

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 28 August 1538 and 12 September 1538 and proved 7 November 1538 of John Worsop, Scrivener of the Court Letter.

CONNECTION TO THE EARLS OF OXFORD

On 31 October 1564 Robert Burbage (d.1575) and the testator's son, Edward Worsop, 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's family background is unknown.

Testator's siblings

The testator mentions 'my sister Emery' in the will below.

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

Testator's first marriage

The testator married firstly a wife named Elizabeth. 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>

The testator's first wife, Elizabeth, was likely the mother of his five daughters:

* **Anne Worsop**, who married William Girlington, by whom she had issue. A William Girlington was admitted to Gray's Inn in 1521. See Foster, Joseph, *The Register of Admissions to Gray's Inn, 1521-1889*, (London: Hansard Publishing Union, Limited, 1889), p. 4 at:

<https://archive.org/details/registerofadmiss00gray/page/2/mode/2up>

* **Elizabeth Worsop**, who married a husband surnamed Thornton, by whom she had issue.

* **Katherine Worsop**, who married William Castell. A William Castell the elder of Glatton in the county of Huntingdon is mentioned in the will of Anthony Wayte (d.1559), TNA PROB 11/42B/271.

* **Audrey Worsop** (d. before 1538), unmarried when her brother-in-law, Richard Thurston, made his will on 26 December 1522. She married Richard Clerke, by whom she had a son, Robert Clerke. James Clark and his brother, Thomas Clarke, are mentioned in the 1584 will of the testator's widow, TNA PROB 11/67/318.

* **Thomasine Worsop** (d.1532?), who married firstly Richard Thurston (d.1522?), only son and heir of Sir John Thurston (d.1520) by his first or second wife, Alice. See TNA REQ 2/1/70, a suit in the Court of Requests brought by Richard Thurston and his wife, Alice. See also the will of Sir John Thurston, TNA PROB 11/20/20; the will of Sir John Thurston's third wife and widow, Elizabeth (nee Tenacre) Wymond Thurston (d.1521), TNA PROB 11/20/149; the will of Richard Thurston, TNA PROB 11/21/8; 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'. By Richard Thurston, Thomasine Worsop 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, and is thus the testator's granddaughter mentioned in the will below:

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

Thomasine Worsop married secondly, as his second wife, Sir Richard Gresham (d.1549), Lord Mayor of London. In the will below, the testator leaves the following bequests:

Item, I give and bequeath to Sir Richard Gresham, knight, a ring of gold of the value of 40s.

And to my Lady, his wife, a ring of gold of the value of 26s 8d.

And to my cousin [=granddaughter], Christian and Elizabeth, his daughters, either of them a ring of the value of 20s.

After the death of Thomas Worsop, Sir Richard Gresham married thirdly Isabel (nee Hosier) Pyke Gresham (d.1565), widow of the London goldsmith, John Pyke (d.1533). Isabel Hosier is thus the Lady Gresham to whom the testator bequeaths a gold ring valued at 26s 8d. 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 Isabel Hosier's first husband, John Pyke, see TNA PROB 11/25/29.

Since the testator refers to Sir Richard Gresham's two daughters, Christian and Elizabeth as his 'cousins', i.e. granddaughters, it appears that the testator's daughter, Thomasine Worsop, 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.

It seems likely that Sir Richard Gresham and his second wife, Thomasine (nee Worsop) Thurston, were married about 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>

If Sir Richard Gresham's second wife, Thomasine, died in 1532, Sir Richard Gresham and his third wife, Isabel Hosier were likely married shortly after the death of Isabel's first husband, John Pyke, in 1533.

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.

Testator's second marriage

The testator married secondly a wife named Lettice (d.1584). It appears she was born Lettice Ireland, since in his will the testator leaves a bequest to his brother-in-law, Thomas Ireland, and refers in his will to 'Joan Ireland, widow, late wife to William Ireland, deceased, and Thomas Ireland, son and heir of the said William'. Moreover in her 1584, the testator's widow leaves a bequest to the children of Thomas Ireland:

Item, I give unto every of the children of Thomas Ireland living at the time of my decease six shillings eight pence apiece, to be paid at their full age of one and twenty years or day of marriage, which shall first happen.

After the testator's death, his widow, Lettice, married, as his second wife, 'Anthony Wayte, gentleman', mentioned in the will below. See the will of Anthony Wayte (d.1559), *supra*, in which he mentions his wife, Lettice, and her son, Edward Worsop. 'Mrs Wayte, widow' is also mentioned in the 1565 will of Isabel (nee Hosier) Pyke Gresham, *supra*, while 'my cousin Wayte of Clapham and his wife' are mentioned in the will of Sir Richard Gresham. See Leveson, Gower, *supra*, p. 75 at

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=9ZQNAAAQAAJ&pg=PA75>

For the Wayte family, see also Hotson, Leslie, *Shakespeare versus Shallow*, (London: The Nonesuch Press, 1931).

For the will of the testator's second wife, Lettice (nee Ireland) Worsop Wayte, see TNA PROB 11/67/318.

By Lettice Ireland, the testator had two sons and a daughter:

* **Edward Worsop** (living 1584), mercer, who married firstly Elizabeth Springham (d.1563?), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/46/198, and secondly a wife named Anne. In his mother's 1584 will he is said to have had five sons and six daughters:

Item, I give and bequeath unto the children of my said son, Edward Worsop, that is to say, to William, John, Martha, Edward, Thomas, Mary, Margaret and Elizabeth and Frances Worsop, to every of them ten pounds apiece;

And I give unto my godchildren, Richard Worsop and Lettice Worsop, two other of the children of my said son, Edward, twenty pounds apiece. . . .

See above for the recognizance Edward Worsop entered into with Robert Burbage (d.1575).

It seems likely Edward Worsop was the author of *A Discoverie of Sundrie Errours and Faults Daily Committed by Landmeaters, Ignorant of Arithmetike and Geometrie* (1582). See Harvey, P.D.A., 'English Estate Maps: Their Early History and Their Use as Historical Evidence', in Buisseret, David, ed., *Rural Images: Estate Maps in the Old and New Worlds*, (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996), pp. 27-62 at p. 31:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=hmCCfBoZGtsC&pg=PA31>

Edward Worsop is left a bequest in the 1558 will, TNA PROB 11/41/4, of the London grocer, Henry Mynge, son-in-law of Anthony Wayte (d.1559).

* **John Worsop** (d.1595), who married Martha Cole (1541-1603?), said to have been the daughter of Thomas Cole (d.1571) and Elizabeth Hargrave. It seems his wife was Martha Cole, daughter of the London grocer, Thomas Cole, whose birth was registered 19 August 1541. See the will of Thomas Cole, TNA PROB 11/53/177, and Bannerman, W. Bruce, ed., *The Registers of St. Mary le Bowe, Cheapside, All Hallows, Honey Lane, and of St. Pancras, Soper Lane, Part I*, (London: Harleian Society, 1914), Vol. XLIV, p. 99 at:

<https://archive.org/details/registerstofstmar44stma/page/98/mode/2up>

For John Worsop's marriage to Martha Cole on 30 September 1566, see Bannerman, *supra*, Part II, (London: Harleian Society, 1915), Vol. XLV, p. 417 at:

<https://archive.org/details/registerstofstmar45stma/page/416/mode/2up>

See also Edwin-Cole, James, *The Genealogy of the Family of Cole*, (London: John Russell Smith, 1867), p. 23 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/genealogyfamily00edwigoog#page/n36/mode/1up>

In his mother's 1584 will, Josn Worsop is said to have been the father of four sons and three daughters:

Item, I give and bequeath unto the children of my said son, John Worsop that is to say, John, Edward, Thomas, Bartholomew, Elizabeth and Martha Worsop, to every of them ten pounds apiece;

And I give unto my god-daughter, Rose Worsop, one other of the children of my said son, John, twenty pounds. . . .

In his own will, TNA PROB 11/85/239, John Worsop mentions only three children, John, Elizabeth and Martha Worsop.

John Worsop is also left a bequest in the will of Henry Mynge, *supra*.

* **Elizabeth Worsop**, unmarried when the testator made his will. It appears she married, as his first wife, the London merchant tailor, John Traves (d.1570), since in his will, TNA PROB 11/52/148, John Traves refers to Edward Worsop and John Worsop as his brothers-in-law.

After the death of Elizabeth Worsop, John Traves married secondly Elizabeth Wayte (d. 26 December 1571), the daughter of Anthony Wayte (d.1559), and widow of the London grocer, Henry Mynge (d.1558). See the will of Anthony Wayte, TNA PROB 11/42B/217, and the will of Henry Mynge, TNA PROB 11/41/4.

See the pdf file on the Mynge family available online at:

<http://www.mingayhistorywebpages.com/JAM%20BOOK%20PDF/Index%20and%20Pages%201%20to%20595.pdf>

See also Travers, S. Smith, *A Collection of Pedigrees of the Family of Travers*, (Oxford: J.H. and J. Parker, 1864), p. 16 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=zpgBAAAAQAAJ&pg=RA1-PP2>

It should be noted that in *A Collection of Pedigrees, supra*, it is erroneously stated that John Traves married firstly Elizabeth Wayte, and secondly Elizabeth Worsop.

In her 1584 will, the testator's widow mentions the children of Elizabeth Worsop and John Traves, including Susan (nee Traves), wife of Robert Dalborne, and her children:

Item, I bequeath unto James Traves, my godson, my cross of gold with a ruby stone in the midst thereof and having unto it one hanging pearl and garnished about with twelve other small pearls. . . .

Item, I bequeath unto Lettice Traves, my god-daughter, one pair of beads of cornelian stones and small beads of gold and garnished with sixteen half crowns. . . .

Item, I give unto Edmund Traves one ring of crown gold with a death's head therein worth thirty-five shillings;

Item, I give unto William Traves one ring of gold with a death's head therein worth thirty shillings;

Item, I give unto Margaret Traves one ring of mine own with a death's head therein worth twenty-two shillings;

Item, I give unto Susan Dalborne one ring of angel gold weighing half an ounce with the fashion;

Item, I give unto Margaret Dalborne, daughter to the said Susan Dalborne, one little flagon-chain of gold worth eighteen shillings;

Item, I give unto Robert Dalborne, my godson, son to the said Susan, one brooch of gold having the story of Solomon and two women with the dead child engraven therein worth thirty shillings.

In his own will, TNA PROB 11/52/148, John Traves (d.1570), mentions his daughters by his two wives, including Alice Traves, who married Otwell Gleidell:

I give to Annys, Joan, John and Elizabeth, my children by my first wife also Alice, now married, and has received her part. . . .

James, Susan, Thomas, Edmund, William, Lettice, Margaret, my children by my now wife. . . .

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

The testator's god-daughter, Mary Gresham, daughter of Sir John Gresham (d.1556), was born 17 August 1523. See Leveson Gower, *supra*, p. 21 at:

Mary Gresham was born the 17 day of August called Octava Sancte Laurencii, Anno Domini xvc xxiii, and my Lady Allen and Mistress King and Mistress Lok, these were her

godmothers, and Mr John Worsop was her godfather. Upon the Monday. And God make her a good old woman.

It should also be noted that 'Mrs Worsop' was godmother to Sir John Gresham's daughter, Ellen Gresham, born 24 May 1533.

Mary Gresham married Sir Thomas Roe (d.1570), Lord Mayor of London in 1568. 'My cousin Thomas Rowe and his wife' are mentioned in the will of Sir John Gresham's brother, Sir Richard Gresham. See Leveson Gower, *supra*, p. 75 at

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=9ZQNAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA75>

See also the *ODNB* entry of Sir Thomas Roe (1581-1644), and the WikiTree profile for Sir John Gresham at:

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Gresham-92>

For Robert Sherborne (c.1453-1536), Bishop of Chichester, see the Wikipedia entry at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Sherborne

For the testator's overseer, the London brewer, Robert Nicholles (d.1548), see his will, TNA PROB 11/32/153.

TESTATOR'S LANDS

For the testator's manor of Clapham, see:

'Parishes: Clapham', in *A History of the County of Surrey: Volume 4*, ed. H E Malden (London, 1912), pp. 36-41. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/surrey/vol4/pp36-41> [accessed 14 November 2020].

Apparently the manor was again alienated within the next thirty years, for in 1461 it was sold by Richard Gower, esq., to George Ireland, an alderman of London, (fn. 47) knighted in 1471, who made a settlement on his wife Margaret. She survived her husband, who died 29 September 1473, (fn. 48) and afterwards married William Fisher, who held the manor for life. His stepson complained that he had sold trees to the value of £160. (fn. 49) William Ireland had possessions in Clapham in 1503 (see Brick Place), but the history of the manor during the next century is somewhat obscure. William Chelsham, a mercer of London, died seised of it in February 1572-3, (fn. 50) and his executors immediately conveyed the manor to John Worsopp. (fn. 51) With the executors was joined Edward Worsopp, (fn. 52) who apparently had been holding the manor ten years, before, (fn. 53) and had possibly mortgaged it to Chelsham. (fn. 54) In 1583 John Worsopp conveyed his rights to Dr. Bartholomew Clarke, Dean of the Court of Arches, (fn. 55)

who was involved in difficulties due apparently to recognizances entered into by Edward Worsopp. (fn. 56) Dr. Clarke held the manor at his death in March 1589–90. (fn. 57)

BRICK PLACE

In 1503 William Ireland, who was then probably lord of Clapham Manor, conveyed a messuage and garden, 33 acres of land, 13 acres of meadow and 200 acres of pasture to Thomas Marowe. This property is called the 'Brick Place' in the inquisition taken at the latter's death in 1505. It descended to his daughter Dorothy, who married Francis Cokeyn, and by a settlement passed to their son Thomas Cokeyn. (fn. 70) He obtained licence in 1580 to convey certain premises consisting of 30 messuages, 30 tofts, 200 acres of land, 40 acres of meadow, 200 acres of pasture and 40s. rent, under the name of the manor of Clapham, to Philip Okeover and Richard Crompton, (fn. 71) probably for the purposes of a settlement. In 1599 William Cockeyn or Cockayne, described as a citizen and merchant of London, died seised of the Brick Place, the Pallet House and the Nether House in Clapham, leaving a son Thomas. (fn. 72)

For the will of Thomas Marowe (d.1505), see TNA PROB 11/14/514.

For William Ireland, son of George Ireland (d. 29 September 1473) and his wife, Margaret, who later married William Fisher, see TNA C 1/209/41.

LM: T{estamentum} Iohannis Worsopp

In the name of God, Amen. I, John Worsop of London, Scrivener of the Court Letter, the 28th day of August in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred 38th and in the thirty year of the reign of King Henry the 8th, being whole of mind and in good memory, laud and praise be unto Almighty God, make, ordain and dispose this my present testament and last will concerning my goods movable and unmovable in manner and form following:

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

And my body in honest manner to be buried within the parish church of Saint Vedast in London wherein I am a parishioner without pomp or pride by the discretion of mine executrice or overseers hereunder named;

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

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

Whereof I give and bequeath one part to Lettice, my wife;

And one other part I give and bequeath unto Edward and John, my sons, and Elizabeth, my youngest daughter, to be delivered to them at their lawful age or marriage;

And if it fortune the said Edward, John or Elizabeth to decease before they shall come to their said lawful age or marriage, which God defend, then I will that the part and portion of him or her so deceased shall wholly remain to the survivor of them, egally between the same survivors to be divided;

And if it fortune the said Edward, John and Elizabeth to decease before that they shall come to their lawful age or marriage, which God defend, then I will that my legacy and bequest to them by me above bequeathed shall be distributed and disposed between my daughters, Anne Girlington, Elizabeth Thornton and Katherine Castell, egally between them three to be divided;

And the third part of my said goods, chattels, jewels, plate and ready money to be reserved, I will shall be distributed and given in manner and form following, that is to say:

First I give and bequeath to the high altar of the said parish church of Saint Vedast for my tithes forgotten or negligently withholden in discharging of my soul 3s 4d;

Item, I give and bequeath to the reparations and amending of the ornaments of the same church 40s;

Item, I give and bequeath unto William Girlington and Anne, his wife, to the comfort of them and their children £20 sterling;

And to the said Elizabeth Thornton to the comfort of her and her children other £20 sterling, to be paid to the said William, Anne and Elizabeth in manner and form following, that is to say:

To the said William Girlington and Anne, his wife, before the feast of the Birth of Our Lord God next coming after the date hereof ten marks sterling, and to the said Elizabeth other ten marks sterling, and so every year yearly during the term of two years then next ensuing to the said William and Anne 10 marks sterling, and to the said Elizabeth other ten marks sterling, upon condition hereafter ensuing, that is to say, that if the said William Girlington or Anne, his wife, or any of them on their party, or the said Elizabeth Thornton on her party or any other person or persons for them or in the name of any of them do perturb, vex or sue mine executrice or administrators or their executors or administrators or any of them of and for any part or portion of my goods movable and unmovable by reason of the custom of the city of London, that then I will that my foresaid legacy and bequest to him or them so doing shall be utterly void and of none

effect forasmuch as I have given and departed with either of the said Anne and Elizabeth heretofore in marriage forty pounds sterling;

Item, I give and bequeath to William Castell and Katherine, his wife, ten pounds sterling, to the which said William I gave in marriage with the said Katherine £100 sterling, her wedding dinner, apparel, jewels and other charges to [+the?] sum of £20 and above;

Item, I give and bequeath to Robert Clerke, the son of Richard Clerke and of Audrey, my daughter, his late wife, whose soul Jesu pardon, £10 sterling to be paid and delivered unto him at his full age of 21 years;

And if it fortune the said Robert to decease before his said full age of 21 years, which God defend, then an [sic] give and bequeath the same legacy and bequest of ten pounds to him made and given unto the children of the foresaid William Castell egally among them to be divided and paid as they shall come to their lawful age or marriage, and if any of them decease, egally to be divided among the survivors of them;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my Company of Scriveners ten marks sterling yearly to be paid unto them, 13s 4d;

Item, I give and bequeath to the Fraternity of Jesus founded in the crowds [=crypt] of the Cathedral Church of Saint Paul in London if the same Fraternity do continue, 40s sterling;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my sister Emery a black gown;

Item, I give and bequeath to my cousin Dilacre [=Dykar?] and his wife, either of them a black gown;

Item, I give and bequeath to my mother-in-law a black gown;

Item, I give and bequeath to Thomas Ireland, my brother-in-law, a black gown;

Item, I give and bequeath to Thomas Pierson, my servant, my tawny satin doublet with sleeves of black velvet and my best say jacket;

Item, I give and bequeath to Isabel Clerke, my wife's sister-in-law, and to her husband, either of them a black gown;

Item, I give and bequeath to Geoffrey Tooly, my servant and apprentice, 40s sterling;

Item, I give and bequeath to John Hopkyns, my servant and apprentice, 40s sterling, to be paid to the same John at th' end and term of his years of apprenticeshood;

Item, I will that the said Geoffrey and John shall have all my precedent books and all other my books necessary to mine occupation if the same Geoffrey and John do continue

at the same occupation in London, and to be given unto them by the discretion of Anthony Wayte, gentleman;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Alice Prynce 40s sterling, to be paid to the same Alice at the day of her marriage;

Item, I give and bequeath to Joan Warner 13s 4d over and above her wages;

Item, I give and bequeath to Bennett Burdon 13s 4d over and besides her wages;

Item, I give and bequeath to Sybil Gardyner 20s sterling to be paid to the same Sybil at the day of her marriage;

Item, I give and bequeath to Father Tompson and his wife to pray for my soul 6s 8d;

Item, I give and bequeath to every poor householder of Clapham 2s;

The residue of my foresaid part and portion to me reserved as is aforesaid unbequeathed I wholly give and bequeath to the foresaid Lettice, my wife, towards the fulfilling of my legacies and bequests above-named, which said Lettice I make and ordain mine sole executrice of this my present will and testament;

And Sir John Gresham, knight, the foresaid Anthony Wayte and Robert Nicolles, citizen and brewer of London, supervisors and overseers of the same;

Item, I give and bequeath to every of them a ring of gold of the value of 40s;

Item, I give and bequeath to Sir Richard Gresham, knight, a ring of gold of the value of 40s;

And to my Lady, his wife, a ring of gold of the value of 26s 8d;

And to my cousin [=grand-daughters?], Christian and Elizabeth, his daughters, either of them a ring of the value of 20s;

Item, I give and bequeath to my god-daughter, Mary Gresham, daughter to the said Sir John Gresham, a ring of the value of 20s;

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

In witness whereof to this my present will and testament I, the foresaid John Worsop, have set to my seal the day and year above-written.

Item, I give and bequeath to every of the children of the foresaid Elizabeth Thornton 6s 8d. Per me Iohannem Worsopp.

Vlti{m}a voluntas eiusd{em} Iohannis

This is the testament and last will of me, John Worsop, citizen and Scrivener of Court Letter of London, made the 12th day of September in the year of Our Lord God 1538 and in the thirty year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Henry the Eight, as well to the disposition of all that my messuage or tenement called The Windmill with shops, cellars, sollars, stables and appurtenances set and lying in the parishes of Saint Olave in th' Old Jewry of London and Saint Stephen in Coleman Street of the same city as to the disposition of all other my messuages, lands and tenements which I hold for term of years within the same city and in the county of Surrey or elsewhere within the realm of England, that is to say:

I give and bequeath unto Lettice, my wife, the said messuage or tenement called The Windmill with th' appurtenances, to have and to hold the said messuage or tenement with th' appurtenances to the said Lettice and to her assigns during the natural life of the same Lettice upon condition that she shall sufficiently maintain and repair the said messuage or tenement with th' appurtenances during her said natural life, and also that the same Lettice shall truly content and pay all and singular my legacies and bequests contained and specified in my testament bearing date the 28th day of August last past before the date hereof;

And after the decease of the said Lettice, my wife, I give and bequeath the foresaid messuage or tenement called The Windmill to John Worsop, my son, and to th' heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue the remainder thereof to Edward Worsop and to th' heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue, I will that the said messuage or tenement with th' appurtenances shall remain to Elizabeth, my youngest daughter, for term of her life;

And after the decease of the same Elizabeth, I will that the foresaid messuage or tenement shall remain unto Anne Girlington, Elizabeth Thornton and Katherine Castell for term of their lives and every of them lengest living;

And [f. 178r] after the decease of the said Anne, Elizabeth and Katherine, I will that the said messuage or tenement called The Windmill with the appurtenances shall be aliened and sold by Sir John Gresham, knight, Anthony Wayte, gentleman, and Robert Nicolles, citizen and brewer of London, or by their executors or the lengest liver of them to the most profit and advantage that they can, and the money coming of the sale [-of] thereof I will shall be distributed, given and disposed among the children of the said Anne, Elizabeth and Katherine, and Robert Clerke, son of Audrey, my daughter, by the discretion of the said Sir John, Anthony and Robert or the survivors of them;

And whereas Joan Ireland, widow, late wife to William Ireland, deceased, and Thomas Ireland, son and heir of the said William, have of the gift and grant of the Reverend Father in God Robert, late Bishop of Chichester, and of other the manor of Clapham with th' appurtenances in the county of Surrey and all manner of lands, tenements, meadows, leasows, pastures, woods, underwoods, suits of court, heriots, waifs, strays, reliefs, escheats and all other commodities, profits and advantages to the said manor appertaining or in any wise belonging, to have and to hold the said manor, lands and tenements and all other the premises with th' appurtenances to the said Joan and Thomas and to their assigns during the natural lives of the same Joan and Thomas and either of them lengest living, the remainder thereof after the decease of the same Joan and Thomas to me, the foresaid John Worsop, and to th' heirs male of the bodies of me, the same John, and Lettice, my wife, between us lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue the remainder thereof to me, the said John Worsop, and mine heirs forever, as by a deed indented thereof made more plainly showeth;

And after such estate so had and made to the said Joan and Thomas, the same Joan and Thomas by their indenture demised, granted and to farm did let unto me, the said John Worsop, the foresaid manor, lands, tenements, meadows, pastures, woods and underwoods and other the premises with th' appurtenances, to have and to hold the said manor, lands, tenements and other the premises with th' appurtenances to me, the said John, to mine executors and assigns, from the day of the date of these indentures unto th' end and term of 60 years then next ensuing and fully to be complete, yielding and paying therefore yearly to the said Joan and to her assigns during her said natural life ten pounds sterling at two terms of the year, that is to say, the last day of March and the last day of September by even portions, and also yielding and paying therefore yearly to the said Thomas and his assigns during his said natural life £4 sterling at the foresaid two terms by even portions, with divers other commodities, grants and clauses contained and specified in the said indentures, as in the same indentures thereof made more plainly may appear;

Know ye me, the said John Worsop, for divers causes me moving and to th' intent that Lettice, my wife, shall be more loving to her children and mine and honestly to set them forth as they shall come to their age, have given and granted and by these presents do fully and clearly give and grant unto the said Lettice, my wife, all mine estate and term of years which I have for to come of and in the said manor, lands, tenements, meadows, leasows and pastures and other the premises with th' appurtenances by virtue of the said lease and grant made by the said Joan and Thomas to me, the foresaid John Worsop, except and alway reserved to me, the same John, and to mine assigns all the woods and underwoods standing and growing in and upon the said manor or any part thereof, the said Lettice and her assigns yielding, doing and paying all and every thing which I, the said John Worsop, am bound to do by virtue of the foresaid lease and grant;

All the which said woods and underwoods belonging to the said manor I will at th' end and term of 6 years next ensuing my decease shall be aliened and sold by the discretion of the said Sir John, Anthony and Robert or the survivors of them to the most profit and advantage that they can, and the buyers of the same and their assigns to have free ingress

and regress in and to the said woods and underwoods to fell, cut down and carry away the same woods and underwoods at all times leeful and seasonable;

And all such sums of money coming and growing of the sale of the said woods and underwoods I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth, my youngest daughter, and will that the said Sir John, Anthony and Robert or the survivors of them, as soon as they have received the money for and upon the sale of the woods and underwoods aforesaid, to deliver the same unto the hands and safe custody of the said Lettice, my wife, so be the said Lettice, my wife, will find unto the said Sir John, Anthony and Robert or the survivors of them such sufficient caution and surety as by the said Sir John, Anthony and Robert or the survivors of them shall be reasonably required in that behalf well and truly to deliver, content and pay the said money coming and growing of the sale of the woods and underwoods aforesaid to the said Elizabeth, my youngest daughter, the day of the marriage of the same Elizabeth;

And if the said Elizabeth do not marry before she come of the full age of 21 years, then I will that Lettice, my wife, do content and pay the same money coming and growing of and upon the said sale of the woods and underwoods above rehearsed to the said Elizabeth, my daughter, at her said full age of 21 years without any further tract or delay in that behalf;

And if so be the said Lettice, my wife, do refuse to give sufficient caution or surety unto the said Sir John, Anthony or Robert or the survivors of them for the true contentation and payment of the said money to be made in manner and form as is above rehearsed, then I will that the said Sir John, Anthony and Robert or the survivors of them do deliver, content and pay the said money coming and growing of and upon the sale of the woods and underwoods abovesaid unto the said Elizabeth, my daughter, the day of her marriage;

And if so be the said Elizabeth, my daughter, do not marry before she come to th' age of 21 years, then I will that the said Sir John, Anthony and Robert or the survivors of them do content and pay the same money unto the said Elizabeth at her said full age of 21 years without further tract or delay;

And if it fortune the said Elizabeth to decease before that she shall come to her said lawful age or marriage, which God defend, then I give and bequeath all the foresaid sums of money which shall come and grow of the sale of the said woods and underwoods to Edward and John, my sons, egally to be divided between them and to be paid and delivered unto them at their said lawful age of 21 years;

And if it fortune the said Edward or John to decease before that they shall come to their said lawful age of 21 years, which good [=God?] defend, then I will that all the foresaid sums of money which shall come and grow of the foresaid sale of the said woods and underwoods shall wholly remain to the survivor of them;

And if it fortune both the said Edward and John to decease before that they shall come to their said lawful age of 21 years, then I give and bequeath all the foresaid sums of money

which shall come and grow of the foresaid sale of the said woods and underwoods to Lettice, my wife, she therewith to do her free will and pleasure;

And if it fortune the said Lettice, my wife, to decease before that the said Elizabeth, Edward and John shall come to their lawful age of 21 years, then I will that all the foresaid sums of money coming and growing of the said sale of the foresaid woods and underwoods shall be distributed and given by the discretion of the foresaid Sir John, Anthony and Robert or the survivors of them amongst Anne Girlington, Elizabeth Thornton and Katherine Castell and amongst their children, and to Robert Clerke, son of Audrey, my daughter;

Provided alway that my will is that the said Lettice, my wife, shall have and take in and upon the said manor, woods and underwoods sufficient firebote, ploughbote and cart-bote during the foresaid lease;

Also I give and bequeath unto the said Lettice, my wife, all other my messuages, lands and tenements lying within the said city of London which I hold for term of years, and all my right, title and interest which I have to come of and in the same;

In witness whereof I, the foresaid John Worsop, have set to my seal the day and year above-written. Per me Iohannem Worsopp. Witnesses: Robert Trappys, Edmund Shaa, Thomas Edgar and Robert Spendley. Per me Robert Trappys. Per me Edmund Shawe.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum coram Domino apud London auc{torita}te d{omi}ni n{ost}ri Reg{is} Septimo die mensis Nouembris anno Domini Mill{es}imo Quingentesimo tricesimo octauo Iuramento Leticie Relicte et executricis in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}at{e} Ac approbatum et Insinuatum Com{m}issaq{ue} fuit admi{n}istracio o{mn}iu{m} et singulorum bonorum Iurium et creditor{um} dict{um} defunctum et h{uius}mo{d}i suum testamentum quali{te}rcunq{ue} concernen{tium} prefate Leticie executric{is} memorat{e}(?) De bene et fideli{te}r admi{n}strand{o} ead{em} Ac de pleno et fideli Inuentario o{mn}iu{m} et singulorum bonoru{m} iuriu{m} et creditorum h{uius}mo{d}i conficiend{o} Necnon de plano et vero Compoto calculo siue racionio in hac parte reddend{o} Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia in debita iur{is} forma Iurat{e}

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord at London by the authority of our Lord the King on the seventh day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred thirty-eighth by the oath of Lettice, relict and executrix named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits whatsoever concerning the said deceased and his same testament to the forenamed Lettice, executrix remembered(?), sworn on the Holy Gospels in due form of law 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 also to render a plain and true account, calculation or reckoning in that behalf.]