 and no one less than £50. Seventeen mercers offered to take a total of £3,475, of whom one was a customs official and one a courtier.

AC 1560-95, ff. 296-97 list presented to mayor: Thomas Bates £500; Richard Barnes, Thomas Colshill, Humphrey Martin £300 each; Henry Campion (a courtier rather than a mercer), Matthew Field, Anthony Walthall, William Barker and Edmund Martin £200 each; Edmund Smith £150; John Flower £125; Thomas Egerton, Edmund Hogan, Thomas Castelyn, Thomas Cordall, Ellis Hanmer and John Phipps £100 each.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

Testator's father

The testator was the son of the London mercer, William Castelyn (buried 19 April 1545), who according to his will, dated 17 April 1545 and proved 7 February 1548, TNA PROB 11/32/39, suffered heavy financial losses prior to his death.

In his will the testator's uncle, James Castelyn, mentions Norton in Derbyshire as his birthplace, and the testator's father may have been born there as well. For the will of James Castelyn, dated 18 April 1558 and proved 9 February 1559, see TNA PROB 11/42A/330.

For a Chancery suit mentioning the testator's father and his brother, James Castelyn, see TNA C 1/824/70-73.

For a suit in the Court of Admiralty concerning James Castelyn's ship, the 'George Duffield', see Marsden, Reginald G., ed., *Select Pleas in the Court of Admiralty*, (London: Bernard Quaritch, 1894), p. 106 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=20Q8AAAAIAAJ&pg=PA106>

This was an important case. . . . The proceedings lasted for two or three years, circa 1538-1541. Money was taken up at Cadiz by the master for the use of the ship upon bills payable upon the arrival of the ship; the ship did not accomplish her voyage to England, and put into St. Michael's in distress, and was there lost. The lenders alleged that she was unseaworthy when she sailed, and that the master purposely cast her away at St. Michael's; and that consequently the money was payable although the ship did not accomplish her voyage.

It appears from the pleadings that James Castelyn was master of the 'George Duffield' when the ship was deserted at Ponta Delgada on the island of St Michael's in the Azores, and that the testator's father had authorized the taking up of money at Cadiz:

. . . that James Castelyn had a special mandate from William Castelyn to take up money for the ship; therefore William is liable and also his goods.

For the will of the testator's uncle, James Castelyn, dated 18 April 1558 and proved 9 February 1559, see TNA PROB 11/42A/330.

In 1543 the testator's father was governor of the English merchants at Antwerp. See a letter from William Castelyn to Sir Thomas Seymour and Dr Nicholas Wotton dated 19 June 1543, TNA PRO SP 1/179, f. 70r, and:

'Henry VIII: June 1543, 16-20', in *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII, Volume 18 Part 1, January-July 1543*, ed. James Gairdner and R H Brodie (London, 1901), pp. 406-420. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/letters-papers-hen8/vol18/no1/pp406-420> [accessed 7 July 2019].

For the burial of the testator's father, William Castelyn, on 19 April 1545 in the church of St Pancras, Soper Lane, see Bannerman, W. Bruce, ed., *The Registers of St. Mary le Bowe, Cheapside, All Hallows, Honey Lane, and of St. Pancras, Soper Lane, London; Part I: Baptisms and Burials*, (London: Harleian Society, 1914), Vol. XLIV, p. 285 at:

<https://archive.org/details/registerstofstmar44stma/page/284>

Testator's mother

The testator's mother was Angelet Vlacho (buried 19 August 1570), the eldest daughter and heir of Michel Vlacho of Chios, Greece. See *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society*, (London: J.B. Nichols and Sons, 1870), Vol. III, p. 7 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=5joQAAAAYAAJ&pg=RA2-PA7>

See also Harris, Jonathan and Heleni Porfyriou, 'The Greek Diaspora: Italian Port Cities and London', in Calabi, Donatella and Stephen Turk Christensen, eds., *Cities and Cultural Exchange in Europe, 1400-1700*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007), pp. 65-86 at p. 79:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=ZQJMIQEHJZAC&pg=PA79>

Testator's siblings

The testator had two brothers and three sisters:

-Edward Castelyn (born c.1528, buried 19 November 1585), shipowner, cloth exporter, member of the Merchant Adventurers, charter member of the Muscovy Company, and charter member of the Mineral and Battery Works. See:

<https://wc.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=bfulgham&id=I30818>

Edward Castelyn was born in Chios, Greece, and naturalized in 1542. See *The Statutes of the Realm*, Vol. III, (London: Dawsons of Pall Mall, 1817, reprinted 1963), p. 865 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=B7o4AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA865>

An Act for the making free and to put in the nature of mere Englishmen certain children begotten and born beyond the sea

Where also William Castelyn of London, Mercer, occupying in the parts of Levant within the city of Chio in Grecia, took to his wife one Angeleta, daughter of Michael Villacho of the same city, & had by her in lawful matrimony a son called Edward yet living, which likewise intendeth by God's grace to be the King's faithful & obedient subject . . . wherefore be it enacted & established . . . that as well . . . Edward Castelyn . . . shall be from henceforth reputed & taken the King's natural subjects as lawful persons born within this realm of England, & as free persons to all intents, constructions & purposes as if they and every of them had been born within this realm of England

For Edward Castelyn's naturalization, see also Ormrod, W. Mark, Bart Lambert and Jonathan Mackman, *Immigrant England 1300-1550*, (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1988), at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=xviFDwAAQBAJ&pg=PT108>

Edward Castelyn was born on the island of Chios in the early sixteenth century, the son of a London mercer, William Castelyn. His mother, Angeleca Villacho, may have been 'Greek'; but Chios, then an Ottoman protectorate, had been another Genoese colony, and Angeleca may well have been descended from the island's Genoese ruling class. Rather than using the protection afforded to such offspring of English parentage by the

statute de natis ultra mare of 1351, Edward followed a new route . . . and, in 1542, had a private act of naturalization passed on his behalf in the Westminster parliament.

For Edward Castelyn's participation in a voyage to Guinea in 1554 see:

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.03.0070%3Anarrative%3D522>

The second voyage to Guinea set out by Sir George Barne, Sir John Yorke, Thomas Lok, Anthonie Hickman and Edward Castelin, in the yere 1554. The Captaine whereof was M. John Lok.

See also McDermott, James, *Martin Frobisher: Elizabethan Privateer*, (Yale University Press, 2001), p. 39 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YeMcPYIKNYUC&pg=PA39>

Of the previous year's promoters, [Sir John] Yorke and Sir George Barne . . . had swiftly put together a new syndicate of five London merchants to finance a further voyage. Other than themselves, this comprised Edward Castelyn, Anthony Hickman and Thomas Lok – men who had also traded for a number of years as an Anglo-Iberian syndicate (Hickman and Castelyn jointly maintained a factory in the Canaries, from where they imported sugar into England).

For Edward Castelyn as a charter member, together with Oxford's future father-in-law, Sir William Cecil, Sir Roger Martyn, and Thomas Lok, of the Muscovy Company incorporated 26 February 1555, see *Accounts and Papers of the House of Commons*, Volume 55, 1856, p. 53 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=4KpbAAAAQAAJ&pg=RA1-PA53>

For the Muscovy Company, see also the Wikipedia entry at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muscovy_Company

For Edward Castelyn as a charter member, together with Oxford's first cousin, Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk, Oxford's brother-in-law, Thomas Cecil, and others, of the Company of Mineral and Battery Works incorporated 28 May 1568, see Stringer, Moses, *Opera Mineralia Explicata*, (London: Jonas Brown, [1713]), p. 59 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=OHZbAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA59>

For the Company of Mineral and Battery Works, see also the Wikipedia entry at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Company_of_Mineral_and_Battery_Works

For Edward Castelyn's involvement in the Frobisher voyages of 1576-1578 in which Oxford sustained heavy losses, see McDermott, James, ed., *The Third Voyage of Martin Frobisher to Baffin Island 1578*, (London: The Hakluyt Society, 2001), pp. 93, 98-9.

See also the Wikipedia entry for Martin Frobisher at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Martin_Frobisher

See also 'The Nunavut Voyages of Martin Frobisher' at:

<https://www.museedelhistoire.ca/cmc/exhibitions/hist/frobisher/frint01e.html>

Edward Castelyn served as deputy to Michael Lok (c.1532-1620x22) while the ultimately worthless 'gold' ore from the 1577 and 1578 Frobisher voyages was being refined at Dartford (see TNA SP 12/131/20, ff. 72-91).

Edward Castelyn's connection to the Lok family spanned more than two decades. See *The Second Voyage to Guinea, supra*, in which his associates were Michael Lok's brothers, John Lok (c.1530 – c.1558) and Thomas Lok (1523-1556), and Anthony Hickman (d.1573), who married in 1543 their sister, Rose Lok (1526-1613). No record of Edward Castelyn's marriage is extant; however it is possible he married into the Lok family. For the Lok family, see the *ODNB* entries for individual Lok family members, and Green, L.E., 'The Lock Family at Merton', *Merton Historical Society*, Bulletin 121, at:

<http://mertonhistoricalsociety.org.uk/bulletin-121/>

For Edward Castelyn's property in the parish of St Pancras, Soper Lane, see:

Historical Gazetteer of London Before the Great Fire Cheapside; Parishes of All Hallows Honey Lane, St Martin Pomary, St Mary Le Bow, St Mary Colechurch and St Pancras Soper Lane. Originally published by Centre for Metropolitan History, London, 1987.

In 1548 St. Pancras church had a quit-rent of 13s. 4d. from the tenement at the E. end of the church, given by John Lagage for his obit. This quit-rent was thereafter paid to the Crown, until 1651, when it was sold with other quit-rents and fee-farm rents, to Brian Bromery of Barnard's Inn. It was recovered by the Crown after the Restoration and noted in a rental of 1664. (fn. 7) The owner of the tenement itself at the time of the Reformation is not known, but by 1581 it was owned, and is part occupied, by Edward Castlyn, citizen and mercer. It was described as two tenements, one of which was occupied by Castlyn and the other by Benet Harmston or Hamerton, widow, on a lease of 41 years from 1580 at 4d. rent. In 1581 Edward Castlyn, with John Castlyn, citizen and mercer, granted the two messuages, with all houses, buildings, gardens, void ground, lights, cellars, solars, etc., to Thomas Fanshawe, esquire, Queen's Remembrancer, and George Barne, alderman, to hold to the use of John Castlyn. If Edward Castlyn paid John £332 in or before 1583, and also procured his release from an obligation to pay Thomas Allen,

pewterer, £5 on 10 August every year from 1584, then the use of the premises should revert to him (Edward). If Edward failed to pay the £332 he would confirm and acknowledge the grant within 4 years. Fanshawe and Barne were to repair the property while they held it. (fn. 8)

By his will, dated 1608 and 1615 and proved in 1621, John Castelyn, citizen and mercer, left the fee simple of his dwelling-house and the tenement belonging to it which he had bought from his brother Edward Castelyn, to his wife Martha for ever. He also left her the 99-year lease of the same tenements, which Thomas Tomson of Sandwich had made over to him. In 1624 Martha Castelyn, widow, sold the reversion after her own death of 2 messuages in St. Pancras parish, late occupied by her late husband John Castelyn and by Bennett Hamerton, widow, to Robert Cruse or Crewes, citizen and grocer, for £30 paid and the promise of £150 to her executors for her will. By her will of 1625, proved 1626, Martha Castelin confirmed this grant. The houses at that date were occupied by herself and (blank) Huson. She also disposed of beds, bedsteads, cabinets, and pictures in the great chamber, in the lodging-chamber in which she usually lay, and in the little chamber over the counting-house. In 1638 the 2 tenements comprising 16 were occupied by Mr. Jurion (valued at £30 p.a.) and Mr. Hughson (valued at £6 p.a.). In 1650 John Juryon held or occupied the tenement, once of John Castlin, in St. Pancras parish at the E. end of the cemetery. . . .

For the record of Edward Castelyn's burial at St Pancras, Soper Lane, see Bannerman, *supra*, p. 290 at:

<https://archive.org/details/registerstofstmar44stma/page/290>

-John Castelyn (baptized 21 August 1539, buried 2 July 1621), mercer, who on 22 November 1568 married Martha Martyn, the sister of Humphrey Martyn (d.1587?), dedicatee of the *Langham Letter*, by whom it appears he had no issue. See Chester, Joseph Lemuel and George J. Armytage, eds., *The Parish Registers of St. Antholin, Budge Row, London*, (London: Harleian Society, 1883), Vol. VIII, p. 19 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=wzfvAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA19>

For the record of John Castelyn's baptism, see Bannerman, *supra*, p. 126 at:

<https://archive.org/details/registerstofstmar44stma/page/126>

Oxford and John Castelyn are among those who are listed as wishing to invest £25 apiece in the ore which had been brought back to England from the second Frobisher voyage to Baffin Island in the Canadian Arctic in 1577. See TNA SP 12/119/44, f. 92.

For John Castelyn's involvement in the Fenton voyage in 1582, see Frobisher McDermott, James, ed., *The Third Voyage of Martin Frobisher to Baffin Island 1578*, (London: The Hakluyt Society, 2001), p. 98:

John [Castelyn], one of three Muscovy merchants appointed by Burghley to oversee preparations for the projected Moluccas voyage. . . .

See also a letter to the Earl of Leicester dated 22 April 1582 signed by John Castelyn and others in Taylor, E.G.R., *The Troublesome Voyage of Captain Edward Fenton, 1582-1583*, online edition, (New York: Routledge, 2016) at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=3gckDwAAQBAJ&pg=PT28&lpg>

See also *The Edward De Vere Newsletter*, No. 2, April 1989, on this website:

In the fall of 1581, Oxford invested £500 pounds in the ill-fated Fenton voyage to the East Indies, for which he may also have purchased a ship, the Edward Bonaventure (Taylor 14, 19). Along with the Leicester and the Talbot, the Edward Bonaventure set out for the Moluccas under the command of Captain Edward Fenton in May of 1582. Having started out too late in the year to round the Cape, Fenton, upon arriving at Sierra Leone, decided to cross the Atlantic to Brazil and sail through the Straits of Magellan to the Pacific. An attack by three Spanish warships off the coast of Brazil put an end to these plans, and Fenton set sail for home, reaching England in May of 1583 (Routh, 425-6).

For John Castelyn's involvement in Henry Hudson's voyage of 1610, together with Oxford's first cousin, Henry Howard, Earl of Northampton, Henry Wriothesley, 3rd Earl of Southampton, and others, see Sainsbury, W. Noel, ed., *Calendar of State Papers, Colonial Series, East Indies, China and Japan, 1513-1616*, (London: Longman, Green, Longman & Roberts, 1862), pp. 238-9 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=nMhOAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA87>

For the record of his burial 2 July 1621 in the vault at St Pancras, Soper Lane, see Bannerman, *supra*, p. 297 at:

<https://archive.org/details/registersofstmar44stma/page/296>

His widow, Martha (nee Martyn) Castelyn, was buried in the vault at St Pancras on 5 January 1626. See Bannerman, *supra*, p. 298.

For the will of John Castelyn, dated 12 September 1608 and 16 May 1615 and proved 1 October 1621, see TNA PROB 11/138/191. For the will of Martha (nee Martyn) Castelyn, dated 27 October 1625 and proved 13 January 1626, see TNA PROB 11/148/66.

-Elizabeth Castelyn, who married firstly the London mercer, Thomas Knolles (d.1551), by whom she had two sons, Thomas Knolles and Samuel Knolles. For the will of Thomas Knolles (d.1551), see TNA PROB 11/34/212.

Elizabeth Castelyn married secondly, as his second wife, Sir Roger Martyn (d.1573), Lord Mayor of London, by whom she had three daughters, for whom see her will, TNA PROB 11/65/430.

By his first wife, Lettice Pakington (d. 23 December 1552), Sir Roger Martyn had two sons, Humphrey Martyn (d.1587?), the addressee of the *Langham Letter* (see above), and Edmund Martyn (d.1596), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/87/460, and two daughters, Susan Martyn, who on 22 November 1568 married Robert Bye or Bee of London, gentleman, and Martha Martyn, who on 22 November 1568, married the testator's brother, John Castelyn (1539-1621) (see above). See also the Martyn pedigree in Howard, Joseph Jackson and George John Armytage, eds., *The Visitation of London in the Year 1568*, (London: Harleian Society, 1869), Vol. I, p. 2 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationoflond00cook#page/2/mode/2up>

For the will of Sir Roger Martyn, see TNA PROB 11/56/48.

-Bennet Castelyn (buried 29 January 1585), for whose marriage to William Hammerton by licence dated 16 March 1548 see Chester, Joseph Lemuel and George J. Amytage, eds., *Allegations for Marriage Licences*, (London: Harleian Society, 1886), Vol. XXIV, p. 12 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/allegationsforma00cant#page/12/mode/2up>

For Bennet Castelyn Hammerton's burial at St Pancras, Soper Lane, see Bannerman, *supra*, p. 290 at:

<https://archive.org/details/registerstofstmar44stma/page/290>

-Anne Castelyn. She is mentioned in the will, dated 18 April 1558 and proved 9 February 1559, of her uncle, James Castelyn, TNA PROB 11/42A/330, and in the will of her brother, John Castelyn, who refers to her as his sister, Anne Gotobed. At that time she appears to have been the wife of Henry Gotobed, who witnessed John Castelyn's will:

To my sister, Anne Gotobedd, if she be living at the time of my decease, five pounds.

Henry Gotobed may have been Anne Castelyn's second husband. An Anne Castelyn married John Hutton on 11 February 1567. See Chester, *supra*, p. 18 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=wzfvAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA18>

It is possible that Anne Castelyn's first husband was the son of John Hutton (d.1537?), Governor of the Merchant Adventurers at Antwerp in 1537. See Nicoll, Allardyce, ed., *Shakespeare In His Own Age*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1964), p. 227 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=syA4AAAAIAAJ&pg=PA227>

See also an assessment for ‘discharging the burial and funeral charges of Mr John Hutton, late Governor’ in *The Records of the Merchant Adventurers of Newcastle-upon-Tyne*, Vol. II, (London: Bernard Quaritch, 1899), p. 28 at:

<https://archive.org/details/extractsadventur02surtooft/page/28>

Anne Castelyn’s husband may have been related to the Hutton family of Dry Drayton, Cambridgeshire. See the will, proved 16 November 1596, of John Hutton (d.1596) of Dry Drayton, TNA PROB 11/88/317, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/hutton-john-1596>

See also Foster, Joseph, *The Register of Admissions to Gray’s Inn, 1521-1889*, (London: Hansard Publishing Union, Limited, 1889), p. 77 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=Z2avAzMEDDcC&pg=PA77>

3 February 1591 Roger Hutton, cousin and heir apparent of John Hutton of Dry Drayton

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

According to the will below, the testator married Mary Oldham, the sister of John Oldham of London, clothworker, by whom it appears he had no issue.

CHARTER MEMBERSHIP IN THE MUSCOVY COMPANY

In the will below the testator bequeaths his ‘freedom of Muscovia’ to John Oldham the younger. For the testator as a charter member, together with Oxford’s future father-in-law, Sir William Cecil, Sir Roger Martyn, and Thomas Lok, of the Muscovy Company incorporated 26 February 1555, see *Accounts and Papers of the House of Commons*, Volume 55, 1856, p. 53 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=4KpbAAAAQAAJ&pg=RA1-PA53>

In transcripts of the charter, the testator’s name is erroneously given as ‘Thomas Castell’.

RM: T {estamentum} Thome Castelyn, defuncti

In the name of God, Amen, I, Thomas Castelyn of Ipswich in the county of Suffolk, merchant venturer, being now sick of body, notwithstanding of good and perfect

Modern spelling transcript copyright ©2019 Nina Green All Rights Reserved

<http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/>

remembrance, all laud and praise be unto Almighty God, do ordain this will and testament containing my last will in manner and form following:

And first I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God, my Maker, and to Jesus Christ, his only Son, my Saviour, by whose death and passion I trust to be saved and my soul to be received into everlasting life;

My body I will to be buried in the parish church of Saint Margaret's in Ipswich aforesaid according to the discretion of mine executor;

At the which day and time of my funeral I will one sermon to be preached by Master Burges or by some other learned minister for whose pains to be taken and done therein I do give and bequeath six shillings eight pence;

Item, to the poor people of Saint Margaret's aforesaid twenty shillings to be delivered by mine executor according to her discretion;

Item, I do give unto my loving brother-in-law, John Oldam of London, clothworker, my ring of gold which I do commonly wear and one brooch of gold called a seahorse;

Item, I do give and bequeath unto John Oldam the younger my freedom of Muscovia, he paying unto my wife's executors, if he will then have it, twenty pounds;

And all the rest of my goods and chattels whatsoever that I do now possess that are unbequeathed I will [+and?] I do give and bequeath unto Mary, my wife, whom I do make my only executrix;

In witness whereof I have set to my hand and seal this seventh day of November in the year of Our Lord God one thousand five hundred ninety-five. By me, Thomas Castelyn.

The names of the witnesses that were present at the delivery of this his last will are Eleazer Duncken [mark] (blank) man.

Primo die mensis Decembris Anno domini Mill^{es}imo Quingentesimo Nonagesimo Quinto emanavit commissio Iohanni Beacon p^{ar}ochie Sancti Egidij extra Creeplegate Ciuitatis London ad administrand^{um} bona iura et credita h^{uius}modi defuncti h^{ab}entis &c iuxta tenorem et effectum testamenti eiusdem defuncti pro eo q^{uo}d Maria Castelyn relⁱc^ta et executrix in dⁱc^to test^{ament}o no^miⁿat^a ex certis causis &c oneri execucⁱonis eiusdem test^{ament}i in p^{er}sona Thom^oe Redman no^{ta}rij pub^{li}ci p^{ro}cu^{rato}ris sui expresse renuⁿciavit De bene &c ad s^{an}c^ta dei Eu^angelia in debita iuris forma Iuratⁱ

[=On the first day of the month of December in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred ninety-fifth a grant issued to John Beacon of the parish of St Giles without

Cripplegate of the city of London to administer the goods, rights and credits of the same deceased, having etc., according to the tenor and effect of the testament of the same deceased for that Mary Castelyn, relict and executrix named in the said testament, for certain causes etc. expressly renounced the burden of the execution of the same testament in the person of Thomas Redman, notary public, her proctor, sworn on the Holy Gospels in due form of law to well etc.]