

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 22 August 1515 and proved 14 September 1515, of Robert Harding, great-grandfather of Humphrey Martyn (d.1587?), the addressee of the *Langham Letter* describing Leicester's entertainment of Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth in the summer of 1575. See the Langham page on this website.

The testator was the grandfather of John Pakington (1530-1578), who married Elizabeth Newport, the sister of Sir Richard Newport (d.1570), owner of a copy of Hall's *Chronicle*, formerly Loan 61 in the British Library, now in the hands of a trustee, Lady Hesketh, containing annotations thought to have been made by Shakespeare. See Keen, Alan and Roger Lubbock, *The Annotator*, (London: Putnam, 1954); the will of Sir Richard Newport, TNA PROB 11/53/456; and the Annotator page on this website.

The testator was the grandfather of Ellen Harding Knyvet Browne (1537-1601), whose second husband, Sir Thomas Browne (d. 9 February 1597), signed Lady Russell's petition against James Burbage's Blackfriars theatre. For Sir Thomas Browne and Lady Russell's petition, see Laoutaris, Chris, *Shakespeare and the Countess: The Battle That Gave Birth to the Globe*, (London: Fig Tree, 2014). Sir Thomas Browne was the father of Sir Matthew Browne (d. 2 August 1603), who by indentures dated 7 October 1601 and 10 October 1601 purchased in fee simple properties owned by Nicholas Brend, including the Globe playhouse. For the will, dated 2 August 1603 and proved 19 April 1608, of Sir Matthew Browne, see TNA PROB 11/111/273. For the will of Nicholas Brend (d. 12 October 1601), see TNA PROB 11/98/348.

### ***FAMILY BACKGROUND***

Little is known of the testator's family background. His bequest to the parish church of Billington suggests that he was related to the Harding family of Bedfordshire. It appears the testator's father had predeceased him.

The testator and his brother, Thomas Harding, ironmonger of London, were heirs to their uncle, Robert Harding (d. 18 February 1504), for whose will, dated 19 August 1500 and proved in March 1504, see TNA PROB 11/14/56.

For the tomb of the testator's uncle, see:

'Parishes: Cranleigh', in *A History of the County of Surrey: Volume 3*, ed. H E Malden (London, 1911), pp. 86-92. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/surrey/vol3/pp86-92> [accessed 3 August 2019].

*Up to the restoration of 1845 a good specimen of the combined altar-tomb and Easter sepulchre, in Sussex marble, remained against the north wall of the chancel. Most improperly, it was then demolished, and the brasses upon and over it were permitted to disappear. It bore the effigies of a man and woman with a child between them, all*

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*kneeling, each having inscriptions issuing from the mouth, the man's having the words: 'Have m'cy Jhesu in honour of thy gloriovs resvrreccion'; the woman's: 'And grant vs the merite of thy bytter Passion'; and the child's: 'Accipe parentes, et infantem, bone [Christ]e.'*

*Fortunately a facsimile of the plate on the wall behind is preserved in an engraving, probably of the size of the original, in Hussey's Churches of Kent, Sussex, and Surrey. This, as is often the case in Easter sepulchres, was a representation of the Resurrection of our Lord, Who is stepping out of the tomb bearing the cross and pennon and displaying the bleeding wounds, while guarding the tomb are four soldiers. Detached from the tomb, on the other side of the chancel, was a shield bearing a merchant's mark and the initials R. H.; and on the tomb itself, beneath the figures, was the imperfect inscription, which when complete read: 'Of your Charite pray for the soulys of Robert Hardyng late Alderman & Goldsmith of London and Agas his Wyffe whos body here lyeth beryed, And departyd this present lyfe the XVIII day of Febrvar<sup>n</sup> in the yere of ovre Lord God MCCCCC and III for whos Sowlys and all [christ]en we pray you say Paternoster and Ave.' Above the man's figure were the arms of Harding, which were: Argent a bend sable with three martlets or thereon.*

For the testator's uncle, see also Heales, Major, 'Cranley', *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, Vol. VI, (London: Surrey Archaeological Society, 1874), pp. 21-56 at p. 37:

[https://books.google.ca/books?id=\\_TUGAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA37](https://books.google.ca/books?id=_TUGAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA37)

In the will below, the testator mentions a brother and two nieces:

**-Thomas Harding**, who had two daughters:

**(1) Agnes Harding**, who married Alexander Plymley (d.1533). After Agnes Harding's death, Alexander Plymley married secondly Alice Polsted. For his will, proved 16 December 1533, see TNA PROB 11/25/94. See also:

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Plymley-1>

**(2) Elizabeth Harding.**

### ***MARRIAGES AND ISSUE***

The will below indicates that the testator married more than once:

*. . . a priest to say Mass in the foresaid church of Saint Matthew and to pray specially for my soul and the souls of my father and mother, wives and children . . . .*

The name of the testator's first wife is unknown. When made his will, the testator was married to a wife named Marion, whose surname is unknown, widow of the London mercer, William Ipswell (d.1507). By William Ipswell, Marion had a daughter:

**-Mary Ipswell** (d. 21 September 1538), the testator's stepdaughter, who married, as his first wife, Sir John Gresham (c.1495 – 23 October 1556) of Titsey, Surrey, Lord Mayor of London in 1547. See the will of Sir John Gresham, TNA PROB 11/38/241, the will of William Ipswell (d.1507), TNA PROB 11/15/406, and:

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Ipswell-2>

According to the will below, the testator had four sons and two daughters, all underage and unmarried on 22 August 1515:

\* **Robert Harding**. He appears to have been the testator's eldest son by his first marriage, and in the will below is granted the testator's manor of Watvile. He likely died before 1529, as he is not named as a defendant in the Chancery suit brought by the testator's daughters between 1518 and 1529 against the testator's sons concerning the manors of Watvile and Knowle. See TNA C 1/554/43.

\* **Thomas Harding**. He appears to have been the testator's second son by his first marriage, and in the will below is granted the testator's manor of Knowle. He, too, likely died before 1529, as he is not named as a defendant in the Chancery suit brought by the testator's daughters between 1518 and 1529 against the testator's sons concerning the manors of Watvile and Knowle. See TNA C 1/554/43, *supra*.

\* **William Harding** (d. 7 September 1549), third son, mercer of London. He appears to have been heir to his brothers, Robert and Thomas, as he died seised of the manors of Watvile and Knowle. He married Cecily Marshe, daughter of the London mercer, Walter Marshe (d.1540), by his wife, Eleanor, and sister of John Marshe (c.1516–1579), Governor of the Company of Merchant Adventurers. For John Marshe, whose wife, Alice Gresham, was a first cousin of Sir Thomas Gresham (c.1518–1579), founder of the Royal Exchange, and the only child of the mercer William Gresham (d.1547) by Ellen Bodley, see the *ODNB* entry for John Marshe; the will of Walter Marshe (which mentions his son, John Marshe, and daughter, Cecily Harding), TNA PROB 11/28/26; the will of William Gresham (d.1548), brother of Sir John Gresham (c.1495–1556), TNA PROB 11/32/156; the will of Ellen Gresham, TNA PROB 11/36/194; Leveson Gower, Granville, *Genealogy of the Family of Gresham*, (London: Mitchell & Hughes, 1883), pp. 86-7, 150, 161; and the History of Parliament entry for John Marshe at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/marshe-john-1516-79>

See also:

<https://wc.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=ancestorsearch&id=I69526>

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By Cecily Marshe, William Harding had three daughters:

**-Ellen Harding** (1537-1601). In 1537 the testator's daughter, Elizabeth Harding (d. 28 September 1563), stood godmother to her niece, Ellen Harding, daughter of her brother, William Harding (d. 7 September 1549). See Howard, Joseph Jackson and Frederick Arthur Crisp, eds., *Visitation of England and Wales*, Vol. I, 1896, pp. 76 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofengl22howa#page/76/mode/2up>

Ellen Harding married firstly the Gentleman Pensioner, Richard Knyvet (d. 1 November 1559) of Radford, Warwickshire, cousin of the half blood of Sir Henry Knyvet (d.1546?), Gentleman of the Privy Chamber, grandfather of Oxford's mistress, Anne Vavasour, and father of Sir Thomas Knyvet (1546 – 27 July 1622), who fought with Oxford over the 'quarrel of Anne Vavasour', an altercation in which Oxford was hurt and his man 'Gerret' slain, according to an entry in the diary of Richard Madox for 1-3 March 1582 (see BL MS Cotton, Appendix 47, f. 7v). See the will of Sir Henry Knyvet, TNA PROB 11/32/4, and the will of his wife, Anne (nee Pickering) Weston Knyvet Vaughan (1514 – 25 April 1582), TNA PROB 11/64/217.

Richard Knyvet was the eldest son of Charles Knyvet (died c.1528), esquire, by his second wife, Anne Lacy (d.1562), the daughter of Walter Lacy. Richard Knyvet's half-sister, Elizabeth Knyvet, married Richard Fitzwilliam (died c.1559), the brother of Lady Burghley's mother, Anne Fitzwilliam. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. II, pp. 109-110, 186-8 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=kjme027UeagC&pg=RA1-PA188>

By Richard Knyvet, Ellen Harding had a son and daughter:

**(1) Henry Knyvet**, who married and had two daughters, Katherine Knyvet and Eleanor Knyvet.

**(2) Mary Knyvet**, who married Sir Henry North (1556-1620), third son of Roger North (1531-1600), 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron North, by Winifred Rich (d.1578), the daughter of Richard Rich (1496/7–1567), 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Rich, and widow of Leicester's elder brother, Sir Henry Dudley. The testatrix' son-in-law, Sir Henry North (1556-1620), was the younger brother of Sir John North (c.1550–1597), who petitioned Sir William More on behalf of the Italian master of fence, Rocco Bonetti (d.1587), concerning premises in the Blackfriars. See SHC LM/COR/3/382; the *ODNB* entries for Roger North, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron North, and Sir John North; and the History of Parliament entry for Sir Henry North at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/north-henry-1556-1620>

For Richard Knyvet, whose funeral was recorded in Machyn's *Diary*, see also:

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<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Knyvet-47>

Ellen Harding married secondly, before 1 August 1575, as his second wife, Sir Thomas Browne (d. 9 February 1597) of Betchworth Castle, Surrey, who signed Lady Russell's petition against James Burbage's Blackfriars theatre. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 414; the will of Sir Thomas Browne's father-in-law, Sir William Fitzwilliam (c.1506 – 3 October 1559), TNA PROB 11/42B/624; the *ODNB* entry for Elizabeth (nee Cooke) Hoby Russell (1528-1609); Laoutaris, Chris, *Shakespeare and the Countess: The Battle That Gave Birth to the Globe*, (London: Fig Tree, 2014), pp. 121, 123, 130, 176-7, 277-8; and the History of Parliament entry for Sir Thomas Browne at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/browne-thomas-1597>

As noted above, by her marriage to Sir Thomas Browne, Ellen Harding was the stepmother of Sir Matthew Browne (d. 2 August 1603), who by indentures dated 7 October 1601 and 10 October 1601 purchased in fee simple properties owned by Nicholas Brend, including the Globe playhouse. For the will, dated 2 August 1603 and proved 19 April 1608, of Sir Matthew Browne, see TNA PROB 11/111/273. For the will of Nicholas Brend (d. 12 October 1601), see TNA PROB 11/98/348.

By Sir Thomas Browne, Ellen Harding had a son:

**(1) Richard Browne**, to whom she left her property in the Blackfriars.

For the will, dated 18 August 1601, of Ellen Harding Knyvet Browne, see TNA PROB 11/98/226.

**-Frances Harding** (b. May 1540, d. July 1540?).

**-Katherine Harding** (1 July 1542 - 1599), who married firstly, on 7 August 1559, Richard Onslow (d. 2 April 1571), Speaker of the House of Commons, by whom she had two sons and five daughters, including Sir Edward Onslow (d.1615). See the will of Richard Onslow, TNA PROB 11/53/193; the will of Sir Edward Onslow, TNA PROB 11/126/380; and the *ODNB* entry for Richard Onslow:

*His will mentions lands in Buckinghamshire, Gloucestershire, Kent, Middlesex, Shropshire, Surrey, Sussex, Warwickshire, and Wiltshire, and a house in the Blackfriars, London, which his widow had as part of her jointure. Among his bequests were a standing cup and cover for the earl of Leicester, to whom he was 'most bounden', and a gilt bowl for Lord Burghley. His second son (and eventual heir), Sir Edward Onslow (d. 1615), was the father of Sir Richard Onslow (d. 1664) and ancestor of the earls of Onslow.*

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See also the History of Parliament entry for Richard Onslow at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/onslow-richard-152728-71>

On 26 April 1561, Sir William More (1520-1600) of Loseley leased to Richard Onslow, esquire, and Katherine, his wife, a little garden plot formerly occupied by Sir Philip Hoby, and on 28 May of the same year quitclaimed the property to them. See LM/348/15/1 and LM/348/15/2. The identification of this property is of particular interest since Katherine Harding's brother-in-law, Sir Thomas Browne (d. 9 February 1597), signed Lady Russell's petition against James Burbage's Blackfriars theatre, and Sir Philip Hoby (d. 9 May 1558) was Lady Russell's brother-in-law by her first marriage, and she and her husband, Sir Thomas Hoby (1530-1566), inherited Sir Philip Hoby's Blackfriars property at his death.

After Richard Onslow's death, Katherine married secondly Richard Browne (d.1614?), half-brother of her sister Ellen Harding's second husband, Sir Thomas Browne (d. 9 February 1597). See *Plantagenet Ancestry, supra*, Vol. I, pp. 413-14, and the History of Parliament entry for Richard Browne at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/browne-richard-i-1614>

For the will of William Harding, see TNA PROB 11/32/553.

After William Harding's death, his widow, Cecily (nee Marshe) Harding, married secondly Robert Warner, for whom see his will, proved 22 November 1575, TNA PROB 11/57/523, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/warner-robert-1510-75>

\* **Anthony Harding** (living 18 July 1526), fourth son. He is named as a defendant in the lawsuit brought by the testator's daughters between 1518 and 1529 against the testator's sons concerning the manors of Watvile and Knowle. See TNA C 1/554/43, *supra*. He stood godfather to James Gresham (b. 18 July 1526), the son of Sir John Gresham, Lord Mayor of London. See Leveson Gower, Granville, *Genealogy of the Family of Gresham*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1883), p. 21 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YNQKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA21>

\* **Agnes Harding**, who married William Harlowes, son of the London grocer, Richard Harlywes (d.1505?) and his wife, Joan. See TNA C 1/554/43, *supra*; the will of Richard Harlywes, proved October 1505, TNA PROB 11/14/698; and Appleford, Amy, *Learning to Die in London 1380-1540*, (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015), p. 172 at:

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<https://books.google.ca/books?id=gKKnBAAAQBAJ&pg=PA172>

\* **Elizabeth Harding** (d. 28 September 1563), who married Humphrey Pakington, by whom she was the mother of Lettice Pakington (d. 23 December 1552), mother of Humphrey Martyn (d.1587?), addressee of the *Langham Letter* (see above). For the will of Elizabeth Harding Pakington, see TNA PROB 11/46/444. For Humphrey Pakington, see his will, dated 14 September 1555 and proved 11 November 1556, TNA PROB 11/38/212, and the Pakington pedigree in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitation of Buckinghamshire in 1566*, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1883), p. 27 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=VgpBAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA27>

### ***OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL***

For Alexander Plymley (c.1483-1533), see his will, proved 16 December 1533, TNA PROB 1125/94, and:

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Plymley-1>

### ***TESTATOR'S LANDS***

For the testator's manor of Chelsham Watevile and sporting place at Ficklehole, see:

*'Parishes: Chelsham'*, in *A History of the County of Surrey: Volume 4*, ed. *H E Malden* (London, 1912), pp. 270-274. British History Online <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/surrey/vol4/pp270-274> [accessed 3 August 2019].

*. . . Richard Hayward . . . died seised of a messuage or farm called Fickeshole in 1607. This messuage, according to Manning and Bray, was the manor-house of Chelsham Watevile. (fn. 65)*

*Sir Thomas Cook, kt., (fn. 15) draper, and afterwards alderman, of London, who, being in need of money, mortgaged the manor to Robert Harding, citizen and goldsmith of London. (fn. 16) He repaid a part of the money, but the greater part remaining unpaid, Robert Harding entered into possession. In 1499 Robert leased it to William Palmer of Chelsham for five years, together with a tenement called Welles and a croft called Gyldenhyll with the 'game of conyes' thereto belonging and all suits of court, excepting, however, the woods, underwoods, and all the chambers and parlours at the north end of the hall of the tenement called Welles, the stable, orchard, 'the easement of the kitchen, the garden and all other sporting places there at such times and whenever the said Robert, his executors, servants, guests and assigns shall thither resort.' (fn. 17) William, Robert's son, was the next owner, and he held a court here on 13 December 1530. (fn. 18) This William Harding, described as a merchant of London, died in 1549, (fn. 19) and*

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*by his will left the manor of Chelsham Watevile to his daughter Helen, who became the wife of Richard Knivett. In 1561 Helen, then a widow, settled the same on herself for life, with remainder to Richard Onslow, husband of her sister Catherine, for twenty-one years, and then to her son Henry Knivett. (fn. 20) No further mention is found of the manor, and it is probable that it was sold somewhat later to the Uvedales, who held the other manor in Chelsham, and that the two became united. (fn. 21)*

For the testator's manor of Knowle, see:

'Parishes: Cranleigh', in *A History of the County of Surrey: Volume 3*, ed. H E Malden (London, 1911), pp. 86-92. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/surrey/vol3/pp86-92> [accessed 3 August 2019].

*The early history of KNOWLE Manor (Knolle, xiii to xviii cent.) is somewhat obscure. (fn. 32) Robert, William, and Henry at Knowle witnessed deeds at Cranleigh in 1303-4. (fn. 33) Peter at Knowle granted a house and lands in Shere to Bartholomew of Shere in 1308-9, (fn. 34) and a few years afterwards Bartholomew released land in Shere to Henry at Knowle and his wife Cassandra. (fn. 35) In 1336 Henry and Cassandra granted Cravenhurst out in farm. (fn. 36) Walter at Knowle witnessed deeds at Cranleigh in 1360, 1404, and 1411. (fn. 37)*

*In 1481-2 the trustees of Thomas Slyfield of Great Bookham conveyed Knowle to Robert Harding, afterwards master of the Goldsmiths' Company. (fn. 38) He bequeathed it to his nephew Thomas Harding. (fn. 39) Robert Harding left two crofts and a cottage towards the maintenance of the aisle called Our Lady Aisle in Cranleigh Church. (fn. 40) In 1549 William Harding of London, mercer, died seised of Knowle, which he had bequeathed to his daughter Catherine, (fn. 41) with whom it went in marriage to Richard Onslow. (fn. 42) The manor henceforward remained in the Onslow family.*

LM: T{estamentum} Rob{er}ti Hardyng

In the name of God, Amen. The 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August the year of Our Lord God 1515 and in the 7<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of King Henry the 8<sup>th</sup>, I, Robert Harding, citizen and goldsmith of London, of whole mind and in good memory, laud be unto Almighty God, make and ordain this my present testament and last will in manner and form as followeth, that is to say:

First I bequeath and recommend my soul to Almighty God, my Maker and my Redeemer, to the most glorious Virgin, his Mother, Our Lady, Saint Mary, and to all the holy company in heaven;

And my body to be buried in the parish church of Saint Matthew in Friday Street of London after the discretion of mine executors;



Item, I bequeath to the high altar of the parish church of Our Lady of the Bow for my tithes and oblations by me forgotten or withholden, if [-if] any such be, in discharge of my soul 6s 8d;

Item, I will that my funeral expenses be done in honest wise after the discretion of mine executors;

And after my debts paid and my funeral expenses performed, I will that all my goods, chattels and debts shall be divided into three equal parts, whereof I will that Maryon, my wife, shall have one part to her own proper use in name of her purpart and reasonable part of my goods, chattels and debts to her after the use and custom of the city of London belonging;

And another egall part thereof I bequeath to Robert, Thomas, William and Anthony, my sons, Agnes and Elizabeth, my daughters, in name of their purpart and reasonable part of my goods, chattels and debts to them after the custom of the city of London belonging, egally among them to be divided, and to be delivered unto them when they shall come to their lawful ages of 21 years or else be married;

And if it fortune any of my said children within the same age of 21 years to decease and before that time be not married, then I will that that part or the parts of my said goods, chattels and debts by me to my said children or child so deceasing shall remain to my other child or children then surviving egally amongst them to be divided, and to be delivered unto them when they shall come unto their lawful ages of 21 years or else be married;

And if it fortune all my said children to decease or [=ere] they come to their full ages of 21 years and before that time be not married, then I will that the goods, chattels and debts by me to my said children above bequeathed shall be divided in two egall parts, whereof I will that Marion, my wife, and Mary Ipswell shall have one egall part between them to be divided;

And that other egall part thereof I will shall be divided into 3 egall parts, whereof I will that one part shall be disposed in the salary of a priest to say Mass in the foresaid church of Saint Matthew and to pray specially for my soul and the souls of my father and mother, wives and children and of my benefactors and all Christian souls as long as it will thereto endure after the rate of 10 marks by the year;

And another egall part thereof I will shall be disposed in marrying [f. 76r] of poor maidens and relieving of poor prisoners;

And another egall part thereof to be applied in repairing and amending of foul highways and bridges after the discretion of mine executors;

The third egall part of all my said goods, chattels and debts I reserve unto myself and to mine executors to the performance of my legacies and bequests hereunder written, that is to say:

First I bequeath towards the building and making of the steeple of Our Lady of the Bow £40;

Item, I bequeath £10 to be bestowed in amending of the highway between London and Croydon after the discretion of mine executors;

Item, I bequeath £10 to be bestowed in amending of highways about Cranleigh after the discretion of mine executors;

Item, I will that mine executors shall dispose amongst the poor householders of Cranleigh parish £10;

Item, I will that mine executors after their discretion shall bestow and apply 5 marks in buying some ornament or ornaments, and the same ornament or ornaments to be given to the parish church of Bylyngdon [=Billington?];

And 40s to be bestowed by mine executors in buying of some ornament or ornaments, and the same ornament or ornaments to be given to the parish church of Chelsham;

Item, I bequeath to Henry Laurence 40s;

Item, I bequeath to the prior and convent of the Charterhouse besides London to pray specially for my soul and the souls abovesaid 20s;

Item, I bequeath to the wardens and the fellowship of goldsmith[s] of London 2 cups to the valor in all of £20;

Item, I bequeath to every man of the beadsmen of goldsmiths 12d;

Item, I bequeath to Thomas Frende 40s;

Item, I bequeath to every of my servants 40s;

Item, I bequeath to the wife of Richard Mersham, salter, £3 6s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to John Abbot 40s;

Item, I bequeath to Thomas Compton 40s;

Item, I will that mine executors shall purvey an honest priest to say Mass in the said church of Saint Matthew and pray specially for my soul and the souls abovesaid by the

space of 20 years next after my decease, and that the same priest shall have for his salary yearly in that behalf during 20 years next after my decease 10 mark, summa 200 mark;

Item, I will that mine executors shall cause an obit to be kept solemnly in the said church of Saint Matthew yearly during 20 years next after my decease for my souls [sic] and the souls abovesaid and spend thereupon yearly 13s 4d;

Item, I bequeath to Lyver [=sic for 'Oliver'] Godfrey, clerk, 20s;

Item, I bequeath to Sir Thomas Knyght, priest, 20s;

Item, I bequeath to Agnes, the wife of Alexander Plymley, £5, and to Elizabeth Harding, the daughter[s] of Thomas Harding, my brother, £5;

Item, I bequeath to William and Anthony, my sons, £100 egally between them to be divided and to be delivered unto them when they shall come to their lawful ages of 21 years;

And if it fortune any of them within the said age of 21 years to decease, that then his part thereof deceasing to remain to that other of them then surviving and to be delivered unto him when he shall come to his full age of 21 years;

And if it fortune the same William and Anthony, my sons, to decease both within the said age of 21 years, then I bequeath the same £100 to Agnes, my daughter, to be delivered unto her when she shall come to her full age of 21 years or else be married;

And if it fortune the same Agnes, my daughter, to decease within the said age of 21 years and before that time be not married, then I bequeath the same £100 to Elizabeth, my daughter, to be delivered unto her when [+she?] shall come to her full age of 21 years or else be married;

And if it fortune the said Elizabeth, my daughter, to decease or [=ere] she come to her said full age of 21 years and before that time be not married, then I bequeath the same £100 to Agnes, the wife of Alexander Plymley and to Elizabeth Harding, daughters of Thomas Harding, my brother, egally between them to be divided;

The residue of all my goods, chattels and debts after my debts paid and my funeral expenses performed and these my legacies performed and other things concerning th' execution of this my testament contented and satisfied I will shall be disposed in singing of Masses, marrying of poor maidens, relieving of poor householders and poor prisoners, in amending of highways and in other works of mercy and charity such as mine executors shall think best to the pleasure of God and health of my soul and the souls abovesaid;

And of this my present testament I make and ordain William Tykehill, gentleman, and Edmund Wotton, citizen and mercer of London, mine executors, and I bequeath to either of them for his labour in that behalf £13 6s 8d;

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And of the execution of this my present testament I make and ordain Thomas Horton and John Compton, Merchant of the Staple of Calais, overseers, and I bequeath to either of them for his labour in that behalf £5;

These witnesses: Oliver Godfrey, clerk, and William Carkeke, scrivener.

LM: Vlti {m}a voluntas Ro{berti} Hardyng

This is the last will of me, Robert Harding, citizen and goldsmith of London and nephew of Robert Harding, late citizen and alderman of London, made the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August the year of Our Lord 1515 and the 7<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of King Henry the 8<sup>th</sup> as to the disposition of all my manors, lands and tenements, rents, reversions and services, meadows, leases [=leasows?] and pastures, woods and underwoods with all and singular their appurtenances which I have within the towns, fields and parishes of Chelsham, Addington, Warlington [=Warlingham?], Farleigh, Cranleigh, Chalford [=Shalford?], Codeham [=Cudham?] and Chelsfield in the counties of Surrey and Kent and elsewhere within the same counties in manner and form ensuing, that is to say:

First I will that Robert Harding, my son, shall have to him and to his heirs as well all my manor of Watvyles with th' appurtenances and all my other lands and tenements, rents, reversions and services, meadows, leases [=leasows?] and pastures, woods and underwoods with all and singular their appurtenances within the towns, fields and parishes of Chelsham, Warlington, Addington, Farleigh, Codeham and Chelsfield aforesaid and nigh unto the same towns, fields and parishes of Chelsham, Warlington, Addington, Farleigh, Codeham and Chelsfield;

And I will that mine executors shall during the nonage of the same Robert, my son, have the rule and governance of all the same manor, lands and tenements and other the premises and of the receiving of the rents and profits of the same;

Provided alway I will that mine executors shall yearly during the nonage of the same Robert, my son, pay or [+cause?] to be paid to Marion, my wife, of the rents, issues, profits and revenues coming and growing of the same manor, lands and tenements and other the premises by me above willed to the said Robert Harding, my son, £10 sterling;

Provided also I will that the said Marion, my wife, shall have her pleasure and dwelling in my sporting place & lodging at Ficklehole the which I reserved to me for mine own pleasure and of and in my orchard and garden occupied with the same sporting place unto such time as the same Robert, my son, shall come to his full age of 30 years if he live so long, the same Marion during the mean season at her own proper costs well and sufficiently [+to?] keep all the reparations of all the same sporting place, orchard and garden and that [+at?] th' end of the same 30 years the same Marion to leave all the same sporting place, orchard and garden as well and sufficiently repaired and made as she at her first entry into the same sporting place after my decease shall find them repaired and

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made, and else I will that my same son, Robert, or mine executor shall enter into the said sporting place, orchard and garden and into every part and parcel thereof, and thereof and of every part thereof utterly to expel and put out the same Marion, this my will notwithstanding;

Provided alway I will that my same son and mine executors shall at all times unto such time as it shall fortune my same son to come to his full age of 30 years, if he so long live, have their free concourse and recourse to and fro[m] the said sporting place, orchard and garden and have their lying, lodging and being within the same when it shall like them and every of them for the overseeing of the same manor of Watvyles with th' appurtenances and of the said lands and tenements and other the premises and of the receiving and gathering of the rents, issues and profits coming and growing of the same manor, lands and tenements and other the premises and of keeping of the courts there during the mean season, my said will to the said Marion to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding;

Item, I will that Thomas Harding, my son, shall have to him and to his heirs as well my manor of Knoll [=Knowle] with th' appurtenances in the foresaid parish of Cranleigh as all my other lands and tenements with th' appurtenances set, lying and being within the parishes of Cranleigh and Shalford with all other lands and tenements, meadows, woods, leasows and pastures with th' appurtenances the which I late bought and purchased set, lying and being in the same parishes of Chanelegh [sic for 'Cranleigh?'] and Shalford and nigh unto the same parishes of Cranleigh and Shalford;

And I will that all such persons as be enfeoffed of and in my foresaid manors, lands and tenements and other the premises shall make several estates and grants of and in the same according to the true intent and mind of this my present last will as shall be advised by learned counsel.

Probatum fuit Testamentum p{re}fati Rob{er}ti Hardyng defuncti habent{is} dum vixit & mortis sue temp{or}e diu{er}sa bona et debita in diu{er}sis dioc{esis} p{ro}uinc{ie} cant{uariensis} coram d{omi}no apud Lameth xiiijo die mensis Septemb{ris} Anno d{omi}ni Mill{esi}mo qui{n}gentesimo quintodecimo ac approbatum insinuat{um} &c Administracio q{ue} o{mn}i{u}m & sing{u}lor{um} bonor{um} catallor{um} et debitor{um} d{ic}tu{m} defunctum et ip{s}ius test{amentu}m h{uius}mo{di} q{ua}lit{er}cunq{ue} concernen{tium} executoribus in eode{m} test{ament}o no{m}i{n}at{is} in debita Iuris forma Iurat{is} com{m}issa extitit

[=The testament of the forenamed Robert Harding, deceased, having while he lived & at the time of his death divers goods and debts in divers dioceses of the province of Canterbury, was proved before the Lord at Lambeth on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the month of September in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifteenth, and probated, entered etc., and administration was granted of all & singular the goods, chattels and

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debts whatsoever concerning the said deceased and his same testament to the executors named in the same testament, sworn in due form of law.]