

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 26 December 1522 and proved 16 January 1523, of Richard Thurston, whose widow, Thomasine Worsop (d.1532?), married Sir Richard Gresham, Lord Mayor of London.

CONNECTION TO THE EARLS OF OXFORD

On 31 October 1564 Robert Burbage (d.1575) and Edward Worsop, half brother of Thomasine Worsop (d.1532?), bound themselves in £400 to Oxford's future father-in-law, Sir William Cecil, to perform certain provisions of an indenture dated 11 December 1563 by which Cecil purchased from Robert Burbage the manor of Theobalds alias Tongs on which he built his mansion of Theobalds. See TNA C 54/670, No. 24.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator was the only son and heir of Sir John Thurston by his first or second wife, Alice. See the will of Sir John Thurston, TNA PROB 11/20/20, and the will of Sir John Thurston's third wife and widow, Elizabeth (nee Tenacre) Wymond Thurston (d.1521), TNA PROB 11/20/149.

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testator married Thomasine Worsop (d.1532?), the daughter of John Worsop (d.1538), Scrivener of the Court Letter. See his will, TNA PROB 11/27/356, and TNA C 1/516/35, a Chancery suit brought in the period 1518-1529 by 'Richard Gresham of London, mercer, and Thomasyn, his wife, late the wife of Richard Thurston of London, broderer, and John Worshop'.

Thomasine Worsop's mother was likely John Worsop's first wife, Elizabeth, whose surname is unknown. See West Sussex Record Office, Add Mss 9456, a bill dated 16 August 1517 acknowledging Elizabeth Worsop's payment of £40, on behalf of her husband, John Worsop, to Robert Sherborne, Bishop of Chichester, and:

<https://soc.genealogy.medieval.narkive.com/eDUY9boB/another-wife-for-sir-richard-gresham-probably-mother-of-christian-gresham-thynne-and-elizabeth>

By Thomasine Worsop, the testator had a daughter:

* **Alice Thurston**, who married George Townshend (d.1552?) of Dereham Abbey, Norfolk, the son of Sir Roger Townshend (d.1552?) and Amy Brewse. See the Townshend pedigree in Dashwood, G.H., *The Visitation of Norfolk in the Year 1563*, (Norwich: Miller and Leavins, 1878), Vol. I, p. 307 at:

<https://archive.org/details/visitationnorfo00dashgoog/page/n322/mode/2up>

The testator's daughter, Alice, is mentioned in the will of her grandfather, John Worsop:

Item, I give and bequeath to my cousin [=granddaughter], Alice Townshend, another like ring of the value of 20s.

After the testator's death, Thomasine Worsop married secondly, as his second wife, Sir Richard Gresham (d.1549), Lord Mayor of London. It seems likely they were married in 1523, shortly after the deaths of their respective spouses in 1522. Thomasine may have died in 1532, together with her eldest daughter, and one of Sir Richard Gresham's sons. See:

'Henry VIII: October 1532, 11-20', in *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII, Volume 5, 1531-1532*, ed. James Gairdner (London, 1880), pp. 599-615. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/letters-papers-hen8/vol5/pp599-615> [accessed 15 November 2020].

Mr. Richard Gresham riding to Walsingham ward, at Barkway hath buried his wife's eldest daughter, and at his house in London one of his sons, and his wife very sick at Barkway.

See also Leveson Gower, *supra*, p. 162 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=9ZQNAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA162>

After the death of Thomasine Worsop, Sir Richard Gresham married thirdly Isabel (nee Hosier) Pyke Gresham (d.1565), widow of the London goldsmith, John Pyke (d.1533). For her will, see TNA PROB 11/48/161, and the transcript in Leveson Gower, Granville, *Genealogy of the Family of Gresham*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1883), p. 76 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=9ZQNAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA76>

For the will of John Pyke, see TNA PROB 11/25/29.

In his will, John Worsop refers to Sir Richard Gresham's two daughters, Christian and Elizabeth as his 'cousins', i.e. granddaughters. It thus appears that the testator's widow, Thomasine (nee Worsop) Thurston Gresham, was the mother of:

(1) Christian Gresham, who married Sir John Thynne (d.1580), for whom see the *ODNB* entry.

(2) Elizabeth Gresham (d.1552) who died unmarried. For her will, see TNA PROB 11/35/117.

See also:

<https://soc.genealogy.medieval.narkive.com/eDUY9boB/another-wife-for-sir-richard-gresham-probably-mother-of-christian-gresham-thynne-and-elizabeth>

For Sir Richard Gresham's three wives, see also the WikiTree profile at:

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Gresham-353>

See also the entry in 'A Who's Who of Tudor Women' at:

www.tudorwomen.com

*ISABEL GRESHAM (d. April 1, 1565) (maiden name unknown) Isabel is called Isabella Worpfall in the Oxford DNB entry for her second husband, Sir Richard Gresham (c.1485-February 21, 1549), a mercer and stapler who was Lord Mayor of London in 1537/8, but this appears to confuse her with Gresham's first [sic] wife, Thomasyn Worsopp. The DNB further records that in October 1532, when Isabella's [sic] daughter Elizabeth died of an unspecified illness, she and her son by Gresham were also extremely ill. At that time, however, Isabel was still married to her first husband, John Pyke (d.1533), a goldsmith. Their daughter, Joan Pyke, married Barnard Jenyn, a skinner, as his second wife. Family wills in that line identify Isabel as the mother of Joan and the wife of Sir Richard Gresham. Isabel is sometimes said to have been the wealthy widow of a knight named Taverson, by whom she had at least two daughters. This is possible, but the timing would be tight. She was married to Gresham, who was much disliked as a moneylender and land grabber, by November 16, 1537. On January 21, 1543, the Gresham house in Milk Street was targeted by the earl of Surrey and his minions during a five-hour rampage through London. They broke windows in the house by firing stonebows at them. At the time of his death, he owned Inwood Hall, Norfolk, Ringshall, Suffolk, Orembery, Yorkshire, the house in Milk Street in London, and one in Bethnal Green, valued together at £800 per annum. He died at the house in Bethnal Green. He was buried in St. Laurence Jewry, London. His will, made February 20, 1549, left one third of his estate to his widow, providing her with an annual income of £282. According to Anne F. Sutton, *The Mercery of London*, Isabel purchased a mansion in Lad Lane from the Mercers on May 10, 1550, together with five other tenements. Its value as a rental was £13 10s/year. In 1551, she began to make gifts to the Mercers' Company and continued to do so until her death. These included her mansion and the tenements that went with it, a bequest made in spite of opposition from her stepson, Sir Thomas Gresham.*

RM: Test{amentu}m Ric{hard}i Thurston

In the name of God, Amen. The 26th day of the month of December in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred and 22, I, Richard Thurston, citizen and broiderer of

London, being in my good and whole mind, laud and praising be unto Almighty God, make and ordain this my present testament and last will in manner and form following, that is to say:

First I give and recommend my soul unto Almighty God, my Maker and Redeemer, and to the most glorious Virgin, his mother, Saint Mary, and to all the holy company of heaven;

And my body to be buried in honest manner by the discretion of mine executors underwritten within the Pardon Churchyard of the Cathedral Church of Saint Paul of London whereas the body of Alice, my mother, lieth buried, or as nigh unto the same place as may conveniently be had;

And I will that my said executors shall provide 12 honest torches to bring my body to church and to burn at my dirge and Mass and at all other obsequies for me to be said and done, the which said 12 torches I will shall be given unto certain parish churches hereafter ensuing, that is to say:

First to the parish church of Saint Vedast of London two of the same torches;

Item, to the parish church of Saint Peter in West Cheap of London 2 of the same torches;

Item, to the parish church of Saint Michael in Wood Street of London 2 of the same torches;

Item, to the parish church of Saint Matthew in Friday Street of London a torch;

Item, to the parish church of Saint Michael in the Querne in West Cheap of London a torch;

Item to the parish church of Saint Leonard next Saint Martin le Grand of London a torch;

Item, to the parish church of Saint Gregory next the said Cathedral Church of Saint Paul a torch;

Item, to the parish church of Saint Mary Staining of London a torch;

And to the Trinity church next Fish Street of London a torch;

And after my body so buried, then I will that all such debts and duties as I owe to any person or persons of right or in conscience be first and foremost and before all things truly content and paid;

And after my debts so paid, then I will that all my goods, debts, plate, jewels and ready money shall be divided into three egal parts;

Whereof I give and bequeath unto Thomasine, my wife, one egal part:

Item, I give and bequeath unto Alice Thurston, my daughter, another egal part to be delivered unto her at her full age or marriage;

And if it happen the said Alice Thurston, my daughter, to decease before that she shall come to her said lawful age or marriage, which God defend, then I give and bequeath the moiety of one half of her said egal part to her by me above bequeathed unto the said Thomasine, my wife, and to her executors, they therewith to do their free will and pleasure;

And the other moiety and one half of the part of the said Alice I will shall wholly remain to mine executors underwritten and to their executors, they the same by their discretion to distribute and dispose in deeds of piety and charity for the wealth of my soul, the soul of the said Alice, the souls of my father and mother and all Christian souls;

And the third egal part of my said goods, debts, jewels and ready money I reserve to my said executors for the performance of my legacies and bequests hereafter ensuing, that is to say:

First I give and bequeath unto the high altar of the said parish church of Saint Vedast whereas I am parishes for my tithes forgotten and negligently withholden in discharging of my soul 10s;

Item, I give and bequeath for a table to be made for the high altar of the said parish church of Saint Vedast £20 and as much more as it shall cost;

Item, I will that my said executors during the space of 15 years next ensuing my decease shall do find an honest priest of good name and fame to sing and say Mass within the said parish church of Saint Vedast at the altar of Our Lady within the same church, the same priest specially to pray for my soul, the souls of my father and mother and all Christian souls;

And I will that the same priest shall be at all dunne [=done?] service that shall be said and done within the same church as other priests of the same church shall use to say and do;

Item, I give and bequeath [f. 6v] to the same priest for his salary and wages every year yearly during the said space of 15 years £6 13s 4d;

Item, I will that my said executors every year during the space of 10 years next ensuing my decease distribute and dispose one load of coals amongst the poor householders of the said parish of Saint Vedast;

Item, I give and bequeath unto 7 prison-houses, that is to say, to Ludgate, Newgate, the two Counters within London, the Marshalsea, the King's Bench and the Convict House of Westminster, to every of them 10s;

Item, I give and bequeath unto 7 lazar-houses next London 46s 8d, that is to say, to every of them 6s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to the Brotherheads of Papey and the Clerks, every of them 10s;

Item, I bequeath unto the Fellowship of Broiderers towards the purchasing of an hall £20;

Item, I give and bequeath to John Warner £10;

Item, I bequeath to William Warren £6 13 4d;

Item, I bequeath to John Nevell £6 13s 4d;

Item, I give and bequeath to every other mine apprentices menservants 40s;

Item, I bequeath to Joan Book £3;

Item, I give and bequeath to Audrey Worsop, my wife's sister, £10;

Item, I bequeath to Jewet Wright 40s;

Item, I bequeath to Thomas Boyse 20s;

Item, I bequeath to every of the five orders of friars of London 10s;

Item, I bequeath to every of the nunneries of the Minories, Holywell, Clerkenwell and Kilborne 20s;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Master Hugh Calkhill a black gown;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the same Master Hugh Calkhill against that he shall be made Doctor of Divinity a bonnet and a ring with a stone of the value of 26s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to John Burton, Henry Averell and John Palterton, every of them a black gown;

Item, I give and bequeath to my cousin, Thomas Paccard, £6s 13s 4d;

Item, I give and bequeath to Richard Paccard, his son, 6s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to mine aunt, Agnes Grene, 40s, and to her son, John Grene, 20s;

Item, I will that my said executors pay and deliver to the said Thomas Paccard 40s, which 40s I will that he give to Alice Harryes as shall be thought most best for her comfort by his discretion;

And I will that all such lands and tenements as I have in the town of Brandon Fery(?) in the county of Suffolk shall be aliened and sold by my said executors, and the money thereof coming I will shall go to the performance of this my present testament and last will;

The residue of all my said third part not bequeathed wholly I give and bequeath unto my said executors, they the same to dispose in deeds of charity and piety for the wealth of my soul, the souls of my father and mother and all Christian souls as they would I did for them in case like;

And of this my present testament and last will I make and ordain mine executors the foresaid Thomasine, my wife, and John Worsop, her father;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the same John Worsop for his labour and business in that behalf £20;

And supervisors and overseers of the same my said testament and last will I make and ordain William Mortimer, broiderer, and Robert Spenley, goldsmith;

Item, I give and bequeath to every of them for their labour and business in that behalf a black gown and 40s in money;

Given the day and year above rehearsed. Witnesses of the premises: Sir Hugh Calkhill, Master of Art and curate of the said parish church of Saint Vedast, Richard Crowkes, Robert Spenley, goldsmiths, John Warner, William Warren and John Nevell, broiderers.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascripti defuncti Coram pefat{is} Com{m}issarijs in Eccl{es}ia Cath{edra}li diui Pauli London xvjo die mensis Ianuarij Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingentesimo xxijo Iurament{o} executor{um} in h{uius}mo{d}i test{ament}o no{m}i{n}at{orum} Ac approbatum & insinuatu{m} &c Et Com{m}issa fuit admi{n}istracio auc{torita}te pefator{um} Reu{erendissi}mor{um} patrium o{mn}iu{m} & singulor{um} bonoru{m} Iuriu{m} & creditor{um} dictu{m} defunctum & h{uius}mo{d}i test{amentu}m concernen{tium} pefat{is} Executorib{us} De bene & fidel{ite}r admi{n}istrand{o} Ac de pleno & fideli In{uenta}rio citra festum s{an}c{t}i Mathie Ap{osto}li prox{imum} futur{um} exhi{ben}d{o} Necnon de plano & vero compoto reddend{o} Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{is}

[=The above-written testament was proved before the forenamed Commissioners in the Cathedral Church of St Paul in London on the 16th day of the month of January in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 22nd by the oath of the executors named in the same testament, and probated & entered etc., and administration was granted by the authority of the forenamed Most Reverend Fathers of all & singular the goods, rights & credits concerning the said deceased & the same testament to the forenamed executors, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well & faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full & faithful

inventory before the feast of Saint Matthew the Apostle next to come, and also to render a plain & true account.]