

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 4 April and 12 June 1561 and proved 3 February 1562, of Richard Alington, brother-in-law of Sir William Cordell (1522 – 17 May 1581), Master of the Rolls, one of the five trustees appointed by Oxford in an indenture of 30 January 1575 prior to his departure on his continental tour. See ERO D/DRg2/25.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator was a younger son of Sir Giles Alington (1500-1586) of Horseheath by his second wife, Alice Middleton (buried 20 September 1563), widow of Thomas Elrington, whose mother, Alice Harpur Middleton, was the second wife of Sir Thomas More. See the *ODNB* entry for Sir Thomas More:

In the summer of 1511 More's wife, Jane, died, and within a month he married Alice [see More, Alice (b. in or after 1474, d. in or before 1551)], the widow of John Middleton, a wealthy London merchant. She brought a daughter, Alice (c.1501–1563), later the wife of Sir Giles Alington, into the More household.

See also the *ODNB* entry for Alice Harpur Middleton More:

More [née Harpur; other married name Middleton], Alice, Lady More (b. in or after 1474, d. in or before 1551), second wife of Sir Thomas More, was born, probably at Epping, Essex, to Elizabeth (d. in or after 1510), coheir of Sir Peter Ardern of Markhall, Essex, and her second husband, Sir Richard Harpur (d. 1492). After her father's death her mother married Sir Andrew Dymoke (d. 1508). Before 1492 Alice married John Middleton, a London mercer, who named her co-executor of his will in 1509 and left his fortune to her and their daughters, Alice (c.1501–1563) and Helen (d. c.1510).

In 1511, about a month after his first wife's death, Alice married Thomas More (1478–1535)

. . . . She died on or before 25 April 1551 Her daughter Alice had three children with Thomas Elrington and nine with her second husband, Sir Giles Alington. Through the Alington line Alice was an ancestor of Elizabeth II.

See also the monument to the testator in the Rolls Chapel at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/52219527@N00/6044830283>

See also 'Extracts from the Parish Registers of St. Dunstan's in the West, London', *Collectanea Topographica & Genealogica*, Vol. V, (London: John Bowyer Nichols and Son, 1838), p. 218 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YScAAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA218>

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[Richard Alington, a] younger son of Sir Giles Alington, of Horseheath, co. Cambridge, who died in 1586 (see pedigree in Clutterbuck's Hertfordshire, vol. ii. p. 542). His wife . . . was Jane, daughter of John Cordell, and sister and coheir to Sir William Cordell, Master of the Rolls . . . Richard Alington was buried in the Rolls Chapel in 1561; where a handsome monument was erected to his memory, with effigies of himself and wife, and three children; see the epitaphs in Stowe.

See also the Alington pedigree in Maris, John, 'A Genealogy Report for Sir Giles Alington', February 2017, which can be downloaded at:

www.marisancestry.co.uk/Reports/Giles%20Alington.pdf

In the will below the testator mentions his uncle, Richard Alington, his two brothers, William Alington and Philip Alington, and his nephew, James Alington.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

The testator married Jane Cordell (d.1603?) the daughter of John Cordell by Emme Webb, daughter of Henry Webb of Kimbolton, Huntingdonshire. For the will of the testator's mother-in-law, Emme Cordell, dated 3 November 1554 and proved 14 February 1555, see TNA PROB 11/37/266.

For the testator's brother-in-law, Sir William Cordell (1522 – 17 May 1581), Master of the Rolls, see his will, TNA PROB 11/63/590, the *ODNB* entry, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/cordell-william-1524-81>

By Jane Cordell, the testator had three daughters, Mary, Anne and Cordell. See her will, TNA PROB 11/103/18.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

For William Roper (1495x8-1578), son-in-law of Sir Thomas More, see the *ODNB* entry.

For John Feckenham (c.1510–1584), Abbot of Westminster, see the *ODNB* entry.

For Henry Cole (1504/5-1579/80, Dean of St Paul's, see the *ODNB* entry.

For John Boxall (1524/5–1571), Secretary to Queen Mary I, see the *ODNB* entry.

For Cuthbert Scott (d.1565), Bishop of Chester, see the *ODNB* entry.

For an original spelling transcript of the will, see White, C.H. Evelyn, *The East Anglian*, New Series, Vol. I, (London: George Redway, 1885-6), pp. 320-2 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/eastanglianorno03whitgoog#page/n340/mode/2up>

LM: T{estamentum} Rich{ard}i Alington

In the name of God, Amen. I, Richard Alington of Lincoln's Inn, being, I thank God, of perfect mind and good remembrance, do make and ordain this my present testament and last will in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God, and my body to be buried in what church mine executors will;

And I will that mine executors shall give to the poor at and before my burial five pounds at least;

Item, I will unto the foundation or towards the help, furtherance and election of the good purposes and devices at Bridewell, at the Friars or elsewhere mine executors will, to some such houses ten pounds, to be paid first of all my legacies;

Item, I bequeath to one Mr Lawes, a Welshman of Lincoln's Inn and a continuer there about six year since, twenty shillings;

Item, I bequeath to my brother, William, of mine apparel all my gowns of cloth, my best doublet and my best jerkin or coat of velvet, to be had and taken at his election;

Item, I bequeath to my said brother and to my brother, Philip, if he do follow the study of the law, or else to my brother William alone, all my law-books to be equally divided and parted between them;

Item, I will to my said brother, Philip all my hosen and doublets saving them before given;

Item, I will and bequeath to my nephew and godson, James Alington, a chain to be bought in weight worth ten pounds, to be delivered him at his full age, if he live so long, or before at the discretion of mine executor;

And if he shall die before the delivery thereof as before, then I will the same chain to my brother, Philip, to be delivered unto him at his full age of 22 years;

Item, I will to my wife all her own apparel and the residue of mine, with all and all manner of my jewels, household stuff, plate and what stock soever I have or shall have in money or cattle upon any farm or ground;

Item, I will that mine executors, of the comodie [=sic for 'commodity/'] and profit of my part of the stock and licence of fells now in th' hands of Henry Vinar of London, mercer, and of other my money being in his hands also, shall forthwith fulfil and pay all my legacies and bequests;

And that done, then I will that four hundred marks at the least, or more if mine executors shall think needful or convenient, shall be bestowed in land as soon as conveniently it may, not breaking up my said stock before due time;

And the same land to be assured to the Master of the Rolls, Sir William Cordell, William Roper, esquire, the late Bishop of Chester, Doctor Scott, the late Abbot of Westminster, Mr Feckenham, the late Dean of Paul's, Doctor Cole, and Mr Boxall, late Secretary to Queen Mary, to be given to or towards some foundation or erection by them six, five or four or three of them to be devised daily or weekly giving or representing some lively remembrance of the passion and death of Christ, and specially in giving thanks for our redemption thereby, for I, most vile and unworthy wretch, in mine infancy have received such ineffable, peculiar and special comfort by a picture of the cross and Christ nailed thereon appearing to me in special wise and manner sundry times at one place, and always in one sort as before, that though I had been continually giving thanks, as I have been most negligent therein, I have yet special cause to say I had yet never been able all the days of my life to have given condign thanks for the same, and for the special comfort that I, most unworthy wretch, have specially received thereby, and therefore my conscience forceth me to make a perpetual memory thereof with thanksgiving; God of his great goodness grant that this my desire may take place to his only honour and glory;

Item, I bequeath to the said Master of the Rolls a ring to be made weighing forty shillings in gold wherein to be written *Omnia vanitas et memento mei Richardi Alington*;

Item, I will and bequeath to mine uncle, Richard Alington, one obligation wherein he standeth bound to pay me twenty pounds if it shall be in my hands at the time of my death; if not, then ten pounds in money;

Item, I will that the residue of the profit and increase coming of my said stock and licence and all my other debts, goods and chattels to the use and behoof of my daughters, Mary and Anne, and of my other daughter or daughters that my wife shall have by me, and this to be equally distributed between or amongst them, saving that I will that my daughter, Mary, shall have a hundred marks more than her said sister or sisters;

And of this my last will and testament I make the said Sir William Cordell, Richard Alington and my wife mine executors only;

And if any doubt or question shall rise of anything contained in this my will, I will the same shall be ordered and decided by the said Sir William Cordell, William Roper, Doctor Scott, Mr Boxall, Mr Feckenham, Doctor Cole, or three or two of them, whom I most humbly require to be supervisors of this my last will;

I most humbly require them and in God's behalf as I may charge them, to see my trust committed unto them in the special matter above-mentioned discharged to God's honour and glory;

I give to every of them a ring of twenty shillings wherein to be written *Memento mei Richardi Alington*;

Sealed and written with mine own hand this present Good Friday the fourth of April Anno Regine Elizabethæ tercio per me Richardum Alington.

Item, where long since I had some doings with one Newington, a broker, whom I did not find very trusty, yet because I did in one bargain take of him, being poor and needy, the more sum for longer days, for that cause and for all other things which passed between him and me, I will and devise to him, if he be living, or to his wife and children he being dead, ten pounds to be paid at the discretion of mine executors;

Item, where I have had many doings with one Thomas Wilcockes of London, cloth-worker, I will and devise unto him, if he be living, or to his wife and children if he be dead, the sum of twenty pounds, or if he, whom I found true, honest and just, shall upon his conscience and oath say unto mine executors or the more part of them that this twenty pounds is not as well recompense for all things which have passed between us, then I will that mine executors shall forthwith pay unto him the sum of thirty pounds or forty pounds as they upon their conscience shall think good, for the man is poor and very honest;

Item for the money which remaineth of mine in Mr Vinar's hands of London, mercer, I will that he be in no wise pressed to pay the same before he may conveniently and with his ease, and that without any gain, for I have heretofore had gain enough at his hands, and yet no more than of his own free will and mind he would and did give without any covenant or promise of any gain or lucre certain, but I have found him most just and honest in his dealings, and therefore I will he shall have this friendship showed him for all doings which have passed between him and me. Per me Richardum Alington.

Note: I made th' addition in this side the twelfth of June Anno Regine Elizabethæ tercio upon a dream the night before that I did see a monstrous great black fowl like a raven having behind her in her hinder parts a death's head which I thought I myself but no other being with me might discern well notwithstanding it did fly fast from me.

Probatum fuit h{uius}mo{d}i Testamentum coram mag{ist}ro Waltero Haddon Legum Doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cant{uariensis} Com{m}issario apud London tercio die mensis Februarij Anno Domini Mill{es}imo Quingentesimo sexagesimo primo Iuramento Petri Johnson procuratoris (blank) Rel{ic}t{e} et Will{el}mi Cordell militis executor{um} in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}at{orum} Quibus com{m}issa fuit administrac{i}o De bene et fidel{ite}r administrand{o} eadem Ac de pleno et fideli Inuentario o{mn}i{u}m et singulor{um} bonor{um} iuriu{m} et creditor{um} h{uius}mo{d}i conficiend{o} Et illud &c exhibend{o} Necnon de plano et vero comp{ot}o inde reddend{o} Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia iurat{i} Res{er}uata p{otes}tate similem comissionem faciend{i} Richardo Alington ex{ecutori} etiam in h{uius}mo{d}i test{ament}o nominat{o} cum venerit eam in debita iuris forma admissur{o}

[=The same testament was proved before Walter Haddon, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at London on the third day of the month of February in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixty-first by the oath of Peter Johnson, proctor of (blank), relict, and William Cordell, knight, executors named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted, sworn on the Holy Gospels 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 to exhibit it etc., and also to render a plain and true account thereof, with power reserved for a similar grant to be made to Richard Alington, executor also named in the same testament, when he shall have come in due form of law to be admitted the same.]