

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. See the Langham page on this website.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the testator's family background, see 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 testator's family background, see also the pedigree of Martin of Long Melford in Corder, Joan, ed., *The Visitation of Suffolk 1561*, Part I, (London: Harleian Society, 1981), p. 275.

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

See also the Martyn pedigrees in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Suffolk*, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1882), p. 52 at:

<https://archive.org/details/visitationssuff00cookgoog/page/n66>

and p. 152 at:

<https://archive.org/details/visitationssuff00cookgoog/page/n164>

Testator's father

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 Elizabeth Cheke. He had a successful career in London as a mercer and member of the Company of Merchant Adventurers, and served as alderman, sheriff, and in 1568, Lord Mayor. For the will of Sir Roger Martyn, see TNA PROB 11/56/48.

Testatrix' mother

The testator's mother was Sir Robert Martyn's first wife, Lettice Pakington (d. 23 December 1552), the daughter of Humphrey Pakington (d.1556) and Elizabeth Harding (d.1563). For the will of Humphrey Pakington, see TNA PROB 11/38/212. For the will of Elizabeth (nee Harding) Pakington, see TNA PROB 11/46/444. For the death of the testator's mother, Lettice Pakington, 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.

Testator's siblings

The testator had one brother and two sisters of the whole blood:

-Humphrey Martyn (d.1587?), who on 11 November 1572 married Alice Pullison, the daughter of Sir Thomas Pullison, Lord Mayor of London in 1584. 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. 22 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=wzfvAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA22>

According to Sutton, in 1576 Humphrey and Edmund Martyn and their step-uncle, Thomas Castelyn (d.1595), 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 Castleyne, Thomas Cordall, Ellis Hanmer and John Phipps £100 each.

The date of Humphrey Martyn's death can be estimated from a grant of the rectory of Islington. On 13 December 1584 the London mercer, John Cheke, and Isabel, his wife, and Humphrey Smythe of the Inner Temple and Anne, his wife, granted Humphrey Martyn the rectory and parsonage of Islington. See Lambeth Palace Library COMM/11B/11.

See also TNA CP 25/2/172/29-30ELIZIMICH, and:

A P Baggs, Diane K Bolton and Patricia E C Croot, 'Islington: Churches', in *A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 8, Islington and Stoke Newington Parishes*, ed. T F T Baker and C R Elrington (London, 1985), pp. 88-99. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/middx/vol8/pp88-99> [accessed 11 July 2019].

In 1548 [Sir Ralph] Sadler was licensed to grant the rectory and advowson to Thomas Perse or Percy of Islington, (fn. 32) who in turn was licensed in 1565 to sell the rectory to Roger Martin, alderman of London, and Humphrey his son. (fn. 33) Humphrey Martin sold it in 1582 to John Cheke, (fn. 34) but Percy had retained some interest because he was involved in a dispute with Humphrey Martin over a tenement called the Grange belonging to the vicarage of Islington, as was his son Jerome in 1586. (fn. 35) In 1587 Percy, Martin, and Cheke surrendered to Humphrey Smith of the Inner Temple a house, 2 gardens, an orchard, and 45 a. of the rectory, with all tithes and offerings and the advowson. (fn. 36)

Sir Roger Martyn's will was proved on 28 January 1574, with administration granted to his second wife, Elizabeth, and to his eldest son, Humphrey Martyn. Both died before administration of the will was complete, and on 6 February 1588, administration was granted to the testator. The above-noted transaction involving the rectory of Islington establishes that Humphrey Martyn was still alive in 1587. However he had died by the time of the grant of probate to the testator on 6 February 1588. It thus appears that 'Humphrey Martyn, mercer', the addressee of the *Langham Letter*, had just become head of a prominent London merchant family after the death of his father at the time of the original publication of the *Letter* in 1575, and had died before the letter was republished in 1590.

-**Martha Martyn**, who on 22 November 1568 married the London mercer, John Castelyn (1539-1621), brother of the testator's stepmother, Elizabeth (nee Castelyn) Knolles Martyn (see below). For the marriage, see Chester, *supra*, p. 19 at:

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

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.

- **Susan Martyn** (living 5 January 1583), who on 22 November 1568 married Robert Bye (d.1582), second son of Gilbert Bye (d.1546) of Basingstoke, Hampshire. Robert Bye was a London mercer and member of the Company of Merchant Taylors. For the marriage, see Chester, *supra*, p. 19. For further details concerning Susan Martyn and Robert Bye, see the will of the testator's father, Sir Roger Martyn, TNA PROB 11/56/48.

Testator's father's second marriage

The testator's father married secondly Elizabeth Castelyn, the daughter of the London merchant William Castelyn (buried 19 April 1545), and widow of the mercer Thomas Knolles (d.1551). For the will of William Castelyn, see TNA PROB 11/32/39. For the will of Thomas Knolles, see TNA PROB 11/34/212.

Elizabeth Castelyn had three brothers, Edward Castelyn (buried 19 November 1585), Thomas Castelyn (d.1595), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/86/392, and John Castelyn (1539-1621). 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.

By his second marriage the testator's father had three daughters, the testator's sisters of the half blood:

-**Mary Martyn** (baptized 20 November 1557, d.1574), who on 8 June 1573 married Alexander Denton (d.1578?) of Hillesden, Buckinghamshire. For the will, dated 2 January 1577 and proved 27 June 1578, of Alexander Denton in which he appoints Sir William Cordell (d.1581) and 'my Lady Martyn' as overseers, see TNA PROB 11/60/379. For the will of Sir William Cordell, see TNA PROB 11/63/590.

-**Joan Martyn** (baptized 24 June 1561, d.1621), who in 1593 married Anthony Smith (d.1611) of Campden, Gloucestershire. For the will of Joan (nee Martyn) Smith, dated 5 April 1621 and proved 20 June 1621, see TNA PROB 11/137/584.

-**Anne Martyn** (baptized 4 April 1563), who on 8 June 1579 married Sir Anthony Culpeper (1560-1618) of Bedgebury, Kent.

For further details concerning the testator's half sisters, see the will of the testator's father, Sir Roger Martyn (d.1573), TNA PROB 11/56/48, and the will of the testator's stepmother, Elizabeth (nee Castelyn) Knolles Martyn, TNA PROB 11/65/430.

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testator married a wife named Frances, whose identity is otherwise unknown, by whom he had a son, Roger Martyn, and possibly another son or daughter born posthumously. 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 step-uncle, Thomas Castlyn (d.1595), 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.

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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 Prerogative Cantuar{iensis} Mag{ist}ro Custode siue Commissario 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.]