

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, 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.

The testator was the second son of Sir Roger Martyn (d.1573), Lord Mayor of London. 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 in London as a mercer and a charter member of the Company of Merchant Adventurers, and served as alderman, sheriff, and in 1568, Lord Mayor. He married firstly Lettice Pakington, the daughter of Humphrey Pakington (d.1556) (for his will, see TNA PROB 11/38/212) and Elizabeth (nee Harding) Pakington (d.1563) (for her will see TNA PROB 11/46/444). By his first wife Sir Roger Martyn had two sons, Humphrey (who on 11 November 1572 married Alice Pullison; see Chester, *infra*, p. 22) and the testator, and two daughters, Martha and Susan. On 22 November 1568, Martha married the merchant John Castlyn, and Susan married the merchant Robert Bye. 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&lpg=PA19&dq=%22Robert+Bye%22+%22Martin%22&source=bl&ots=cL1X7jlCu&sig=r2pe4xACyJbUHSwZcMYVBLYrivM&hl=en&sa=X&ei=iBAnVOyFJInPigK1-4HoAg&ved=0CDoQ6AEwBQ#v=onepage&q=%22Robert%20Bye%22%20%22Martin%22&f=false>

The testator's brother-in-law, Robert Bye, may have been the Robert Bye who was a factor at Chios from 1544-1552, and who is mentioned by Hakluyt. See Knight, Henry J.C., *The Diocese of Gibraltar*, (London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 1917), p. 1 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/diocesefgibralt00knig#page/n35/mode/2up/>.

See also Goldsmid, Edmund, ed., *The Principal Navigations, Voyages, Traffiques and Discoveries of the English Nation*, (Edinburgh: E. & G. Goldsmid, 1887), Vol. V, pp. 180-1 at:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=N6waAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA181&lpg=PA181&dq=%22Robert+Bye%22+%22factor%22&source=bl&ots=pUc2DDRCgD&sig=DotVYt57kWN PnInfaQ0aR2_dUgI&hl=en&sa=X&ei=EPwmVJHZCdPZoATV94CgBA&ved=0CDAQ6AEwAw#v=onepage&q=%22Robert%20Bye%22%20%22factor%22&f=false

The testator's mother, Lettice (nee Pakington) Martyn, died 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).

Sir Roger Martyn married secondly Elizabeth (nee Castlyn), the daughter of the London merchant William Castelyn, and widow of the mercer Thomas Knolles (d.1551) (for his will, see TNA PROB 11/34/212). Elizabeth (nee Castlyn) had three brothers, Edward Castlyn, Thomas Castlyn and John Castlyn. John Castlyn, as noted above, married the testator's sister, Martha Martyn, and was thus the testator's brother-in-law as well as his step uncle. See the pedigree of Martyn in Howard, John 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>.

By his second wife Sir Roger Martyn had three daughters, Mary, Joan and Anne, for whom see the will of the testator's stepmother, Elizabeth (nee Castlyn) Knolles Martyn, TNA PROB 11/65/430. Sir Roger Martyn's will (see TNA PROB 11/56/48) was proved 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 the testator since Sir Roger Martyn's widow 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 of Sir Roger Martyn's will to the testator on 6 February 1588 thus suggests that Humphrey Martyn died in late 1587 or early 1588.

The testator married a wife named Frances, whose identity is otherwise unknown.

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

According to Sutton, in 1576 the testator, his brother, Humphrey, and his half brother, Thomas Castlyn, were among seventeen persons 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 Champion (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 Castleyn, Thomas Cordall, Ellis Hanmer and John Phipps £100 each.

LM: T{estamentum} 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 [=brother-in-law], 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 suprascriptu{m} apud London Coram Venerabili Viro Mag{ist}ro Will{el}mo Lewin Legum Doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cantuar{iensis} Mag{ist}ro 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 nominat{e} Cui com{m}issa fuit administracio Bonoru{m} Iuriu{m} et Creditoru{m} dicti Defuncti De bene et fideliter administrand{o} &c Ad sancta dei Evangelia Iurat{i}

[=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.]