

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 23 November 1536 and proved 24 April 1537, of Robert Pakington (1489-1536). The testator was murdered on the morning of Monday 13 November 1536 while crossing Cheapside on his way to early Mass at the Mercers' chapel of St Thomas of Acre. He was the brother of Sir John Pakington (d. 21 August 1551), Humphrey Pakington (1502-1556), and Augustine Pakington, and great-uncle of Humphrey Martyn, the addressee of the *Langham Letter* describing Leicester's entertainment of Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth in the summer of 1575.

### ***FAMILY BACKGROUND***

For the Pakington family, see the pedigree in Phillimore, W.P.W., ed., *The Visitation of the County of Worcester Made in the Year 1569*, (London: Harleian Society, 1888), Vol. XXVII, p. 102 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ECoeEAAAIAAJ&pg=PA102>

See also 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>

See also Betham, William, *The Baronetage of England*, Vol. I, (Ipswich: Burrell and Bransby, 1801), pp. 185-9 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=LlQOAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA185>

See also the pedigree of Pakington of Harvington Hall in Hussey, Christopher, *Harvington Hall Near Kidderminster Worcestershire*, (Exeter: Catholic Records Press, 1981), p. 31.

See also 'The Pakington Family' at:

<http://www.dodderhillhistory.org.uk/dodderhill-parish-survey-project-people-histories-of-local-families-pakington.php>

*The origins of the family are not known for certain, but they probably originated in either the village of Pakington in Leicestershire or the one in Warwickshire, although the name of the family was always spelt 'Pakington' later. But it is known that a John Pakington from Brailes near Shipston on Stour came to Worcestershire when he married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Thomas Washbourne of Stanford, in about 1375. A descendent, another John, married Margaret Bulfynch of Astley in about 1475, and this marked the beginning of the modern family.*

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*John and Margaret had four sons, who were all based in London.*

### ***Testator's parents***

According to the source quoted above, the testator was the son of John Pakington and Margaret Bulfynch. See also the pedigree in Hussey, *supra*, and TNA C 1/58/287, a Chancery suit dating from 1475-1485 brought by John Pakenton and Margaret, his wife, against John Wyeth, gentleman, and Hugh Bulfynch, feoffees to uses, concerning lands in Astley, Shraley and Rok, and two bullaries in Droitwich, Worcestershire.

It thus appears that the pedigree in Phillimore, *supra*, is in error in stating that the testator's mother was Elizabeth Washbourne, the daughter and heiress of Thomas Washbourne, second son of Norman Washbourne and Elizabeth Kinaston. The marriage of John Pakington and Elizabeth Washbourne appears to belong to an earlier generation.

In addition, the pedigree in Phillimore appears to be in error in stating that the testator's great-grandmother was Elizabeth Kinaston, the daughter of Henry Kinaston. According to Richardson, Norman Washbourne's wife was Elizabeth Kniveton, the daughter of Henry Kniveton of Bradley, Derbyshire. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. IV, p. 199; and Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2011, Vol. III, p. 548.

For the Washbourne family, see also the will, TNA PROB 11/27/144, of Elizabeth (nee Scrope) Beaumont de Vere (d.1537), Countess of Oxford, second wife of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford, whose parents were Richard Scrope (d.1485), esquire, and Eleanor Washbourne (d.1505/6), the daughter of Norman Washbourne (1433-1482), esquire, and Elizabeth Kniveton. For the will of Eleanor Washbourne (d.1505/6), see TNA PROB 11/15/3.

For the Washbourne family, see also Peach, R.E.M., ed., *The Washbourne Family*, (Gloucester: John Bellows, 1896), pp. 13, 19, 34-5, at:

<https://archive.org/details/washbournefamily00peac/page/n39>

### ***Testator's siblings***

The testator had three brothers and three sisters:

#### **-Augustine Pakington.**

**-Sir John Pakington** (c.1477 – 21 August 1551), for whom see the *ODNB* entry; the Wikipedia entry edited by the author of this website; and his will, TNA PROB 11/34/431. He appears to have married firstly Anne Rolle, by whom he had two daughters, Bridget Pakington, who married Sir John Littleton (d.1590) of Frankley, for whose will see TNA

PROB 11/75/268, and Ursula Pakington (d.1558), who married William Scudamore (d.1560), for whom see the *ODNB* entry for the Scudamore family. Sir John Pakington married secondly Anne Dacre (d. 22 August 1563), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/47/103.

**-Humphrey Pakington** (1502-1556), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/38/212. He married Elizabeth Harding (d. 28 September 1563), the daughter of Robert Harding (d.1515) of Cranleigh, Chelsham and Knowle, citizen and goldsmith of London. For the will of Elizabeth (nee Harding) Pakington, see TNA PROB 11/46/444.

**-Joyce Pakington**, who married firstly William Blount of Wadeley and Glazeley, Shropshire. See Howard, Joseph Jackson and George John Armytage, eds., *The Visitation of London in the Year 1568*, (London: Harleian Society, 1869), Vol. I, p. 28 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=Wt4KAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA28>

See also May, Leonard Morgan, *Charlton: Near Woolwich Kent*, (London: Charles North, 1908), p. 10 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/charltonnearwool00mayl#page/10/mode/2up/>

Joyce Pakington married secondly John Corbet of Leigh, whose first wife was Margaret Blount (daughter of Sir Thomas Blount), whose niece, Elizabeth Blount (c.1500–1539x41), was the mistress of King Henry VIII and the mother of the King's illegitimate son, Henry Fitzroy (1519-1536). See the pedigree of Corbet of Leigh in Grazebrook, George and John Paul Rylands, eds., *The Visitation of Shropshire*, Part I, (London: Harleian Society, 1889), Vol. XXVIII, p. 142 at:

<https://archive.org/details/visitationshrop00britgoog/page/n196>

**-Eleanor Pakington** who according to the Pakington pedigree in Metcalfe, *supra*, married a husband surnamed Gravenor, of Shropshire. In the will below the testator leaves a bequest to 'my sister, Eleanor Gravenor'. The testator's brother, Humphrey Pakington, leaves a bequest to 'my cousin, Nicholas Grasbenor [=Gravenor?] of Whittymere [=Whittemere]'. It thus appears that Eleanor Pakington married Rowland Gravenor or Grosvenor, who died at Bridgnorth in 1522, and whose will was proved by his widow and executrix, Eleanor, in that year. See 'Grosvenor, or Gravenor, of High Gravenor, Dallicott, Heathton, Bushbury, Bridgnorth, Etc.' in Nichols, John Gough, ed., *The Herald and Genealogist*, (London: J.G. Nichols and R.C. Nichols, 1870), Vol. V, pp. 33-50 at p. 47:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=hjE9AQAAIAAJ&pg=PA47>

**-Margery Pakington**, who married a husband surnamed Neve, of Essex. For the Neave pedigree, see *The Visitations of Essex, Part II*, (London: Harleian Society, 1879), Vol. XIV, p. 683 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofesse00esse#page/682/mode/2up>

The testator is referred to as ‘cousin’ in the will, dated 12 December 1531, of the mercer Thomas Crispe. See Crisp, Frederick Arthur, *Collections Relating to the Family of Crispe*, Vol. I, 1882, p. 2 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/collectionsrelat01cris#page/2/mode/2up>

*I will by this my present testament that my cousin Robert Pakington, mercer, immediately after my decease shall have the rule, custody and governance and keeping of my said children as my said wife, Walter Marshe, and he can thereunto agree and conclude togethers.*

For the testator, see also the *ODNB* entry, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/pakington-robert-1489-1536>

## ***MARRIAGES AND ISSUE***

### ***First marriage***

The testator married firstly Agnes Baldwin, the daughter of Sir John Baldwin (d.1545), Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/30/580.

By Agnes Baldwin, the testator had two sons and three daughters:

\* **Sir Thomas Pakington** (d. 2 June 1571), who married Dorothy Kitson (1531 – 2 May 1577), the daughter of Sir Thomas Kitson (d. 11 September 1540) of Hengrave by his second wife, Margaret Donnington (1510 – 20 December 1561), later Countess of Bath, the only child of John Donnington (d.1544) of Stoke Newington. See the will of Sir Thomas Kitson, TNA PROB 11/29/2.

After the death of Sir Thomas Pakington, Dorothy Kitson married secondly Sir Thomas Tasburgh (c.1554-1602), for whom see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/tasburgh-thomas-1554-1602>

Dorothy Kitson’s sister, Katherine Kitson, married Sir John Spencer (d.1586), by whom she had four sons and eight daughters, including Alice Spencer (1559–1637), Countess of Derby, for whom see the *ODNB* entry. See also Collins, Arthur, *The Peerage of England*, Vol. II, Part I, (London: R. Gosling and T. Wotton, 1735), p. 229 at:

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<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ITw-AAAACAAJ&pg=PA229>

\* **John Pakington**, of whom nothing further is known.

\* **Elizabeth Pakington**, who married firstly John Lane (died 12 September 1557) of Walgrave, Northamptonshire, and secondly Sir Richard Malory, Alderman of London and Lord Mayor in 1564.

\* **Anne Pakington**, who married Richard Cupper, esquire, of Glympton, Oxfordshire.

\* **Margaret Pakington**, who married firstly Benedict Lee (d.1559), esquire, of Burston, Buckinghamshire, henchman to King Henry VIII. Benedict Lee was the son of Sir Robert Lee (d.1539) by his second wife, Lettice Peniston (d.1557), and the half brother of Sir Anthony Lee (d.1549), a son of Sir Robert Lee by his first wife, a member of the Cope family. Sir Anthony Lee (d.1549) was the father of Queen Elizabeth I's Champion, Sir Henry Lee (d.1611). After the death of Benedict Lee, Margaret Pakington married secondly Thomas Scott, esquire, of Yorkshire. See Chambers, E.K., *Sir Henry Lee; An Elizabethan Portrait*, (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1936), pp. 28, 247-8.

### ***Second marriage***

The testator married secondly Katherine Dallam (d.1563?), the daughter of Thomas Dallam, Warden of the Company of Skinners in 1497, by whom he had no issue. Katherine Dallam was the widow of Richard Collier (d.1533), for whom see the *ODNB* entry; his will, TNA PROB 11/24/111; and Sutton, Anne F., *The Mercery of London*, (Aldershot, Hampshire: Ashgate Publishing Company, 2005), pp. 366-7, 528-9.

By her first marriage, Katherine Dallam had a son and a daughter, both mentioned in the will below:

**-George Collier.**

**-Dorothy Collier.**

Three years after the testator's death, on 21 August 1539, Katherine married the wealthy mercer and Lord Mayor of London, Sir Michael Dormer (d. 20 September 1545), also mentioned in the will below. For the will of Katherine Dallam Collier Pakington Dormer, see TNA PROB 11/46/47. For the will of Sir Michael Dormer, see TNA PROB 11/30/546. For Richard Collier (d.1533) and his children, see the *ODNB* entry.

For the will of the testator's eldest son and heir, Sir Thomas Pakington (d.1571), see TNA PROB 11/53/397.

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

For the testator's sister-in-law, Parnell Baldwin (d.1527), the daughter of Sir John Baldwin (d.1545), Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, see the latter's will, TNA PROB 11/30/580. For her husband, Edward Borlase (d.1544), see his will, TNA PROB 11/30/136.

For Joan North Wilkinson (d.1556) and her husband, William Wilkinson (1481-1543), to whom the testator bequeaths rings in the will below, see her will, TNA PROB 11/42B/326, the *ODNB* entry, and Sutton, Anne F., *The Mercery of London: Trade, Goods and People, 1130-1578*, (Aldershot, Hampshire: Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2005), pp. 392-4.

See also the entry for Joan North Wilkinson at:

[http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page\\_id=697](http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=697)

Katherine Hall, to whom the testator bequeaths a ring in the will below, was the mother of the lawyer and historian, Edward Hall (1497–1547), author of Hall's *Chronicle*, a major source of Shakespeare's English history plays. For her will, proved 18 August 1557, see TNA PROB 11/39/329. See also the *ODNB* entry for Edward Hall.

LM: Testamentum Ro{berti} Pakyngton

In the name of God, Amen. The 23<sup>rd</sup> day of November anno Domini 1535, I, Robert Pakington, mercer of London, being in perfect mind, thanks be to God, make this my last will and testament:

First, I bequeath my soul to Almighty God that created it, trusting to him only by the merits of Jesus Christ the salvation of my soul, and my body to be buried where it shall please God;

And of this my last will I make mine executors my well beloved brother, Humphrey Pakington, and my well-beloved wife, Katherine, and overseers of the same my brother, John Pakington, and my father-in-law, my Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, Sir John Baldwin, knight, to the which 4 aforesaid I remit my little children as their own, trusting that they will be good to them;

Item, afore all things I charge mine executors to see all my debts paid that can be proved by writing or record;

Item, where that my late brother, Augustine, hath by his last will made me his executor, I charge my said brother, Humphrey, to see it fulfilled in all points according to the same;

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Item, I bequeath to my brother, Humphrey, £20 sterling, and I will that he shall have the portions of my children in his hands till they come to their ages according to the custom of the City of London, he putting in sureties for the same, and he to pay for the finding of them, not minishing no part of their portions;

Item, I bequeath to my well beloved wife all the profits of my lands till the heir or heirs of the same come to their full age or ages;

Item, I bequeath to my brother, John Pakington, ten pounds sterling, praying him to be good uncle and father to my little children, and specially to see them have their learning;

Item, I bequeath to my father-in-law, Lord Baldwin, ten pounds sterling, praying him to be good grandfather to my said little children as his own;

Item, I bequeath to William Baldwin, my brother-in-law, five pounds sterling;

Item, I bequeath to William Dormer, the son of Sir Robert Dormer, £5 sterling;

Item, I bequeath to Thomas Blount, mine apprentice, £20;

Item, I bequeath to William Lincoln, my servant, £10;

Item, I bequeath to William Leeds, mine apprentice, £20 sterling, and my daughter Bess if they can agree;

Item, I bequeath to each of my other apprentices £5 apiece;

Item, I bequeath to Joan Saynton, my servant, £20 in full payment of her wages;

Item, I bequeath to my sister, Eleanor Gravener, £10;

Item, I bequeath to be given to poor people in the parish of Stanford where I was born £10, and in like wise £10 to the poor people in the parish of Nynd where my father did dwell;

Item, I bequeath to the poor people in the parish of Saint Pancras £20, to be given in 4 years by the discretion of mine executors to householders;

Item, I bequeath to the marriages of poor maidens £20 by 10s apiece;

Item, I bequeath to my brother [=brother-in-law] Borlase a ring, price 40s;

Item, I bequeath to th' executors of Robert Crysald for the discharge of my conscience £33 sterling;

Item, I bequeath to William Baker, sometime haberdasher of London, £5 sterling;

Item, I bequeath to the executors of John Condlyns for misreckoning 30s sterling;

Item, I bequeath to the Company of the Mercery to make them a dinner £10 sterling;

Item, I bequeath to every one of these hereafter following a ring, price 40s, that is to say, to Thomas Merbery, Nicholas Statham, William Smyth, Sir Robert Dormer, Mr Michael Dormer, Bess Ramsay, my sister John's wife [sic?], my brother Humphrey's wife, my sister Neve, my sister [=sister-in-law] Borlase, Mistress Statham, Mrs Wilkinson, Mrs Hall, Mr Wilkinson, Doctor Crome, Mrs Mylls, Bess Mylls, Ellyn with(?) Mistress Mylls, £4(?), John Skinner, mercer;

All the rest of my part of the goods I do clearly give them to my children, saving to George Collier £10, and to Dorothy Collier £30;

And I charge mine executors to see this my last will fulfilled in all points;

In witness whereof I, the said Robert Pakington, to this my last will have set my seal the day and year abovesaid. Per me, Robert Pakington, mercer.

Probatum fuit supra scriptum testame{n}tum coram d{omi}no Apud Lambith xxiiij die Mensis Aprilis Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo Quingentesimo Tricesimo septimo Iuramento Katherine [-Katherine] Relicte et Humfridi Pakington executorum in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}ator{um} Ac approbatum et insinuatam Commissa{ue} fuit admi{n}istracio o{mn}i{u}m et singuloru{m} bonorum et creditor{um} d{i}c{t}i defuncti prefatis executorib{us} De bene et fideli{te}r admi{n}istrand{o} eadem Ac de pleno et fideli Inue{n}tario o{mn}i{u}m et singulorum bonoru{m} iuriu{m} et creditoru{m} h{uius}mo{d}i co{n}ficiend{o} Necno{n} de plano et vero compoto reddend{o} ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia iurat{is}

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord [+Archbishop] at Lambeth on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of the month of April in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred thirty-seventh by the oath of Katherine, relict, and Humphrey Pakington, executors named in the same testament, and probated and registered, and administration was granted of all and singular the goods and credits of the said deceased to the forenamed executors, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to prepare a full and true inventory of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the same, and also to render a plain and true account.]