

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 2 June 1529 and proved 29 June 1529, of Robert Wade, whose wife, Elizabeth (nee Rolleston), was the maternal grandmother of the poet, Thomas Watson (d.1592), who dedicated *Hekatompathia* to Oxford.

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.

Before her marriage to the testator, Elizabeth (nee Rolleston) had been the wife firstly of William Whitlock (d.1520), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/19/437, and secondly of Thomas Lee (d.1527), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/22/381.

After the testator's death, Elizabeth (nee Rolleston) married fourthly John Onley, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/27/241.

According to the will below, the testator had two sons, Guy and John, and a daughter, Marion, all of whom, it would appear, were his children by a previous marriage. For the will of the testator's son, Guy Wade (d.1557), see TNA PROB 11/39/463.

The testator states that he is bound to Richard Waddington, Richard Ogle and Richard Botill 'in the sum of one thousand marks' concerning the jointure of his wife, Elizabeth (nee Rolleston). For the will of Richard Waddington (d.1565?), see TNA PROB 11/48/263. For the will of Richard Ogle d.1555), see TNA PROB 11/38/252. For the will of Richard Botill (d.1565), see TNA PROB 11/48/105.

According to the will of the testator's wife, Elizabeth (nee Rolleston), the testator's daughter, Marion Wade, married William Pickering. For the will of the testator's wife, Elizabeth (nee Rolleston) Whitlock Lee Wade Onley, see TNA PROB 11/38/89.

RM: Test{amentu}m Rob{er}ti Wade

[f. 63r] In dei nomine amen. The second day of June in the year of Our Lord God 1500 twenty and nine and in the 21st year of the reign of King Henry the Eight, I, Robert Wade, citizen and merchant tailor of London, make and ordain this my present testament and last will in manner and form following:

First, I bequeath my soul to Almighty God and to all the saints in heaven, my body to be buried at Saint Magnus in London as near the gravestone of Thomas Petyt, late deceased, can be, with my mortuary according to the custom;

Item, I will that mine executors pay all my debts that I owe, in discharge of my conscience;

Item, I will that the Grey Friars in London and the White Friars of the same shall come to my burial, and every of the said house of friars have, to pray for my soul, 20s a house;

Item, I give to my brother, Richard Wade, five pounds and as much of mine apparel or raiment as shall be of the value of other five pounds;

Item, I give to my brother, William, that married my sister, Mawde, in the town of Monmouth, five pounds sterling and as much of mine apparel or raiment as shall amount to other five pounds;

Item, I give to Guy, my son, forty pounds sterling;

Item, to John, my son, forty pounds sterling;

Item, to Maryon, my daughter, forty pounds sterling;

[f. 63v] Item, I give to every of them two goblets of silver, two pots of silver, two featherbeds, two bolsters, two pair of sheets, four blankets, two coverlets, two brass pots, four candlesticks, 12 platters, 12 dishes and 12 saucers, two dozen napkins, two tablecloths and two pans;

Item, where I stand bounden to Richard Waddington, Richard Ogle and Richard Botell [=Botill?] by obligation in the sum of one thousand marks to make Elizabeth, my wife, or to such persons as they shall name a state of land to the value of forty marks by the year over all charges according to th' use and intent comprised in certain indentures of covenants between me, the said Robert, and the persons above-named in the name of one jointure to my said wife, I will that mine executors and overseers by their discretions shall make search that if my lands, tenements or hereditaments now in my possession, reversion or in use may be convenient and sufficient for the discharge of my said bond and to content and satisfy my said wife by their discretions, then I will that all persons that be possessed or seised of or in the same shall make or cause to be made to my said wife or to such as by her shall be assigned a state of the same and of every parcel thereof according to the said covenants, and if such lands and tenements as I have in my possession or in use cannot content or be thought by th' advice of mine overseers to be convenient for the jointure of my said wife according to the said covenants made with the persons above-named, then I will that mine executors shall purchase so much land as shall amount to the value for the discharge of my said bond made to the persons above-named, provided always that they shall take as much of my lands now in my possession as shall seem to my said overseers convenient towards the performance of the jointure of my said wife, and in discharge of my bond;

And after the decease of my said wife, I will that all such lands and tenements as she shall have in jointure according to the covenants between me and the persons above-named shall remain to my children by course of inheritance which shall be living at the time of the decease of my said wife, to have to them and to their heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten, and for lack of such issue to th' use of the right heirs of me, the said Robert Wade;

Item, I will my wife have all my lands and tenements, as well freehold as copyhold, to time that Guy Wade, my son, come or might come to th' age of four & twenty years, and after the said Guy hath accomplished the age of 24 years and be able to order his land, I will that the said Guy have my land Milles, Benes Place, Seales Mede [=Mead?], with all the ground that thereto belongs, to him and to th' heirs of his body lawfully begotten if it be not taken and appointed by my overseers to be parcel of my wife's jointure;

Item I give to John, my son, my place in Egam [=Egham?] with all the houses, wharfs(?) and lands, a stone house standing upon Tower Hill when he cometh to the age of 23 [sic?] years as is aforesaid if it be not parcel of my wife's jointure by my overseers appointed;

Item, I give to every of my servants at my month's mind 12d apiece to pray for my soul;

Item, to the Company of the Merchant Tailors if they bring me to my burial, 40s;

Item, to 8 men to carry [+me?] to my burial, 2s apiece;

Item, I give to the maintenance of the highway that stretcheth from the Katherine Wheel at Egam [=Egham?] to olde brigge [=Old Bridge] toward Staines, 40s if they will make it, to be paid to them when it is done and made;

And if it happen Guy, my son, John, my son, and Marion, my daughter, to die without heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten, then I will that such lands as before is given to my children after the decease of my wife remain to the next of my blood and the heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten, and for lack of such issue to the heirs of the body of William Whitlock lawfully begotten, and for lack of such issue to the use of the heirs of the body of Thomas Lee lawfully begotten, and for lack of such issue to the right heirs of me, the said Robert, and of mine heirs forever for the performance of this my last will;

The residue of my lands, tenements and hereditaments not bequeathed I give to my wife and to her assigns forever, and the residue of my goods and chattels not bequeathed I give to mine executors;

Item, I will that if my children, that is to say, Guy, John and Marion or any of them, inquiet, vex, trouble, molest or grieve mine executors or demand more than I this my testament is to them bequeathed, then I will the gift to them made by this my will shall be void, and they to have no more by gift but as the custom of the City of London shall limit to them;

And of this my testament and last will I make Elizabeth, my wife, and Richard Boltel(?) [=Bottill(?)], mine executors, John Gonne and Richard Ogle, mine overseers, and every of my overseers to have 40s apiece;

In witness whereof to this my present testament and last will I have set my seal the day and year abovesaid in the presence of Robert Sarys, Robert Bote, Edmond Prestman and Thomas Andrews, with other mo.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascripti defuncti Coram prefatis Com{m}issarijs in eccl{es}ie Cath{edrali} d{omi}ni Pauli London xxix die mensis Iunij Anno D{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingen{tes}imo xxix Iurame{n}t{o} Elizabeth{e} Relicte et executricis in h{uius}mo{d}i test{ament}o no{m}i{n}at{e} Ac approbatum & insinuatum Et com{m}issa fuit admi{n}istracio auct{oritat}e prefatorum R{euerendissi}mor{um} patriu{m} om{n}i{um} & singuloru{m} bonoru{m} Iuriu{m} et creditoru{m} d{i}c{t}i defuncti pefat{e} executrici De bene et fidel{ite}r admi{n}strand{o} Ac de pleno et fideli In{uenta}rio secund{o} die post festum Sancti Barth{olome}i Ap{osto}li prox{imum} futur{um} exhibend{o} Necnon de plano et vero compoto reddend{o} Ad sancta Dei Eu{a}ngelia In debita iuris forma Iurat{e} Reseruat{a} p{otes}tate alteri executori in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}at{o} cum venerit in debita iuris forma admissur{o}

[=The testament of the above-written deceased was proved before the forenamed Commissioners in the Cathedral Church of Saint Paul, London, on the 29th day of the month of June in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 29th by the oath of Elizabeth, relict and executrix named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted by the authority of the forenamed Most Reverend Fathers of all & singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased to the forenamed executrix, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full and faithful inventory on the second day after the feast of Saint Bartholomew the Apostle, and also to render a full and true account, with power reserved to the other executor named in the same testament when he shall have come to be admitted in due form of law.]