

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 6 August 1503 and proved 28 March 1504, of Robert Drayton, whose daughter, Jane Drayton, was the mother of Thomas Wriothesley (1505-1550), 1st Earl of Southampton, grandfather of Henry Wriothesley (1573-1624), 3rd Earl of Southampton, to whom Shakespeare dedicated *Venus and Adonis* and *The Rape of Lucrece*.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator's family background is unknown, apart from mention in the will below of his brother, John Drayton, his sister, Alice Newman, Alice Newman's three daughters (Agnes Sporyer, Margaret and Joan), and a cousin, Robert Grene, his wife, and his daughter.

The testator's cousin and executor, Robert Grene, who witnessed the testator's will, and to whom the testator leaves a primer and a psalter, would appear to be the London mercer, Robert Grene, who seems to have come to London from Lynn in Norfolk, and who in his will, dated 31 July 1505 and proved 8 August 1505, mentions a wife, Barbara, and daughter, Elizabeth, and leaves bequests to Robert Drayton and John Drayton, to 'my cousin, Alice Newman', to William Newman, and 'every of his four daughters'. See TNA PROB 11/14/664. However this identification of the testator as the cousin of the London mercer, Robert Grene, is inconsistent with the fact that although the testator had died by 28 March 1504, more than a year later on 31 July 1505 Robert Grene left 'Robert Drayton' a bequest in his will, indicating that that 'Robert Drayton' could not be the testator. On the other hand, PCC wills are copies, and scribes sometimes incorporated changes in original wills without noting them as such in the PCC copies. It may thus be that Robert Grene prepared his original will at a date earlier than 31 July 1505, while his cousin, Robert Drayton, was still living, and that the PCC copy only preserves the date of the final version of Robert Grene's will.

MARRIAGES AND CHILDREN

The testator married firstly Jane Peckham, the daughter of Peter Peckham (d.1501), esquire, of Denham, Buckinghamshire. For the Latin will of Peter Peckham (c.1501), see TNA PROB 11/12/315. By Jane Peckham, the testator had a son and a daughter:

* Peter Drayton (d.1518), a cleric. For his will, which chiefly benefited his sister, Jane, and her children, see TNA PROB 11/19/121.

* Jane Drayton (b.1482, d.1538?), who married firstly Richard Lucy, secondly William Wriothesley (d.1513?), York Herald, by whom she had two sons and two daughters, Thomas Wriothesley (1505-1550), 1st Earl of Southampton, Edward Wriothesley (who died young), Elizabeth Wriothesley (who also died young), and Anne Wriothesley (who married firstly Robert Breton and secondly Thomas Morrene), and thirdly a husband

surnamed Beverley, by whom she had two daughters, Ellen Beverley Pounde (d.1589) and Anne Beverley Knight Lawrence (d.1610), for whose wills see TNA PROB 11/74/301 and TNA PROB 11/116/231. For notes written by Jane Drayton Lucy Wriothesley Beverley (b.1482, d.1538?) in her own hand recording her own birthdate, that of her brother, Peter Drayton, and the birthdates of her four children by William Wriothesley (d.1513?), see BL Add. Charter 16194.

The testator married secondly Agnes, whose maiden name is unknown. In the probatum clause below she and Thomas Woodward were granted administration, and it appears from several Chancery suits that after the testator's death she married Thomas Woodward. See TNA C 1/261/22, TNA C 1/370/57, TNA C 1/376/51, and TNA C 4/126/75. One of these Chancery suits, TNA C 1/370/57, suggests that Agnes' maiden name may have been Edwards ('Detention of bills for moneys lent secretly by the said Agnes to both her husbands in the name of defendant, William Edwardes, her kinsman').

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

The testator bequeaths a black gown to 'George Peckham, chaplain'. George Peckham was the only brother of the whole blood of the testator's first wife, Jane Peckham, and was thus the testator's brother-in-law. For his will, see TNA PROB 11/14/513.

For the testator's overseer, William Barons or Barnes (d.1505), Bishop of London and formerly Master of the Rolls, see the *ODNB* entry.

LM: *Testamentum Rob{er}ti Drayton*

In the name of God, Amen. The 6 day of the month of August in the year of Our Lord God 1500 and three and in the 18th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Henry the 7th, I, Robert Drayton, citizen and draper of London, whole of my mind and in good and perfect remembrance being, I thank Almighty God, ordain, make, dispose and declare this my present testament containing my last will in manner and form following, that is to say:

First I bequeath and recommend my soul to Almighty God, my Maker and my Saviour, to our Blessed Lady Saint Mary the Virgin, his glorious Mother, and to all the saints of heaven, my body to be buried in the chapel of Our Lady Mother(?) in the parish church of Saint Mildred's in the Poultry of London beside or in the place where Jane, my wife, there lieth yburied;

Item, I bequeath to the high altar of the same church for my tithes and offerings forgotten or negligently withholden in discharge of my soul 6s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to the works of the same church 40s;

Item, I will that the exequies and funerals of my burying and month's mind be honestly and conveniently made and done after the wise discretion of mine executors underwritten;

And at the same burial and month's mind I will that there be ordained 16 new convenient torches and four new tapers of wax of the weight and bigness as it is commonly used and accustomed to be had about dead bodies in the city of London;

And that there be ordained 20 poor men of good condition to hold the said torches and tapers during the time [+of?] my burial and month['s] mind;

And I will that every of poor men aforesaid have for his labour at my burial 6d, and at my month's mind other 6d;

And after my month's mind completed, I will that four of the said torches be given unto the high altar of the parish church of Saint Mildred's aforesaid to serve there to burn at the elevation of Corpus Christi as long as they will endure;

In like wise and for the same intent I bequeath to the high altar of the parish church of Saint Christopher beside of London 2 of the said torches, to the high altar of Woolchurch two torches, to the high altar of Our Lady of Colechurch two torches, to the high altar of Saint Thomas of Acres two torches, to the high altar of the church of Saint Sythe one torch, to the high altar of the church of Saint Pancras in London one torch, to the high altar of Saint Nicholas Acon one torch, and to the altar of the chapel of Our Lady Barking one torch;

And the foresaid 3 [sic] tapers I will be returned to the wax-chandler again;

Item, I will that at my month's mind there be dealt by the discretion of my said executors to poor people by penny dole £4 3s and four pence to pray for my soul;

Item, I will mediately after my month's mind my executors underwritten ordain and [f. 18r] hire an honest priest of good rule and conversation daily to sing and say Mass when he is disposed and other divine service in the church of Saint Mildred aforesaid, there devoutly praying for my soul, the soul of the said Jane, late my wife, my friends' souls and all Christian souls by the space of 3 years next following after my said month['s] mind complete;

And I will that the same priest in every of his Masses be at matins on every holy-day, High Mass and evensong to be songen in the said church of Saint Mildred without a cause reasonable;

And that the same priest in every of his Masses, turning to the Lavatory, distinctly say and devoutly *De profundis*, with these collects of *Inclina* and *Absolue*, for my soul by name and all the said souls, having for his salary every year 10 marks;

Item, I bequeath to every of the four orders of friars in London and Fleet Street, that is to wit, to every order 2s so that they come to my burial and bring my body to the church as the custom is to be done, and on the next day following after my burial keep a solemn dirge by note in every of their conventional churches, and on the morrow a solemn Mass of Requiem by note, devoutly and tenderly praying for my soul and all the souls abovesaid;

Item, I bequeath in like wise to the Crossed [=Crutched] Friars in London being at my burial and bring[ing] my body to church, and on the next day following at even keeping a solemn dirge, and on the morrow a solemn Mass of Requiem, praying devoutly for my soul and all the souls abovesaid, 10s;

Item, I will and bequeath to the brotherhood of Papey, so that they be at my burial and bring my body to the church and at the dirge and in the morrow at my Mass of Requiem, 10s;

Item, I bequeath to the reparation of the church of Saint Thomas of Acres in London £5;

Item, I bequeath to the poor prisoners of Newgate and Ludgate 40s, that is to wit, to every prisoner house 20s, to be disposed in bread at sundry times after the wise discretions of my executors underwritten;

Item, I bequeath to the poor prisoners of the two Counters of London 20s, that is to say, to either of them 10s, to be disposed in bread after the said discretions;

Item, I bequeath to the relief and comfort of the poor prisoners of the Marshalsea and King's Bench, that is to wit, to either of them in like wise 10s, to be disposed in bread after the discretions aforesaid;

Item, I will that during the space of 3 years next following after my decease there be dealt and disposed by Agnes, my wife, every year a load of coals containing 24 quarters among the poor parishens of Saint Mildred aforesaid between the feasts of All-Hallows and Candlemas to pray for my soul;

Item, I bequeath to Pers [=Peter] Drayton, my son, a hundred pounds of money and a black gown, and after the decease of the said Agnes, my wife, if it fortune him to survive her, 6 plain bowls of silver all gilt with one cover, and a pair of salts of silver parcels gilt chased with one cover, in full contention of his part and portion of all my goods to him longing after the law and custom of the city of London, the said 100 pound to him to be delivered at his full age of 21 years;

Item, I bequeath to Jane, my daughter, over and above that part and portion that she hath had of me to her marriage, £20 in money, 6 goblets of silver all white with a cover, and a black gown;

And if it fortune the said Pyers [=Peter], my son, to decease within the said age of one and twenty years, I will that then fifty pounds of the said 100 pound by me to him as is abovesaid bequested remain and be given to the said Jane, my daughter, and the other £50 residue I will remain to the said Agnes, my wife, at her own free will and disposition;

And moreover I will if case be that the said Pyers, [=Peter] my son, decease, surviving the said Agnes, my wife, I will that then after her decease the foresaid 6 great bowls with the cover and two salts with the cover remain and be given unto the foresaid Jane, my daughter, at her free will and disposition;

Item, I bequeath to Richard Lucy, her husband, 40s in money, my second livery gown with the fur in it, and the hood thereto longing, and a black gown;

Item, I bequeath unto John Drayton, my brother, 40s in money, my best violet gown of my last livery with the fur in it, and the hood longing to the same, and a black gown;

Item, I bequeath to my sister, Alice Newman, 5 marks in money and a black gown;

Item, I bequeath unto her daughter, Agnes Sporyer, that is married 4 marks in money;

Item, I bequeath unto Margaret and Joan, her other daughters unmarried, to either of them 4 marks to their marriages, and if one of them hap to decease afore another, I will that then the money of the deceased[d] remain to the survivor;

And I will that the same bequests remain in the custody of the said Agnes, my wife, till the time of the said marriages, and if case be that they both fortune to decease afore their said marriages, I will that then the said bequests remain to my said executors to be done and disposed [f. 18v] in alms-deeds for my soul and all Christian souls after their dispositions;

Item, I bequeath to every of my prentices 20s under condition that they be ruled by the said Agnes, my wife, and serve her as apprentices owt[h] [=ought] for to do;

Item, I bequeath to Nicholas Whyt [=White], late my servant, 5 marks;

And to Robert Lawrens, late my servant, 5 marks;

Item, I bequeath to Agnes Test(?), so that she be ruled by the said Agnes, my wife, and to her be obedient and courteous, 20 marks of my goods beside [-beside] the 10 marks to her given by Thomas Gypping, draper;

Item, I bequeath to Elizabeth Long, my servant, 40s in money beside her wages that is due to her;

Item, I bequeath to little Joan, my servant and maid, if she be ruled and guided by the will of my wife, 5 marks, and if she be not, I will then my [-by] bequest to her made stand void and be at the will of my said wife;

Item, I bequeath unto the Fellowship of Drapers that I am of for a memorial a standing cup of silver all gilt chased with a cover thereto;

Item, I bequeath to the 6 honest persons of my livery such as have been Wardens that shall be appointed to bring my body to the church and lay it in my grave, to each of them 3s and 4d;

Item, I bequeath unto my cousin, Robert Grene, my primer covered with black cheverel and my psalter book covered with the part of hart's skin, and a black gown for himself, another for his wife, another for his daughter;

Item, I bequeath unto John Holden, draper, 40s in money and a black gown for himself, another for his wife;

Item, I bequeath unto James Remys and his wife, to either of them a black gown;

Item, I bequeath unto Sir George Peckham, chaplain, a black gown;

Item, I bequeath unto the Reverend Father in God, now Bishop of London, late Master of the Rolls, a standing cup of silver and gilt with a cover weighing 26 ounces and a half;

The residue of all and every of my goods, plate, jewels, cattle [=chattels?] and debts whatsoever they be unbesoughted, as well beyond the sea as on this half the sea, after my debts principally paid, the expenses of my burial and month['s] mind performed, and all other charges concerning the execution of this my present testament and legacies contained in the same fully done, accomplished and fulfilled, I give and bequeath wholly unto the said Agnes, my wife, freely to do and dispose [+her?] own free will as it shall please her forever;

And of this my present testament and last will I ordain and make the said Agnes, my wife, my chief and principal executrice, and the foresaid Robert Grene and John Holden I make and ordain my executors with her of my said testament and last will;

And their overseer and co-auditor I constitute and make the foresaid Reverend Father in God, humbly beseeching his Reverend Fatherhood to be good and gracious Lord unto my said wife and her co-executors in all cause of need concerning the premises in way of charity;

There and then being present Hugh Standish, notary public, Robert Grene, mercer, and John Holden, draper, with other faithful witnesses.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum Testamentum coram d{omi}no xxvijo Die mensis Marcij Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingentesimo tercio Iuramento Agnetis Relicte ac Roberti Grene et Iohannis Holden executoru{m} in d{i}c{t}o testamento no{m}i{n}atorum et o{m}ni(?) executionis dict{i} testamenti refutant{ti}(?) Et com{m}issa fuit admi{n}istracio o{mn}iu{m} et singulor{um} bonorum et debitorum Dicti defuncti ad viam intestat{i} pro eo q{uod} executores refutavunt etc Thome Wodeward et p{re}fate Agnete de bene et fidelit{er} admi{n}istrando etc Ac de pleno & fideli Inuentario conficiend{o} & exhibend{o} cit{ra} festum sancti Dauid Ep{iscop}i proximo futur{o} Necnon de plano et vero compoto etc Iurat{is} etc

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord on the 28th day of the month of March in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred third by the oath of Agnes, relict, and Robert Grene and John Holden, executors named in the said testament, and all(?) having refused the execution of the said testament, for that the executors refused etc., a grant was issued of all and singular the goods and debts of the said deceased by way of an intestacy to Thomas Woodward and the forenamed Agnes, sworn etc. to well and faithfully administer etc., and to prepare a full & faithful inventory & exhibit [+it] before the feast of Saint David the Bishop next to come, and also [+to render] a plain and true account etc.]