

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 13 June 1596 and proved 19 June 1596, of Edmund Martyn, second son of Sir Roger Martyn, and brother of Humphrey Martyn, the addressee of the *Langham Letter* which describes Leicester's entertainment of Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth in the summer of 1575.

Sir Roger Martyn was born in Long Melford, Suffolk, the eldest son and heir of Lawrence Martyn (d.1518) and his wife Elizabeth Cheke. He had a successful career as a mercer and a charter member of the Company of Merchant Adventurers, and served the city of London as alderman, sheriff, and in 1568, Lord Mayor. His first wife, Letitia or Lettice, the daughter of Humphrey Pakington (d.1556), died on 23 December 1552 (see Hughes Clarke, A. W., ed., *The Registers of St Mary Magdalen Milk Street 1558-1666 and St Michael Bassishaw London 1538-1625* (London, 1942), p. 137). By his first wife, Letitia, Sir Roger Martyn had two sons, Humphrey and Edmund (d.1596), and two daughters, Susan or Susanna, the wife of Robert Lie, mercer, and Martha, the wife of John Castelyn, mercer. Sir Roger Martyn's second wife was Elizabeth, the daughter of the London merchant William Castelyn and widow of the mercer Thomas Knolles (d.1551). By Elizabeth, Sir Roger Martyn had three daughters, Mary, Joan and Anne. Mary Martyn was the wife of Alexander Denton of Hillesden in Buckinghamshire. Joan Martyn married Anthony Smith of Camden in 1593. Anne Martyn was the wife of Anthony Culpeper (1560-1618) of Bedgebury. Sir Roger Martyn's will was probated on 28 January 1574, with administration granted to his second wife, Elizabeth, and his eldest son and heir, Humphrey. On 6 February 1588, administration was granted to his second son, Edmund Martyn, since his second wife, Elizabeth, and his eldest son, Humphrey, had both died before administration of the will was complete. A transaction involving the rectory of Islington (see TNA CP 25/2/172/29/30ELIZIMICH) establishes that Humphrey Martyn was still alive in 1587. The grant of probate to his brother Edmund on 6 February 1588 thus suggests that Humphrey died in late 1587 or early 1588.

In his will, the testator appoints his brother-in-law, John Castelyn, as overseer, and asks his sister, Martha, and his brother-in-law, John Castelyn, to 'have a care and charge of my son, Roger Martyn'.

For the will of Sir Roger Martyn, see TNA PROB 11/56, ff. 2-4. For the will of his second wife, the testator's stepmother, Elizabeth Martyn, see TNA PROB 11/65, ff. 288-9. For the will of Thomas Knolles, see PROB 11/34, f. 131. For the will of Humphrey Pakington, see PROB 11/38, ff. 150-1.

LM: Testamentum Edmondi Martyn

I, Edmund Martyn, sick in body but whole in mind, doth bequeath my soul to the Almighty, written this thirteen day of June 1596;

Item, first I make my loving wife, Frances Martyn, my wife, my full and whole executor, desiring and praying my good brother, John Castelyn, and my sister to have a care and charge of my son, Roger Martyn, to whom I give his child[‘s] part to be delivered unto my said brother towards the bringing up of my said son, Roger;

The rest of my goods I do also give to my said wife and to that child which now she goeth withal;

If it happeneth the said child to die before it cometh to one and twenty years or the day of marriage, then I will that portion to be equally divided betwixt my said wife and my son, Roger;

I desire my brother, John Castleyn, to be my overseer.

Edmund Martyn. Witness: John Adlyn.

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum apud London Coram Venerabili Viro Magistro Willelmo Lewin Legum Doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cantuariensis Magistro Custode siue Comissario Decimo nono die mensis Iunij Anno Domini Millesimo Quingentesimo Nonogesimo Sexto Iuramento Edwardi Saye notarij publici Procuratoris ffrancisce Martyn Relicte et executricis in huiusmodi Testamento nominate Cui commissa fuit administracio Bonorum Iurium et Creditorum dicti Defuncti De bene et fideliter administrando &c Ad sancta dei Evangelia Iurati

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Master William Lewin, Doctor of the Laws, Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the nineteenth day of the month of June in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred ninety-sixth by the oath of Edward Saye, notary public, proctor of Frances Martyn, relict and executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer etc.]