

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 1 September 1563 and proved 14 March 1564, of Humphrey Baskerville, brother-in-law of Sir Roger Martyn (d.1573), and uncle of Humphrey Martyn, the addressee of the *Langham Letter* which describes Leicester's entertainment of Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth in the summer of 1575. For the will of Sir Roger Martyn, see TNA PROB 11/56/48.

For the testator see Sutton, Anne F., *The Mercery of London*, (Aldershot, Hampshire: Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2005), p. 523:

Baskerfield was from Wolverley, Worcestershire, and entered the company after an apprenticeship with Robert Chertsey in 1541. Unlike his master he embraced the new religion with no second thoughts and married Jane, daughter of Humphrey Pakington; and while a common councilman he served on the jury that acquitted Nicholas Throgmorton of treason to Queen Mary on 17 April 1554. He was an alderman (1558-64), and sheriff (1561-62). He left £200 as a loan fund to the Mercers at his death in March 1564, to be given out in £50 lots for seven years, with preference to his kinsmen in the company. This was to produce loads of charcoal for four parishes and Whittington College at Christmas and fees for the two youngest wardens who would undertake the distribution, and another for the clerk. His widow, Jane, remarried Sir Lionel Duckett, while his children and their portions were placed in the care of several mercers, including Thomas Heton and his son-in-law, Henry Hungate. His son Humphrey entered the company by patrimony in 1571.

The testator states in the will below that he was born in Wolverley, Worcestershire. According to the pedigree of Owen in the *Visitation of Shropshire*, his father was James Baskerville, son and heir of Sir Walter Baskerville, and his mother was Elizabeth Braynton, daughter and heir of John Braynton of Stretton, Herefordshire. See Grazebrook, George and John Paul Rylands, eds., *The Visitation of Shropshire Taken in the Year 1623, Part II*, (London: Harleian Society, 1889), Vol. XXIX, pp. 387-8 at:

https://archive.org/stream/TheVisitationOfShropshireV.29/VisitationshrophshireTaken1623_treswellVol.28P2#page/n109/mode/2up.

In his will the testator mentions a brother, William Baskerville, who had predeceased him, two other brothers, Thomas Baskerville and John Baskerville, and two sisters, Alice Baskerville, who married firstly a husband surnamed Jewkes, and secondly a husband surnamed Sandes, and Agnes Baskerville, who married Humphrey Hollyman.

The testator married Jane Pakington at St Michael Bassishaw on 15 June 1541. For their children, see her will, TNA PROB 11/75/77, and the pedigree of Owen in Grazebrook, *supra*, pp. 387-8.

For the testator's friend, Thomas Heton, mercer, see the *ODNB* entry.

For the testator's cousin, John Jackson, founder, see his will, proved 8 July 1584, TNA PROB 11/67/223.

For the testator's friend, Sir Thomas Leigh, mercer, see Sutton, *supra*, pp. 541-2, and his will, TNA PROB 11/53/564.

For William Burde, mercer, see Sutton, *supra*, pp. 526-7.

RM: T{estamentum} humfridis Baskerfelde

[f. 65r] In the name of God, Amen. The first day of September in the year of Our Lord God 1563 and in the fifth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., I, Humphrey Baskerville, citizen and alderman of London, being whole of body and in good and perfect remembrance, laud and praise be therefore given to Almighty God, do make and dispose this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say:

First and principally I give and commend my soul unto Almighty God, my Maker, Saviour and Redeemer, in whom and by the merits of the second person, Jesus Christ, I trust and believe assuredly to be saved and to have full and clear remission and forgiveness of my sins;

And I commit my body to the earth to be buried in a convenient place within the church commonly called the Mercers' Church in West Cheap of London in decent manner according to my degree, at the discretion of mine executors and overseers hereunder named;

And I will that there be builded a fair tomb over the place where my body shall be buried, or else a fair gravestone to be laid in the same place with a superscription to be engraven upon the same of the day of my departure according as is used for the dead, at the like discretion of my said executors and overseers;

And after my body buried, then I will that all and singular such debts and duties as I owe to any person or persons of right or in conscience shall be truly paid, and that done, then I will that all and singular my goods, plate, chattels, merchandises, debts, wares, jewels and ready money shall be divided into three equal and indifferent parts or portions according to the laudable use and custom of the City of London, whereof one equal part I leave unto Jane, my well-beloved wife, to her own use;

And one other equal part thereof I leave to and amongst all my children, as well married as unmarried, portion and portion like, to be paid and delivered to them as they and every of them shall accomplish and come to their lawful ages of 21 years or marriage, and every of them to be other's heir if death shall happen to any of them in the meantime, according to the said custom;

And the third equal part thereof I reserve to myself and to my executors hereunder named to perform my legacies and bequests hereafter following, that is to say:

First I give and bequeath to these my friends and to every of them whose names hereafter do follow, that is to say, Sir Thomas Leigh, knight; Mr Roger Martyn, alderman; Mr Alderman Jackman; Mistress Pakington, widow; John Pakington, Edward Pakington and William Pakington, her sons; my brother, Thomas Baskerville; Sir Thomas Pakington, knight; Edmund Style, grocer, and his wife; Richard Lambert and his wife; John Lambert and his wife; Richard Hollyman, mercer, and his wife; John Jackson, founder, and his wife; Christopher Pepper and his wife; John Hare, William Burde, Thomas Eaton [=Heton?], William Meredith and Mathew Field, mercers; Thomas Baskerville of Nethewood [=Netherwood?] in the county of Worcester; Mr Richard Cupper, gentleman; William Leonard, Anthony Hickman, Richard Hill and Anthony Calthorpe, mercers; John Thornton of Hull; Wilfred Reade of Hull; Thomas Doding, clothier, of Worcester; Thomas Clarke the younger of Coxall, clothier; Ralph Hall of York; and Christopher Bussher, fishmonger, to every of them [f. 65v] a ring of gold of the full value of forty shillings over and besides the making and fashion;

Item, I give and bequeath to Richard Hollyman, mercer, my late servant, the sum of two hundred pounds, and unto John Hollyman, his brother, the sum of fifty pounds, to be paid within one year next after my decease;

And I give and bequeath unto Hugh Baskerville, mine apprentice, the sum of fifty pounds, to be likewise paid within one year next after my decease;

Also I give and bequeath to my brother, Thomas Baskerville of Upton in the county of Worcester, the sum of fifty pounds of lawful money of England, to be likewise paid within one year next after my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath to the children of my said brother, Thomas Baskerville, that is to say, John Baskerville, Humphrey Baskerville, Alice Baskerville, John Baskerville and Anne Baskerville, to every of them three pounds six shillings and eight pence, to be paid to the said children and every of them as they and every of them shall come to their lawful age of 21 years or marriages, and every of them to be other's heir if death shall happen to any of them in the meantime;

Item, I give and bequeath to my sister, Alice Sandes, widow, the sum of ten pounds of current money of England, to be paid within one year next after my decease;

And I give and bequeath to every of her children, that is to say, Christopher Jewkes, Edward Jewkes, William Jewkes, Joyce Jewkes, John Jewkes, and to her son, Robert Sandes, to every of them three pounds six shillings and eight pence, to be paid to the same children of my sister Sandes as they shall come to their lawful ages of 21 years or marriages, and every of them to be other's heir if death shall happen to any of them in the meantime, as I have afore devised;

Item, I give and bequeath to my sister, Agnes Hollyman, now wife of Humphrey Hollyman of Blakeshall in the county of Worcester, the sum of ten pounds current money, to be paid within one year next after my decease;

And I bequeath to every of the children of the said Agnes, that is to say, William Hollyman, Humphrey Hollyman, Edward Hollyman, Margaret Hollyman, Margery Hollyman, and to Agnes Wilkes and Johne [=Joan?] Wilde, her children, to every of them three pounds six shillings eight pence, to be paid to the same children of my sister Hollyman as they shall come to their lawful ages of 21 years or marriages, and every of them to be other's heir if death shall happen to any of them in the meantime, as is afore declared;

Item, I give and bequeath to the children of my late brother, William Baskerville, deceased, that is to say, to Edward Baskerville, John Baskerville, Richard Baskerville, Thomas Baskerville, Johne [=Joan?] Baskerville and Joyce Baskerville, to every of them three pounds six shillings eight pence, to be paid to the same children of my said brother, William Baskerville, as they and every of them shall come to their lawful ages of 21 years or marriages, and every of them to be other's heir if death shall happen to any of them in the meantime, as is afore declared;

Item, I give and bequeath to Roger Baskerville, Humphrey Baskerville, John Baskerville, Frances Baskerville and Mary Baskerville, children of my brother, John Baskerville of Alvethley in the county of Salop [=Shropshire], to every of them three pounds six shillings eight pence, to be paid to the same children of my said brother, John Baskerville, as they and every of them shall come to their lawful ages of 21 years or marriages, and every of them to be other's heir if death shall happen to any of them in the meantime, as I have afore will and devised;

Item, I give and bequeath to Margery Pakington, the daughter of Elizabeth Pakington, the sum of six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence, to be paid to the same Margery on the day of her marriage;

And likewise I give and bequeath to Margaret Pakington, daughter of the said Elizabeth, other six pounds thirteen shillings four pence, to be paid likewise to the same Margaret on the day of her marriage;

Item, I give and bequeath towards the repairing and amending of Wolverley bridge, Cookley bridge and Caunsall bridge in the county of Worcester the sum of six pounds thirteen shillings four pence, to be paid within one year next after my decease, so that my executors and overseers do take good bond and assurance that the same six pounds thirteen shillings four pence may be employed and bestowed in and upon the mending of the same bridges within a convenient time after the payment of the same money according to the true intent and meaning of this my will;

Item, I give and bequeath to the right worshipful and my singular good friend, Sir Thomas Leigh, knight, twenty pounds;

Item, I give to and amongst the poor people of the parish of Kidderminster in Worcester ten pounds, to be distributed by the good discretion of my brother, Thomas, and the bailiffs of the said parish;

Item, I give and bequeath to twelve poor men and twelve poor women dwelling within the parish of Wolverley where I was born the sum of six pounds, to be distributed amongst the same poor people where most need shall appear by the discretion of mine executors and overseers within one month next after my decease, that is to say, to every such poor person five shillings;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the Wardens of the Company of Mercers of London for a dinner to be had amongst the whole livery the sum [f. 66r] of twelve pounds, to be paid and the dinner kept within six months next after my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath to Richard Cupper, mine apprentice, the sum of threescore six pounds thirteen shillings four pence, to be paid to the same Richard within one year next after my decease upon condition that the same Richard shall yield and make to my executors and overseers when he shall be thereunto required a just, true and perfect account, reckoning and payment of all such goods, money and debts as at the time of my decease shall remain in his charge, custody or keeping, being due or by any means appertaining or belonging unto me, without any fraud, covin or concealment;

Item, I give and bequeath to every one of my servants and apprentices, as well men as women, not before remembered which shall be dwelling with me at the time of my decease the sum of three pounds six shillings eight pence, to be paid within one year next after my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath to the Master and Wardens of the Mystery or Company of Mercers of the City of London now for the time being, and to their successors Master and Wardens of the said Mystery or Company which hereafter for the time shall be, to the use of the body of the same Company of Mercers forever the sum of two hundred pounds of lawful money of England to th' intent that the same two hundred pounds shall be always employed and put forth in a stock by the Master and Wardens of the said Company for the time being unto four young men of the same Company being out of the livery, upon sufficient bond and surety of and for the repayment of the same at such time and in such manner and form as hereafter in this my will shall be declared, that is to say:

That such four poor young men of the said Company, being out of the livery, as shall be thereunto thought most meetest, without any favour, affection or partiality by the said Master and Wardens of the said Mystery of Mercers for the time being to be showed, shall have in occupying the said sum of two hundred pounds, whereof every of those four young men shall have severally fifty pounds apiece for and during the space of seven years together, upon sufficient bond to be severally taken for every such young man

whereby every of those young men with three sufficient sureties with him shall bind themselves, their heirs and executors, jointly and severally by bond sufficient in the law, sealed and delivered as their deeds, unto the Master and Wardens of the said Company for the time being and to their successors in the sum of one hundred pounds, with condition to be endorsed for the true repayment of every of the same fifty pounds to the said Master and Wardens or to their successors to the use afore declared at th' end of seven years next after the payment and receipt of every such fifty pounds, and so from seven years to seven years the same two hundred pounds to have continuance in occupying amongst four poor young men of the said Company of the Mercery, being out of the livery, for evermore;

Provided always and my will is that if the said four young men or any of them do happen to decease within the said term of 7 years or to be bankrupt or to depart the city to dwell with his or their wife and family by the space of one whole year, then his or their portion so dying, bankrupting or departing the city to dwell to be forthwith called in and to be delivered out to other in form aforesaid;

And that every such young man so having the said several sum of fifty pounds in occupying shall from time to time, in consideration of the use and occupying thereof, severally be bond [sic for 'bound'?] to the said Master and Wardens for the time being by the said bond obligatory severally to pay and deliver or cause to be paid and delivered to the two youngest Wardens of the said Fellowship of Mercers of London for the time being, or to one of them, every year yearly against the feast of Christmas during the said space of seven years two sufficient cartloads of charcoals, whereof every load shall contain 30 sacks lawfully filled with coals, requiring the said Wardens or some of them with the Clerk of the said Company to see the distribution of the same coals yearly forever amongst the poor people of the parishes hereafter ensuing, that is to say, amongst the poor people of the parish of Saint Michael's in Bassishaw in London where most need shall appear, two loads of the said coals; amongst the poor of the parish of Saint Laurence in the Old Jewry of London, two loads of coals; to the poor beadsmen of Whittington College in London, two loads of the same coals; amongst the poor of the parish of Mary Magdalen in Milk Street in London, one [-of] load of the same coals; and among the poor of the parish of Saint Peter in West Cheap of London where I am now a parishioner, one load of the same coals, and so from time to time for evermore;

And further I will that the said 4 young men shall be bound to pay yearly against the said feast of Christmas to the two younger Wardens of the said Mystery of Mercers for the time being the sum of thirteen shillings four pence, that is to say, for every such young man's portion three shillings [f. 66v] four pence, the which said thirteen shillings four pence I will and devise by this my present testament and last will shall be divided in following, that is to say, to the youngest Warden of the same Company of the Mercery to the intent he shall see the distribution of the said coals in form afore declared yearly six shillings eight pence, and to the next younger Warden of the said Company for like intent three shillings four pence, and to the Clerk of the same Company for like intent and to put the said Wardens in memory of the distributing of the same coals yearly other three

shillings four pence, and the same for to have continuance from year to year according to the true intent and meaning of this my will;

Provided always and my will and mind is that the first 4 young men that shall have the said two hundred pounds in occupying for the first 7 years shall be of my kindred if there shall be so many free of the Company of the Mercery or shall be ready to be made free of the same Company within two years next after my decease, and further my will and mind is that if there shall not be found 4 of my kindred free of the said Company at the time of my decease or to be made free of the said Company within the space of 2 years next after my decease, then I will that my servant, Richard Cupper, shall have fifty pounds thereof in occupying in manner and form afore expressed and declared before any other, anything before in this my will mentioned or declared to the contrary thereof notwithstanding;

Item, I give and bequeath to every of my children, as well married as unmarried, and to the child in my wife's body, out of my portion the sum of two hundred pounds of lawful money of England, to be paid to the same children as they and every of them shall come to their lawful age or marriages as I have afore appointed, and every of them to be other's heir if death shall happen to any of them in the meantime, as I have afore willed and devised;

Item, I give and bequeath to the relief of the poor people being in the hospitals of London called Christ's, St Bartholomew's, Bridewell and St Thomas th' Apostle in Southwark the sum of one hundred pounds, that is to say to every of the same hospitals twenty-five pounds, to be paid within six months next after my decease;

And my will and mind is that Richard Hollyman, mercer, shall have the bringing up and keeping of Anne and Martha, my daughters, during their several nonages, and the use and occupation of their several parts and portions during the said space upon sufficient bond and sureties to be bound by recognizance to the Chamberlain of London for the true repayment of the same according to the custom of the said City of London;

And likewise I will that my friend, Thomas Heton, mercer, shall have the keeping, finding and virtuous bringing up of Humphrey Baskerville, my son, with the use and occupation of his part and portion during his nonage upon like bond and assurance according to the said custom;

And moreover my mind and will is that William Leonard, mercer, shall have the keeping, finding and virtuous bringing up of Angell, my daughter, with the use and occupation of her part and portion during her nonage or [+until her?] day of marriage upon like bond and assurance as is aforesaid;

And further my request and will is that my cousin, John Jackson, founder, may have the finding and bringing up of Richard, my son, with the use and occupation of his part and portion during his nonage upon like bond and assurance as I have afore devised;

And my request and will is also that my son-in-law, Harry Hungate, mercer, shall have the finding and bringing up of Sara, my daughter, with the use and occupation of her part and portion of my goods during her nonage or [+until her?] day of marriage upon such bond and assurance as I have afore expressed;

And moreover my request and will is that Jane, my wife, shall have the finding and virtuous bringing up of the child she now goeth withal so soon as God shall send it into the world, with the use and occupation of the part and portion of the same child during the nonage of the same child upon such bond and assurance as I have afore declared;

Provided always and my mind is that if any payment, task or loan shall be levied upon my said orphans or upon any part or portion to them or any of them due by Act of Parliament or by any other mean whatsoever, that all such payments, tasks and loans shall be from time to time borne and paid by him and them that shall have the occupying of their said portions and not out of my said orphans' stock;

Provided always that if the Lord Mayor of London or his brethren the Aldermen of the same City shall interrupt and disturb any of the parties aforementioned to whom I have committed the trust and keeping of my children with their parts and portions, so that they or any of them shall not or may not quietly have and enjoy the benefit of their portions according to the true intent and meaning of this my will in manner and form as I have afore willed and devised, that then and from thenceforth I will and devise by this my present testament that the foresaid gift and bequest by me made of the foresaid hundred pound to the poor people of the foresaid 4 hospitals shall be to all purposes and constructions in the law clearly [f. 67r] void and of none effect as though no such gift had been thereof made, and that then I will that the same hundred pounds shall remain and be equally divided to and amongst all my children, portion and portion like, to be paid in manner and form as I have afore devised, anything before in this my will rehearsed or declared to the contrary thereof notwithstanding;

The residue of my part and portion remaining I give and bequeath and I will shall remain to and amongst all my children, as well married as unmarried, to be paid and delivered to the same children as they and every of them shall accomplish and come to their lawful ages of 21 years or marriages, and every of them to be other's heir according to the custom of the said City as I have afore devised;

Provided always that where I gave in marriage with my daughter to my son-in-law, Harry Hungate, the sum of two hundred pounds, my will and mind is that my said daughter Hungate shall have as good part and portion of my movable goods and chattels as any other of my said children shall have, and that the same two hundred pounds shall be divided, defalked and abated in the payment and partition of the portion of the said Hungate's wife to her due in and to my goods by force of this my present testament, so that my children's portions may be made equal and all alike, and one to have no more than another, anything afore given or devised to the contrary notwithstanding;

Item, I give and bequeath to the Common Sergeant of London for the time being yearly during the term of seven years next after my decease thirteen shillings four pence by year, and I bequeath to the youngest clerk of my Lord Mayor's court for the time being, who usually keepeth the records of orphanage, yearly during the term of seven years next after my decease six shillings 8d, which said annuities of thirteen shillings four pence to the said Common Sergeant and six shillings eight pence to the youngest clerk shall be upon condition that the said Common Sergeant and the said clerk shall yearly cause my overseers whose names are underwritten to bring in their accounts, whereby it may appear what debts and goods is that year last past come to their hands, and to cause them to put in sureties for the same from time to time as occasion shall serve;

And I will that my said overseers shall freely lend unto Thomas Clarke the younger of Coxall, clothier, the sum of one hundred pounds of lawful money of England, he to have the occupying thereof for one whole year, so that he put in sufficient sureties for the same;

And I will that likewise my said overseers shall freely lend unto Thomas Dodinge of Worcester, clothier, the sum of one hundred pounds of lawful money of England, he to have the occupying thereof for one whole year, so that he put in sufficient sureties for the same;

Item, I give and bequeath to Ludgate, Newgate and the two Counters, to every of the said prisons three pounds six shillings eight pence, to be distributed amongst the poor prisoners there either in money or in meat and drink according to the good discretion of my said overseers;

Item, I give and bequeath to Johan [=Joan] Phillippes, the wife of Thomas Phillippes, grocer, three pounds six shillings eight pence and a black gown;

Item, I give and bequeath to my cousin Tyb of Awpeley [=Apley?] in the county of Salop, whom my brother Thomas doth know, forty shillings;

And of th' execution of this my present testament and last will I ordain and make Humphrey Baskerville and Richard Baskerville, my sons, and Angell and Sara Baskerville, my daughters, my executors of this my present testament and last will;

And overseers of the same, to see it truly performed accordingly, I ordain and make my trusty friends Harry Hungate, Richard Hollyman, Thomas Heton, mercers, John Jackson, founder, and William Leonard, mercer, citizens of London, overseers of this my said testament, and I bequeath to every of my said overseers for their pains to be taken in that behalf ten pounds, and to every of them a black gown;

And I require my trusty friends Thomas Pearson, scrivener, and John Browne, cloth-worker, to be aiding and helping with their counsel and friendship to my said executors and overseers in due execution and performance of this my will, as my trust is in them,

and for their pains to be taken in that behalf I give and bequeath to either of them five pounds and to either of them a black gown;

And forasmuch as my said children before by me appointed to be my executors be young and not of years of discretion presently to take upon them the charge and due execution of this my present testament, therefore my will and mind is that my said overseers shall take upon them the administration of my goods and th' execution of this my present testament and last will during the minority of my said executors, and I charge my said overseers, as they will answer before God at the dreadful Day of Judgment, that they do, as much as in them lieth, see this my present testament and last will in all points performed and done according to my true intent and meaning;

And further I will and charge my said executors and every of them, as they will likewise answer before God, that they ne any of them do take upon him, her or them th' execution of this my testament and last will within the term of eight years after my decease, but peaceably and quietly do suffer my said overseers to have [f. 67v] th' administration and execution thereof during all the said term of eight years next after my decease if my said overseers or any two of them do so long live, and if any of my said executors do within the said term of eight years next after my decease take upon him, her or them th' execution of this my present testament and last will contrary to my said devise and meaning, that then I will that all such gifts, legacies and bequests by me before to him, her or them given and bequeathed shall be utterly void and of none effect, and then as now and now as then I will and bequeath all the said portion and portions of him, her or them that shall so go about to break my said will and devise to and amongst the other of my children, sons and daughters, equally amongst them to be divided, and every of them to be other's heir concerning my said bequest in that behalf;

In witness whereof I, the said Humphrey Baskerville, to this my present testament and last will have set to my hand and seal, given the day and year first above-written. By me, Humphrey Baskerville, alderman. Testes Thomas Pearson. By me, Richard Hollyman, mercer. John Browne, witness, and other. Richard Cupper.

Decimo quarto die mensis Marcij Anno domini secundum Cursum et Computacionem ecclesie Anglicane millimo quingentesimo sexagesimo tertio Emanavit Commissio Henrico Hungate Richardo Hollyman Thome Heaton Iohanni Jackson et Willmo Leonerde supervisoribus nominatis in Testamento predicti defuncti ad Administrandum bona Iura et credita dicti defuncti iuxta tenorem huius testamenti Durant minori etate Humfridi Baskerfeld Richardi Baskerfelde Angele Baskerfelde et Sare baskerfelde liberorum dicti defuncti et executorum nominatorum in huiusmodi testamento De bene et fideliter administrandum eadem &c ac de pleno et fidei Inventario &c Necnon de vero et plano Compotot(?) reddendo Ad sancta dei &c

[=On the fourteenth day of the month of March in the year of the Lord according to the course and reckoning of the English Church the thousand five hundred sixty-third a grant issued to Henry Hungate, Richard Hollyman, Thomas Heton, John Jackson and William

Leonard, supervisors named in the testament of the foresaid deceased, to administer the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased according to the tenor of the same testament during the minority of Humphrey Baskerville, Richard Baskerville, Angel Baskerville and Sara Baskerville, children of the said deceased and executors named in the same testament, [+sworn] on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same etc., and [+to prepare] a full and faithful inventory, and also to render a true and plain account.]