

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 5 and 13 December 1556 and proved 23 June 1559, of Joan Wilkinson. The testatrix was silkwoman to Anne Boleyn, and became an exile in the reign of Queen Mary. She died at Frankfurt in 1556 at the house of her cousin, Cuthbert Warcup, a London mercer.

The testatrix was the daughter of Roger North (*d.* 1509) and Christian Warcup, the daughter of Richard Warcup of Sinnington, Yorkshire. She had a brother, Edward North, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron North. After the death of Roger North, Christian Warcup married, as his first wife, Sir Ralph Warren (*c.* 1483–1553), Lord Mayor of London in 1536 and 1544. The ‘Lady Warren’ mentioned in the will below was Joan (nee Trelake) Warren (*d.* 8 February 1573), the daughter of John Trelake of Cornwall, and second wife of Sir Ralph Warren.

The testatrix married William Wilkinson (*d.* 1543), mercer and Sheriff of London, by whom she had three daughters, Christian and Frances, who predeceased her, and Jane, who survived her. Christian Wilkinson married William Bury of Culnam, Oxfordshire, by whom, according to the will below, she had four children. When he made his will on 30 November 1561, William Bury had three sons, John, Thomas, and Edward, and four daughters, Blanche, Joan, Alice and Katherine, some of whom were the children of his second wife, also named Christian. For the will of William Bury, see TNA PROB 11/47/167.

The testatrix’ daughter Frances Wilkinson married a London mercer, Leonard Hetherington (*d.* 1556). For his will, see TNA PROB 11/38/200.

The testatrix’ daughter, Jane Wilkinson, was the first wife of Michael Lok, who persuaded Oxford to invest heavily in Martin Frobisher’s second expedition in search of a route to Cathay.

Katherine Hall mentioned in the will below was the mother of Edward Hall, author of Hall’s *Chronicle*, a major source of Shakespeare’s English history plays. For her will see TNA PROB 11/39/329.

For the foregoing, see the entries for Joan Wilkinson, Sir Ralph Warren, Edward North, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron North, Edward Hall and Michael Lok in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*; Grazebrook, George and John Paul Rylands, eds., *The Visitation of Shropshire Taken in the Year 1623*, Part I, Vol. XVIII, (London: Harleian Society, 1889), pp. 250-1; Sutton, Anne F., *The Mercery of London: Trade, Goods and People, 1130-1578*, (Aldershot, Hampshire: Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2005), pp. 392-4; and *A Who’s Who of Tudor Women: N*, at:

<http://www.kateemersonhistoricals.com/TudorWomenN.htm>.

For the testatrix’ manor of King’s Stanley in Gloucestershire, see:

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'King's Stanley: Manors and other estates', *A History of the County of Gloucester: Volume 10: Westbury and Whitstone Hundreds* (1972), pp. 245-250, at <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=15870>.

For the pedigree of the testatrix' cousin, Cuthbert Warcop, see:

<http://archive.org/stream/visitationscoun02britgoog#page/n181/mode/2up>.

The testatrix' cousin, William Holland, has not been identified. He may have been the William Holland, citizen and mercer of London, who was the son of John Holland of Surrey, gentleman, and his wife Eleanor, the daughter of 'Shurley of Surrey', and who married Elizabeth Bolt, daughter of the London mercer, Robert Bolt. See Howard, Joseph Jackson and George John Armytage, *The Visitation of London in the Year 1568*, Vol. I, (London: Harleian Society, 1869), p. 56. For the will of Robert Bolt (d.1536), which mentions Cuthbert Warcup, Ralph Warren and William Wilkinson, see TNA PROB 11/25/491.

RM: T{estamentum} Iohanne Wylkinson

In the name of God, Amen. The fifth day of December in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred fifty and six, I, Joan Wilkinson, in voluntary exile for the true religion of Christ, being whole in mind and of perfect remembrance, praised be God, do make and ordain this my present testament and last will in manner and form following, that is to say:

First I commend my soul unto Almighty God, the Father of my only Saviour, Jesus Christ, through whose only merits I do most steadfastly believe to obtain the remission of all my sins, and after this miserable life I am fully ascertained in conscience to reign with him forever in the glory of his kingdom, so be it;

Also I will that my body be buried decently in such convenient place as God hath appointed for the same;

Also I will that my cousin, Cuthbert Warcup, and my cousin, William Holland, shall deliver or cause to be delivered unto th' hands of my loving friend, Richard Chamber, one hundred pounds of good and lawful money of England within the space of three months next ensuing after my decease to the sustentation and relief of the poor English congregations assembled in Frankfurt, Geneva, Wesel and Emden for the true confession of Christ's Gospel, to every of the said congregations if they continue and remain undispersed, that is to say, at Frankfurt forty pounds, at Geneva twenty pounds, at Wesel twenty pounds, and at Emden twenty pounds, the which sum of one hundred pounds I will shall be distributed and disposed by the discretion of the said Richard Chamber in such sort and at such time as he thinketh best and most convenient to do the same;

Item, I give to the marriage of six poor maidens which shall be next married after my decease in the English congregation of Frankfurt £6 13s 4d, to be equally distributed amongst the said six maidens at the time of their marriage by my cousin, Cuthbert Warcup, and my cousin, William Holland, or by one of them;

Item, I bequeath towards the relief of the poor people of the French and Netherlands congregations assembled within the city of Frankfurt, to every of the said congregations forty shillings, to be bestowed within three months next after my decease by the discretions of my said cousins, Cuthbert Warcup and William Holland;

Also I give and bequeath to my daughter, Jane, all such household stuff as remained in the hands and custody of my daughter Christian Bury at the time of her decease if my said daughter Jane may quietly without trouble enjoy the same, obtaining it out of the possession of [-of] my son Bury, and if not, I will that he shall be permitted to enjoy the same, he standing bound by obligation unto my said daughter, Jane, that he shall equally employ all the above-named household stuff to th' use of his late wife's children when they shall accomplish the age of 21 years or else be married;

Also I give and bequeath to and amongst the children of my daughter Bury deceased which she hath had by my son, William Bury, her husband, and one Ralph Coly [=Colley?], and the children of my late daughter, Frances Hetherington, which be in number at the present living, accounting the said Ralph Coly for one, eleven, eleven hundred marks of good and lawful money of England equally amongst them to be divided, and to be delivered to every of them as any of them shall accomplish their several ages of 21 years or else be married, and not before;

And I will and my mind is that if it fortune any of the same children to die or decease before they shall come to and accomplish their lawful age of 21 years or be married, that then the part and portion of him, her or them so deceasing shall wholly remain unto the survivor or survivors of them equally amongst them so surviving to be divided, and be delivered to him, her or them so surviving when any of them shall accomplish their several ages of 21 years or else be married;

Also I will that the said sum of eleven hundred marks afore bequested unto the eleven children of my said two daughters deceased shall remain in the custody and occupation of my said cousin, Cuthbert Warcup, and my cousin, William Holland, jointly or severally as they shall think best for his own commodity and quietness, until the said children and every of them come unto the aforesaid age of 21 years or else be married, and no longer;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Thomas Cave ten pounds;

Item, I bequeath to Richard Warren and Joan [f. 233v] Warren, to every of them one ring of fine gold weighing half an ounce apiece;

Item, I bequeath to Eliz[abeth] Whelpley £6 13s 4d;

Item, I bequeath to Anne Spalding, my maidservant, £6 13s 4d;

Item, I bequeath to every other of my servants that shall be dwelling with me at the time of my decease 40s;

Also I give and bequeath unto Katherine Smythe, mine old servant at London, 40s;

Also I give and bequeath to the eight poor households within Saint Antholin's parish in London, to every of the said householders five shillings;

Also I give and bequeath to Elizabeth Browne and Elizabeth Kelke, to either of them four pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath to Peter Symonds, my servant at London, £6 13s 4d;

Item, I give and bequeath to Beatrice Sampson forty shillings;

Also I give unto Mr Thomas Sampson for money which I do owe unto him 40s;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the two prisons of Ludgate and Newgate in London towards the relief of the poor prisoners there, to either of the said prisons 40s;

Also I give unto Daniel Hooper towards his virtuous education and bringing up in learning twenty pounds, to be delivered unto him by my cousins, Cuthbert Warcup and William Holland, at such time as they shall see that he hath most need of the same, and if the said Daniel Hooper depart this life before the said legacy of £20 be delivered unto him as is aforesaid, then I will the said £20 to be equally divided amongst the children of my said cousins, Cuthbert Warcup and William Holland;

Also I give and bequeath unto Richard Chamber all those my books which Mr Hooper had the use of during his life, to use them to the profit of Christ's church in such sort as he thinketh most profitable and convenient, which books I will shall be sent for out of England, my daughter Jane giving 40s towards the carriage of the same;

Also I will and my mind is that my said daughter, Jane, shall bear the charges of the repairing of the highway in Blackwell within the counties of York or Richmond which Mr Robert Horne knoweth according to my late husband's last will amounting unto the sum of £8 13s 4d, whereof I do clearly acquit and discharge the said Mr Robert Horne;

Also I do remit and clearly forgive the Lord North, my brother, so much as remaineth yet unpaid of that bill of two hundred pounds remaining in th' hands and custody of my cousin, William Holland;

Item, whereas I made request and suit unto the Wardens and Company of the Mercers in London to have more years of the house in Soper Lane wherein I did lately dwell, who

promised me that I should enjoy the same during my life, and after my decease to appoint the same house unto any other person, being a mere mercer, by reason of whose promise made unto me I have given and bequeathed all such right, title and interest as I had in the same house with th' appurtenances unto my cousin, Cuthbert Warcup, he paying unto the said Wardens and Company of Mercers ten pounds for the said house if he enjoy the same;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my said cousin Warcup these parcels of household stuff, pewter and implements remaining within my said house in Soper Lane hereafter expressed, that is to say, in the great parlour a pair of latten andirons, two forms, two settles, one folding table, two joined forms, eight joint-stools, one Turkey carpet for the table, one old carpet for the table, a carpet of needlework for the window, one other old carpet for the window, six cushions of yellow satin, five cushions, old, of flannel, four old cushions of tapestry work, stained hanging in the great chamber there, one hanging of green say, one bedstead with a truckle-bed under it, one large featherbed for the same, a down bed for the same, one hanging of green Bruges satin with ceiling and five curtains of green say, two long cushions of red and gold, a long cushion of purple velvet and silver, one other of crimson velvet and gold, a cypress chest, one bed of black velvet and lifts(?) of black velvet embroidered with silver and a W and J with a counterpoint to the same with curtains of black and yellow taffeta, a carpet of needlework for the window, and one cupboard, and in the white chamber there a joined press and three pair of creepers, with all manner of pewter vessel of what sort or fashion it be made remaining or that was left in any part of the said house;

And whereas I made one deed of gift unto my cousin, William Holland, of all and singular the above-mentioned implements appertaining to the house in Soper Lane now given and bequeathed by this my present last will and testament unto my said cousin, Cuthbert Warcup, upon confidence and trust that I had in my aforementioned cousin, William Holland, that he should utterly relinquish the same according to his faithful promise made unto me in that behalf, or else redeliver the said deed of gift to such person or persons as I should at any time appoint to demand and receive the same, not mistrusting but that he will accomplish my request and desire [f. 234r] accordingly, yet nevertheless for the avoiding of all encumbrances that might in any wise seem to let or hinder the performance of any bequest or legacy expressed or declared in this my present last will and testament, I do utterly revoke, disannul and make frustrate to all intents, constructions and purposes the said deed of gift made and delivered at any time by me unto my said cousin, William Holland, touching all and every those thing and things which otherwise I have assigned to be given and bequeathed to any other person or persons by this my present last will and testament;

Also I give and bequeath unto my cousin, William Holland, the demise and lease for term of years of that house wherein Mrs Katherine Hall now inhabiteth, set, lying and being in Saint Sythe's Lane over against the house of the Lady Warren, to possess and enjoy the same at such time as the said Mrs Hall shall depart with and from the same, upon condition that my said cousin, William Holland, shall pay or cause to be paid at that time

fifty pounds over and besides the fifty pounds which I have already paid and disbursed for the said house unto the aforementioned Mrs Hall;

And if it happen that my said cousin Holland may not be permitted to enjoy the said house according to this my desire and request, that then I will that the aforementioned Mrs Hall make or cause to be made repayment of the said fifty pounds which she received of me unto my said cousin, William Holland, at any time when she [sic?] shall lawfully require the same, which fifty pounds I do freely give unto him;

Also I give and bequeath unto my said cousin, William Holland, these parcels of household stuff and implements remaining within my said house in Soper Lane hereafter expressed, that is to say: first, in the white chamber, one bedstead, two featherbeds, one hanging of red say, one cupboard, one chest, one chair with leather, old, and one pair of andirons of latten; in the gallery there eight joint-stools; in the little parlour one table, 2 forms, one joined chair; and in Mrs Browne's chamber one bedstead, 2 featherbeds, two bolsters and 3 pair of creepers;

Item, I will and my mind is that all such bedsteads, chests and all such other implements as remain in my said house in Soper Lane which I have not given away shall be indifferently divided between my said cousins, Cuthbert Warcup and William Holland;

Also in consideration that my daughter, Jane, shall deliver or cause to be delivered into th' hands of my said cousin, Cuthbert Warcup, and my cousin, William Holland, one hundred pounds of good and lawful money of England within the space of two years next after my decease for the augmentation and increase of the parts and portions of the above-named eleven children to be equally divided amongst them in such sort and at such time as is before mentioned, I do give and bequeath unto my said daughter, Jane, and to her heirs forever all that my manor of King's Stanley with certain other tenements called Uley and Standish with their appurtenances, with all my other lands and hereditaments whatsoever set, lying and being in King's Stanley, Uley or Standish aforesaid within the county of Gloucester or in any other place within the precinct of the same shire, together with one capital messuage with th' appurtenances and all other my lands and hereditaments thereunto appertaining or in any wise belonging set, lying and being in Treyneham in the county of York now in the tenure and occupation of John Hugell and Thomas Hugell or in any other place within the precinct of the same shire and county of York aforesaid, to have and to hold all and singular the premises with the appurtenances unto my said daughter, Jane, & to her heirs forever, provided always that if my said daughter, Jane, enjoy not all the said lands and other hereditaments before mentioned by reason of any manner of ways or means that she may be defeated and disinherited of the same, then I will that my said daughter be in no wise charged to pay the said sum of one hundred pounds to the above-named eleven children, but to be clearly acquitted and discharged of the same;

Moreover if it should so fortune or come to pass that my said lands in the counties of Gloucester and York heretofore bequested unto my said daughter, Jane, be conveyed and assured unto my said son, William Bury, or his heirs by reason of any indenture of

bargain & sale, deed poll, letter of attorney or any other manner of devise or assurance by me heretofore made, subscribed with my hand and sealed with my seal, by authority and virtue whereof all my said lands in the counties of Gloucester and York aforesaid should or may be sold or otherwise employed unto the use and behoof of the aforesaid eleven children so that my said daughter neither may or can enjoy the said lands according to my bequest in that behalf, that then my mind and will is that she be in any wise exonerated and acquitted [+and?] discharged of so much money as either my said lands in the counties of Gloucester [f. 234v] and York be worth or shall be sold for to their uttermost value without all manner of covin, collusion or deceit, and my said daughter to be charged only with the payment of no more money unto the said eleven children than shall make up just that sum that the aforesaid lands are worth or shall be sold for to their uttermost value as is abovesaid unto eleven hundred marks, to be equally divided portion portion like amongst the said eleven children in manner and form afore in these presents mentioned and declared;

And if it happen that my said son, William Bury, after livery and seisin given and made of the said lands unto him, do retain the same to him and to his heirs, or otherwise he or any other person or persons by his procurement shall hinder or let by any other manner of means all and every the said lands or any parcel thereof to be converted and employed to the use and behoof of the said eleven children according to the confidence and trust I have put in him, then I will that his four children which he had by my late daughter, his wife, shall be deprived and bereft of their whole parts and portions contained in the said sum of eleven hundred marks, that is to say, four hundred marks, whereof I will my said daughter to be discharged by these presents, any article, clause or sentence heretofore in this my present last will and testament expressed and declared to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding;

Also I give and bequeath unto my son, William Bury, ten pounds in consideration that he shall succour, aid and help the children of my late two daughters with his good advice and counsel and otherwise as they or any of them shall stand in need at any time of his charitable comfort and help to be ministered unto them;

Also I give and bequeath unto my cousin, Cuthbert Warcup, ten pounds;

The residue of all my goods, chattels, debts, ready money, plate, jewels and household stuff, after my debts paid and my funeral expenses performed and these my legacies contained in this my present testament and last will fulfilled, I do wholly give and bequeath unto Jane Wilkinson, my daughter, to her own proper use;

And forasmuch as she may peradventure for want of skill and experience in worldly matters and affairs sustain damage and injury, in the avoiding whereof and for the maintenance and defence of her interest, right and title in all and singular the premises by me given and granted unto her by these presents, I have most instantly required my well-beloved son, William Bury, my cousin, Cuthbert Warcop, my cousin Anne, his wife, and my cousin, William Holland, in respect of the fidelity, old familiarity and friendship I have held with them, to aid, help and assist my said daughter, Jane, in this behalf;

And therefore my mind and will is that she shall conform and submit herself to the order, advice, counsel and direction of the aforementioned four persons or two of them, and moreover I will that in no wise my said daughter, Jane, contract herself in matrimony with any person upon whom the said four persons or two of them, to wit, my cousin, Cuthbert Warcup, and my cousin Anne, his wife, only, shall not first agree, appoint and make offer unto her in such sort as parents ought to do unto their children by the rule of God's Word, so that the same person be a man fearing God, of upright and sincere judgment in religion, of godly conversation, utterly abhorring papistry;

And if my said daughter shall refuse to follow the advice, counsel, direction and order of the aforementioned four persons or two of them, that is to say, my cousin, Cuthbert Warcup, and my cousin Anne, his wife, only, then I will she be deprived of the moiety and one half of her part and portion given and bequeathed by this my last will and testament, and the same to be employed and bestowed towards the augmentation of the parts and portions of the above-named eleven children, to be equally divided amongst them in manner and form before recited and expressed;

Also I will that all such sum or sums of money concerning my stock which of right unto me belongeth or in any wise appertaineth remaining at this present in the occupying of my cousin, Cuthbert Warcup, and my cousin, William Holland, shall be by them or their assigns delivered and paid in ready money unto the husband of my daughter, Jane, within one month next after the espousals solemnized between them;

And if my said daughter, Jane, should happen to depart this present life before she be married, then I will that her whole part & portion given and bequeathed unto her by this my present testament and last will shall be equally divided amongst the aforementioned eleven children, my cousin Warcup's children, my cousin Holland's children, and Daniel Hooper, who having his part in that portion shall not enjoy his legacy of twenty pounds heretofore mentioned, but the same to be equally [f. 235r] divided amongst them all;

Also I commit John Mocke, my servant, unto the tuition of my said daughter, Jane, charging her to minister unto him all necessaries for his sustentation & finding during his natural life, and that with the more pitiful liberality by reason of his impotency and innocency;

Also my mind and will is that if any person or persons heretofore in these presents named go about to let or hinder by word, act or any other manner of means the performance of this my last will or any legacy and bequest therein contained, I will that he, she or they shall be bereft, deprived and utterly denied all that remission, request or benefit which I have remitted, bequeathed or given in this my last will and testament unto them or any of them to th' end I will the same shall be likewise wholly employed and bestowed to the augmentation of the parts and portions of the aforementioned eleven children, to be equally divided amongst them, any clause, article or sentence heretofore mentioned to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding;

Also I do utterly revoke, annul and make frustrate as well that will and testament bearing date the 4<sup>th</sup> day of October anno 1555 and in the second and third years of the reigns of King Philip and Mary, the counterpane whereof indented I left in the custody of the Lady Warren, as also all and every other former testaments, wills, legacies, bequests, executors and overseers by me in any wise before this time made, willed and bequeathed;

And I do constitute, appoint, ordain and make my well-beloved daughter, Jane Wilkinson, sole and only executrix of this my present last will and testament;

In witness whereof to this my present testament and last will I, the said Joan Wilkinson, have put my hand and seal this present thirteen day of December in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred fifty and six, these persons hereafter named by me specially required to testify the same, that is to say, as followeth by the testimony and subscription of their names with their own hands. By me, Joan Wilkinson. Edward Isaac, Robert Horne, John Bynckes. Per me, Cuthbert Warcup, Richard Chamber.

Probatum fuit suprascriptu{m} testamentu{m} coram mag{ist}ro Gwaltero Haddon legum Doctore Curie prerogative Cantuar{iensis} custode siue com{m}issario sede Archie{pisco}pali ib{ide}m iam vacante vicesimo tercio die mensis Iunij Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingentesimo quinquagesimo nono Iurament{o} Iane Wilkynson executricis in h{uius}mo{d}i testament{o} no{m}i{n}ate Ac approbatu{m} et insinuatu{m} Comissaq{ue} fuit administratio o{mn}i{um} et sing{u}lor{um} bonor{um} Iuriu{m} &c pefat{e} executrici de bene &c Ac de pleno et fideli Inventario necnon de vero et plano compt{o} reddend{o} &c Iurat{e}

[=The above-written testament was proved before Master Walter Haddon, Doctor of the Laws, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury of the Archiepiscopal seat there now vacant, on the twenty-third day of the month of June in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-ninth by the oath of Jane Wilkinson, executrix named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights etc. to the forenamed executrix, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc., and to render a full and faithful inventory and also a plain and true account etc.]