

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 6 December 1549 and proved 2 May 1551, of Richard Eden (d.1551?), Archdeacon of Middlesex, uncle of the translator, Richard Eden (c.1516-1576), whose sister-in-law married Oxford's kinsman, Sir Griffith Don (c.1487 - 18 January 1543).

It seems likely that the following bequest in the will below was to the testator's nephew, the translator, Richard Eden (c.1516-1576):

*Item, I remit and forgive unto Richard Eden the hundred pounds which he hath already received and had of me.*

For an original spelling transcript of the testator's will, see Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., *The Visitation of Suffolke, Vol. I*, (Lowestoft: Samuel Tymms, 1866), pp. 6-7 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ExI2AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA6>

### ***FAMILY BACKGROUND***

The testator states in the will below that he was born in Bury St Edmunds. Nothing is known of his parents apart from pedigrees which state that his father was 'Thomas Eden of the North'. See the Eden pedigree in Sperling, C.F.D., *A Short History of the Borough of Sudbury in the County of Suffolk*, (Sudbury: B.R. Marten, 1896), p. 208 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/shorthistoryofbo00sper#page/n249/mode/2up>

See also the Eden pedigree in Howard, *supra*, p. 18 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ExI2AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA18>

The testator had two siblings:

**-Henry Eden** (d.518), father of the translator, Richard Eden (c.1516-1576). For his will, dated 28 July 1518 and proved 9 December 1518, see TNA PROB 11/19/176.

Henry Eden married firstly, Mary Olney, by whom he was the father of the testator's executor, Thomas Eden (c.1502-1568), esquire, Clerk of the Star Chamber, for whose will, dated 1 October 1565 and proved 2 December 1568, see TNA PROB 11/50/383.

Henry Eden married secondly a wife named Elizabeth whose surname is unknown by whom he was the father of the translator, Richard Eden (c.1516-1576). After the death of Henry Eden, Elizabeth married Oxford's kinsman, Sir Griffith Don (c.1487 - 18 January 1543). See a Chancery suit, TNA C 1/625/13, brought by Sir Griffith Don against the testator in the period 1529-1532 concerning property which the testator claimed was the inheritance of his nephew, Richard Eden. See also the will of Sir Griffith Don, TNA

PROB 11/30/109, the inquisition post mortem taken after his death, TNA C 142/69/79, and *The Edward de Vere Newsletter*, No. 47, on this website.

**-Rose Eden** (living 1548), who married firstly George Ashby, for whose will, dated 13 March 1515 and proved 18 September 1515, see TNA PROB 11/18/196, and secondly Nicholas Bone (d.1522?). She is mentioned in the testator's will below as 'my sister Bone'. For the monumental brass of Nicholas Bone, see:

<http://www.mbs-brasses.co.uk/Brass%20of%20the%20month%20Nov%202017.html>

Thomas Ashby (d.1559) mentioned in the will below was the eldest son and heir of Rose Eden and George Ashby. He was Clerk of the Spicery to Queen Elizabeth. See 'Ashby of Breakspears' at:

<http://landedfamilies.blogspot.com/2016/01/202-ashby-of-breakspears.html>

### **TESTATOR'S CAREER**

For the testator's career, see Venn, John and J.A. Venn, eds., *Alumni Cantabrigienses*, Vol. I, Part 2, digital ed., (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011), p. 84 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=b3qyL7IWIPQC&pg=PA84>

See also Haslewood, Francis, 'Rectors of Great Waldingfield', *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and Natural History*, Vol. IX, 1897, pp. 94-101 at p. 95:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=Bcs4AQAAMAAJ&pg=RA2-PA94>

See also Sperling, *supra*, p. 209.

For the testator as rector of Dickleburgh, Norfolk, see:

Francis Blomefield, 'Hundred of Diss: Dickleburgh', in *An Essay Towards A Topographical History of the County of Norfolk: Volume 1* (London, 1805), pp. 191-205. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/topographical-hist-norfolk/vol1/pp191-205> [accessed 20 June 2018].

1531, 24 Dec. Rich. Eden, doctor of the decrees. *The King, by grant from the Abbot.*  
1551, 4 Aug. Tho. Cardon, A. M. on Eden's death. *Tho. Godsalue of Norwich, Esq.*

It seems likely that the testator (rather than his nephew, as stated by Badham) was the Richard Eden who was tutor and secretary to Henry VIII (1491-1547). See Badham, Charles, *The History and Antiquities of All Saints Church, Sudbury*, (London: Hatchard and Son, 1852), p. 45 at:x

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=cWdKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA45>

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

In the will below the testator bequeaths his godson £20:

*Item, I give unto young Richard Eden, my godson, the son of George Eden, twenty pounds.*

The testator's godson, Richard Eden, was the son of the testator's nephew, George Eden (d.1559). See the latter's will, TNA PROB 11/42B/7:

*Item, I will that my son, Richard, be paid the twenty pound which my uncle Archdeacon bequeathed him and I received to his use.*

For Bishop Jane (d.1501) of Norwich, see Sperling, *supra*, p. 105 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/shorthistoryofbo00sper#page/104/mode/2up>

LM: Test{amentu}m Ric{hard}i Edon Cl{er}ici

In dei nomine amen. This is the last will and testament of me, Richard Eden, Archdeacon of Middlesex, made the 6<sup>th</sup> day of December anno domini millesimo quingentesimo quadragesimo nono:

First I beseech my merciful Lord Jesus to take my soul unto his mercy;

And I will that my wretched body be buried on the south side of the choir of Saint Gregory's church in Sudbury near unto the sometime Lord Bishop Jane;

And I will that the priests and clerks being present at my burial be honestly rewarded according to the discretion of my executor;

Item, I will that the honest poor people of Sudbury aforesaid and other towns near adjoining discretely known and considered be relieved as soon after my death as conveniently may be as far as the sum of ten pounds will extend;

Also I will that immediately after my decease there be distributed to the honest poor people of the town of Bury Saint Edmunds where I was born the sum of ten pounds;

Item, I will that during the space of five years immediately after my decease there be yearly distributed and given to the honest poor people of the town of Sudbury ten marks;

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Item, I give unto Trinity Hall in Cambridge ten pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the church of Paul's towards the reparations there called the old works ten pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the parish church of Cranefelde [=Cranfield?] 40s;

Item, I bequeath unto the parish church of Much Waldingfield other 40s;

Item, I bequeath to the parish church of Dickleburgh 40s;

Item, I bequeath to the parish church of Saint Gregory's in Sudbury 40s;

Item, I remit and forgive unto Richard Eden the hundred pounds which he hath already received and had of me;

And in like manner I remit and forgive to George Eden all such money as he hath received of me and that he oweth me;

Item, I give unto Thomas Eden, son and heir unto my nephew, Thomas Eden, one hundred pounds;

Item, I give unto young Richard Eden, my godson, the son of George Eden, twenty pounds;

Item, I give unto my sister Bone £20;

Item, I give to George Ashby, son and heir of Thomas Ashby, ten pounds;

Item, I give unto my niece, Anne Spring, such parcel of my plate as she shall choose herself to the value of ten pounds at the least;

Item, I give unto my niece, Elizabeth Chamberlain, and to her husband, 20 marks;

Item, I give unto my niece, Margaret Maynard, £20;

Item, I remit and forgive unto her husband, Thomas Maynard, the debt that he oweth me;

Item, I give unto William Foster of Ipswich one standing cup with a cover;

Item, I give unto Nicholas Taverner one other cup;

Item, I give unto my servants, that is to say, Thomas Payne, John Manwode and Anthony Hubberstye, each of them four pounds, and that they my servants shall have their accustomed wages for one year after my decease;

Item, I give unto Thomas Payne's four children each of them five marks, and each of them to be each other's heir if any of them die before the receipt thereof;

Item, I revoke all other testaments and wills that I have made before the date hereof;

And of this my present testament and last will I ordain and make my nephew, Thomas Eden, to be my sole executor, trusting both in his discretion and kindness in every behalf;

Item, I will that my said executor cause the highway from Ballingdon upward to Bulmer Tye or thereabouts to be amended whereas most need is as shall be [f. 101r] thought most expedient;

Other small gifts and things to be done to God's pleasure I remit to the order and discretion of my said executor;

In witness hereof I have subscribed this my present last will and testament with mine own hand the day, year and month above-written. Per me Ricardum Edon.

Item, I give and bequeath unto the three daughters of Henry Eden, late of Bury, deceased, twenty pounds, and each of them to be other's heir, and to be paid unto them and either of them at the day of marriage or at the age of 21 years, that is to wit, either of them twenty nobles.

Item, I will and give unto my nephew, Thomas Eden of Sudbury, the three acres of land which I lately purchased of Thomas Fullor, to have and to hold the said three acres of land unto the said Thomas Eden and to his heirs forever;

And in like manner I will and give unto the said Thomas Eden, my nephew, and to his heirs a certain garden called Skalders garden adjoining unto the orchard or garden of the late College of Sudbury;

This is the very true copy written by me, Nicholas Taverner, and conferred by me, John Good. Per me Richardum Edon.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascripti defuncti h[ab]entis &c secundo die mensis Maij Anno Domini Mill[es]imo quingentesimo quinquagesimo primo Coram d[omi]no apud London auct[orit]ate d[omi]ni n[ost]ri Regis &c Iurame[n]to Thome Edon executoris in h[uius]modi testamento no[n] i[n]t[er] Ac approbatum & insinuatum Com[m]issa que fuit adm[n]istracio o[mn]i[u]m & singulor[um] bonorum Iuriu[m] & creditorum d[ic]t[i] defuncti prefat[is] executori De bene & fidel[ite]r adm[n]istrand[o] Ac de pleno & fidei In[ue]ntario secundo die post festum s[an]c[t]e ffdis prox[imum] futur[um] exhibend[o] Necnon de plano & vero compoto reddend[o] Ad sancta Dei Eu[an]gelia Iurat[i]

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[=The testament of the above-written deceased having etc. was proved on the second day of the month of May in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-first before the Lord at London by the authority of our Lord the King etc. by the oath of Thomas Eden, executor named in the same testament, and probated & entered, and administration was granted of all & singular the goods, rights & credits of the said deceased to the forenamed executor, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well & faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full & faithful inventory on the second day after the feast of Saint Fidis next to come, and also to render a plain & true account.]