

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 2 August 1520 and proved 30 August 1520, of William Whitlock, whose wife, Elizabeth (nee Rolleston), was the maternal grandmother of the poet, Thomas Watson (d.1592), who dedicated *Hekatompathia* to Oxford.

The testator may have been a member of the old Berkshire family of Whitelocke (see Fox-Davies, A.C., ed., *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Landed Gentry of Ireland by Sir Bernard Burke*, (London: Harrison & Sons, 1912), p. 414 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/genealogicalhera00burkuoft#page/414/mode/2up>.

The testator's wife, Elizabeth (nee Rolleston), was the daughter of Thomas Rolleston of Swarkestone, Derbyshire, and Katherine Fitzwilliam, daughter of John Fitzwilliam, esquire, by Helen Villiers, the daughter of William Villiers, esquire, of Brokesby, Leicestershire, and Joan Bellers. Katherine Fitzwilliam was the sister Sir William Fitzwilliam (d.1534), maternal great-great-grandfather of Oxford's first wife, Anne Cecil. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, pp. 217-18.

The testator wrote his will at Barowe, which according to *Letters and Papers* was Bergen-op-Zoom in the Low Countries.

After the testator's death, his widow, Elizabeth (nee Rolleston), married secondly Thomas Lee (d.1527), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/22/381; thirdly Robert Wade (d.1529), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/23/135; and fourthly John Onley (d.1537 or 1538), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/27/241.

The testator's children are not named in the will below; however two of his daughters, Margaret and Elizabeth, are mentioned in the will of his widow, Elizabeth (nee Rolleston) Whitlock Lee Wade Onley, TNA PROB 11/38/89.

In the name of God, Amen. I, William Whitlock of London, merchant tailor, make and ordain my present testament and last will in manner and form following:

First, I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my Maker, to Our Lady Saint Mary, his Blessed Mother, and to all the holy company of heaven, and my body to be buried in the observany(?) at Barowe [=Bergen-op-Zoom] nigh the middle aisle, and therefore I will that they have for the lying and their labour £4 Flemish;

Also I will that there be 3 trentals sung at Greenwich for me, three at Grey Friars, two at the observants of Shene, two in my parish church for my soul, my father and mother, and all Christian souls;

Also I give to the high altar 6s 8d;

Also to the rood-loft 40s;

And to every poor man in the parish, 4d;

Also I bequeath to Joan, my maid, twenty 6s 8d, and to each of my servants thirteen shillings four pence;

And all the residue of my goods, my burying and legacies and my debts paid, I give it wholly unto my wife and to my children, evenly to be distributed between them, and I make and ordain Elizabeth, my wife, my sole executor of this my last will and testament, and she to see my debts paid and legacies performed;

And here I make this my present testament and last will, witness mine hostess, mine host, Cornely Speke, and my ghostly father. Written at Barowe the second day of August, the year of Our Lord 1520.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum coram Domino apud Lambhith penultimo die mensis Augusti Anno Domini Millesimo quingentesimo xxo Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et comissa fuit administratio omnium et singulorum bonorum Iurium et creditorum dictum defunctum et huiusmodi(?) suum testamentum quali{te}rcunq{ue} concernentium Elizabethe Relicte et executrici in huiusmodi testamento nominatim De bene et fideliter administrando eadem Ac de pleno et fidei Inventario omnium et singulorum bonorum Iurium et creditorum huiusmodi conficiendo Et nobis siue Commissariis nostris citra festum Sancti Andree Apostoli proximum futurum exhibendo Necnon de plano et vero compoto calculo siue racionio in ea parte reddendo Ad sancta dei Evangelia Iurat

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord at Lambeth on the penultimate day of the month of August in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 20th, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits whatsoever concerning the said deceased and his said testament to Elizabeth, relict and executrix named in the same testament, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to prepare a full and faithful inventory of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the same, and to exhibit [+it] to us or to our commissaries before the feast of Saint Andrew the Apostle next to come, and also to render a plain and true account, calculation or reckoning in that respect.