

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 1 February 1564 and proved 24 March 1564, of Edmund Style, brother-in-law of Lettice (nee Pakington) Martyn, the mother of Humphrey Martyn, the addressee of the *Langham Letter* which describes Leicester's entertainment of Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth in the summer of 1575.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the Style pedigree, see Howard, Joseph Jackson and George John Armytage, eds., *The Visitation of London in the Year 1568*, (London: Harleian Society, 1869), Vol. I, p. 84 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationoflond00cook#page/84/mode/2up>

For the Style pedigree, see also Sutton, Anne F., 'London Mercers From Suffolk c. 1200 to 1570', Part II, *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History*, Vol. XLII, (2010), pp. 162-84, available online at:

<http://suffolk institute.pdfsrv.co.uk/>

It should be noted that both Hasted and Corner conflate the testator's uncle, the London mercer, John Style (d.1505), with Sir John Style, for whose will, dated 22 May 1529 and proved 19 January 1530, see TNA PROB 11/23/236.

See Hasted, Edward, *The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent*, Vol. I, (Canterbury: W. Bristow, 1797), pp. 542-3 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=jzgtAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA542>

See also Corner, George Richard, 'Memorials of the Principal Persons Interred in the Church of Allhallows Barking', *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society*, Vol. II, (London: J.B. Nichols and Sons, 1864), pp. 224-258 at pp. 251-2:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=xcpDAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA251>

Testator's parents

The testator appears to have been a younger son of William Style (d.1500) of Ipswich and his wife, Margery, and a nephew of the London mercer, John Style (d.1505), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/14/715. For William Style (d.1500) of Ipswich, see the pedigree in Sutton, *supra*.

In the will below the testator states that he was brought up in Hadleigh, Suffolk, and mentions his 'head house' in Ipswich, as well as two alms-houses there.

The testator states that he is a cousin of Sir Humphrey Style (d.1552), a younger son of the London mercer, John Style (d.1505):

Item, I bequeath unto the children of Sir Humphrey Style, my late cousin, that is to say, Edmund, Oliver, John and Nicholas Style, the sum of one hundred pounds equally amongst them to be divided, and I will that every of the same four children shall be other's heir thereof.

Item, I give more unto the said Edmund, Oliver, John and Nicholas Style, sons of Sir Humphrey Style, knight, deceased, twenty pounds, that is to say, to my godson, John Style, ten pounds, and thother ten pounds to be divided amongst the said Edmund, Oliver and Nicholas Style equally, and if any of the same children fortune to decease within th' age of twenty and one years, then I will that the survivors or survivor of them shall have and enjoy the part or portion of him or them so deceasing equally amongst the survivor or survivors of them to be divided.

For the will of Sir Humphrey Style, dated 1 May 1551 and proved 21 April 1552, to which the testator was a witness, see TNA PROB 11/35/127.

The Style family, see also *The English Baronetage*, Vol. II, (London: Thomas Wotton, 1741), pp. 22-3 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=nC45AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA22>

Style of Wateringbury, Kent.

This family were originally seated in Suffolk, and are descended from (a) William Style of Ipswich, father of John Style, who by Elizabeth, daughter and co-heir of Sir Guy Wolstan, of London, Knt. had issue, Sir Humphry Style, of Langley, in Kent, Knt. who by his first wife Bridget, daughter of Sir Thomas Baldrey, Knt. had issue three sons, 1 Edmund Style, of Langley, Esq; 2 Oliver Style, Esq; who was Sheriff of London, temp. Jac. I. ancestor to the present Sir Thomas, of whom hereafter, and 3. Nicholas Style, Esq; Alderman and Sheriff of London, temp. Jac. I. who died Nov. 16. 1615.

Edmund Style, of Langley, Esq; the eldest son, by Mary, daughter of John Berney, of Reedham, in Norfolk, Esq; was father of William, who had two wives. 1. Anne, daughter of John Eversfield, of Den, in Sussex, Esq; and 2. Mary, daughter of Robert Clarke, Esq; one of the Barons of the Exchequer

This elder branch terminating in an heir female . . . we shall proceed to the second son,

Oliver Style, Esq; beforementioned, who by Susanna, daughter of John Bull, Esq; had issue

For Oliver Style and his first wife, Susan Bull, see also the will of Richard Branthwayte (d.1594), TNA PROB 11/84/476.

MARRIAGE

The testator married Anne Pakington (d.1578), the daughter of Humphrey Pakington and Elizabeth Harding, by whom he had no issue. For the will of Humphrey Pakington, see TNA PROB 11/38/212. For the will of Elizabeth (nee Harding) Pakington, see TNA PROB 11/46/444.

After the death of Edmund Style, Anne Pakington married secondly Edward Jackman (d.1569?), thirdly James Bacon (d. 5 June 1573?), and fourthly Sir Edward Baynton (c.1520-1593). For the will of Edward Jackman, see TNA PROB 11/52/55. For the will of James Bacon, see TNA PROB 11/55/374. For Sir Edward Baynton, see his will, TNA PROB 11/82/478, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/baynton-edward-1520-93>

OTHER PERSONS NAMED IN THE WILL

The testator's overseer, Richard Lambert (d.1567), was the first husband of Alice Pakington, sister of the testator's wife, Anne Pakington. For the will, proved 24 February 1609, of Alice (nee Pakington) Lambert Paston, see TNA PROB 11/113/201. For the will of Richard Lambert, see TNA PROB 11/49/267. See also Howard, *supra*, p. 26.

For Robert Horne, grocer, see his will, proved 11 October 1568, TNA PROB 11/50/291.

For Edmund Kempe, mercer, see his will, proved 8 August 1542, TNA PROB 11/29/159.

For Guy Awood, see the will of Edward Kempe, *supra*. In his will, Edmund Kempe refers to Guy Wood as 'my wife's son'.

For Nicholas Robertson, esquire, of Boston, Lincolnshire, see his will, dated 27 March 1552 and proved 5 July 1552, TNA PROB 11/35/243.

LM: T{estamentum} Edmondi Stile

In the name of God, Amen. The first day of February in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred threescore and three, and in the sixth 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, Edmund Style, citizen and grocer of London, dwelling in the

parish of Saint Michael at Bassishaw in London, being sick in body yet nevertheless of good and perfect remembrance, laud and praise be therefore given to Almighty God, do make and ordain this my present testament containing herein my last will in manner and form following, that is to say:

First I principally I give and commend my soul into th' hands of Almighty God, my Maker, Creator and Redeemer, trusting and most assuredly believing that through the painful death and passion of my Saviour and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, I shall have clear and free remission and forgiveness of all my sins, and after this transitory life joy and bliss everlasting which never shall have end, Amen;

And I will my body to th' earth to be buried in the aisle whereas I do commonly sit in the Church of Saint Michael at Bassishaw aforesaid where I do now dwell, and I believe and am in sure and certain hope with God's elect people to hear this most joyful voice of God, 'Come unto me, ye blessed of my Father; receive the kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the world', and if it shall please God to call me out of this world not in this said city of London, then in such place as it shall please God to provide for me at the discretion of mine executors hereafter named;

And I will that my body be brought to th' earth as it shall become a Christian man to be according to my vocation;

Item, I will that as soon as convenient time may be after my decease my said executrix shall peruse all my goods, chattels, plate, jewels, debts and ready money that I have or that shall be received of my debtors as they shall grow and come to th' hands of my said executrix, and that my said executrix shall cause all my goods and chattels to be praised to th' uttermost value, and they so praised, I will that the same shall be indifferently and equally parted and divided into two parts, whereof one part of the same two parts I give and bequeath to Anne Style, my well-beloved wife, over and above all such jewels as she hath or to her do appertain, with a stock of forty pounds in money;

And the second part of all my said goods, chattels, plate, jewels, debts and ready money I give and bequeath unto my said executrix towards the charges of my burial, the payment of my debts and legacies, repairing of my houses, maintaining of my lands and tenements, and to the performance of this my present testament and last will;

Item, I will that my debts be paid in as short space as conveniently may be after my death so that no man lose any penny by me that he of right out [=ought] to have;

Item, I give and bequeath unto twenty of the most poorest men and women, that is to say, ten men and ten women, dwelling in the said parish of Saint Michael twenty pounds to be bestowed in the best cloth that can be gotten for five shillings a yard to make every one of them a gown to wear, and if the said twenty pounds will serve any further, then the overplus to be bestowed for like purpose within the said parish at the discretion of my said executrix;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the poor people within the said parish of Saint [f. 53r] Michael six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence, whereof three pounds six shillings and eight pence to be given and distributed in money at my burial, and thother three pounds six shillings and eight pence to be given and distributed within three years next after my decease in wood and coals at the discretion of my said executrix when the poor hath most need of the same;

Item, I give and bequeath to the poor prisoners in London and in the suburbs of the same, that is to say, Ludgate, Newgate, the Counter in Wood Street and the Counter in the Poultry, the Counter in Southwark, the Marshalsea and the King's Bench, to them all seven pounds to be given as shortly after my death as mine executrix may conveniently;

Item, I give and bequeath to the Governors of Christ's Hospital in London, Saint Bartholomew's, and Saint Thomas' Hospital in Southwark, that is to say, to those three hospitals threescore pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath to the poor people in Ipswich in the county of Suffolk twenty pounds to be fully distributed in four years, which twenty pounds I will shall be delivered within one year next after my decease to the bailiffs of the same town for the time being, and I will that they shall distribute five pounds of the said twenty pounds in the next winter season to the most comfort of the poorest people there, and the residue, being fifteen pounds, I will shall be put by the said bailiffs into th' hands of some honest poor young man of the same town to occupy, he putting in sufficient sureties for the sure payment of five pounds yearly to be paid to the use aforesaid until the said fifteen pounds be so fully paid;

Item, I bequeath to the churchwardens of Saint Nicholas parish in Ipswich towards the reparations of the church, as leading or tiling, twenty shillings;

Item, I give and bequeath to my brother [=brother-in-law] Richard Lambert his son named Edmund, my godson, five pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath to Humphrey Lambert, the son of my brother [=brother-in-law], John Lambert, grocer, my godson, five pounds, which five pounds, and thother five pounds given before unto Edmund Lambert, I will shall be paid within one year next after my decease to every of them if the said Edmund Lambert and Humphrey Lambert be then living, and I will that their said legacies shall be delivered to the said Richard Lambert and John Lambert or their assigns to be put in occupying to the same two children's uses until they come to lawful ages and out of their terms of apprenticeship if they happen to be prentices, and if it happen either of the same Edmund Lambert or Humphrey Lambert to decease before their age of twenty and one years, then I will that the survivor of them shall have and enjoy the part and portion of him so deceasing, and if it happen both of the said Edmund Lambert and Humphrey Lambert to decease before they or any of them shall come to and accomplish th' age of twenty and one years, then I will that both the said stock and money shall be given to the next of every of the said Richard and John Lambert's children males equally amongst them to be divided, and for lack of such male

children, then I give the said legacies of the said Edmund Lambert and Humphrey Lambert to the female children of the said Richard and John Lambert;

Item, I give and bequeath to every of my late prentices, that is to say, to Roger Knott and to William Wale, to each of them ten pounds;

Item, I bequeath unto Sir Charles Wentworth, clerk, forty shillings;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the Mystery of the Grocers of London twenty pounds to bestow at their discretions for the benefit and maintaining of their hall and in deeds of charity;

Item, I give and bequeath to John(?) Baye that came out of Flanders, whom I brought up in my house for God his sake, four pounds to be delivered unto him at his lawful age of twenty and one years if he be then living;

Item, I give and bequeath to Edward Rest, grocer, my mistress' son, five pounds;

Item, I bequeath unto the children of Sir Humphrey Style, my late cousin, that is to say, Edmund, Oliver, John and Nicholas Style, the sum of one hundred pounds equally amongst them to be divided, and I will that every of the same four children shall be other's heir thereof;

Item, I give more unto the said Edmund, Oliver, John and Nicholas Style, sons of Sir Humphrey Style, knight, deceased, twenty pounds, that is to say, to my godson, John Style, ten pounds, and thother ten pounds to be divided amongst the said Edmund, Oliver and Nicholas Style equally, and if any of the same children fortune to decease within th' age of twenty and one years, then I will that the survivors or survivor of them shall have and enjoy the part or portion of him or them so deceasing equally amongst the survivor or survivors of them to be divided;

Item, I bequeath to John Style in Southwark, a poor man, forty shillings;

Item, I bequeath to every one of my servants, as well men as women, not named in this my will, being with me at the time of my decease, twenty shillings;

Item, I give and bequeath to Robert Harne [=Horne?], grocer, six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence;

Item, I give and bequeath to my brother [=brother-in-law], Richard Lambert, grocer, my freedom in Russia as by the court in that behalf is ordered and decreed;

Item, I forgive and release Ellen Moris twenty shillings of the debt she oweth to me;

Item, I do pardon and release William Atkins five pounds of the debts which he oweth to me;

Item, I give to my brother [=brother-in-law], Richard Lambert, grocer, twenty pounds to the intent that he shall give and bestow the same according as I have willed and declared unto him between him and me;

Item, I give to certain poor people one hundred pounds [f. 53v] for an intent to be distributed amongst them where most need shall be according to the discretions of my executrix and overseer hereafter named as I have willed and declared unto them between them and me;

Item, I bequeath to James Kempe, son of Edmund Kempe, deceased, five pounds;

Item, I bequeath to Guy Awood, mercer, five pounds, and also forgive and release him of the debts which he oweth to me, five pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath to the poor people in Grocers' Hall yard twenty shillings, whereof the goodwife Holkes to have five shillings;

And where I by my last will have willed and devised that my lands and tenements and other my hereditaments with th' appurtenances, as well in London aforesaid as in all other places specified and declared in my said last will, my very intent and will is that the said will concerning the devise of my lands and all things therein contained shall be to th' only uses and intents specified and declared in the same my last will;

Item, I give and bequeath to the poor people in Hadleigh in the county of Suffolk where I was brought up six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence, to be delivered unto such honest men of the same town as will see it well distributed;

The residue of all and singular my goods, chattels, plate, jewels, debts and money not before bequeathed (my debts paid, my funeral expenses performed, and these my legacies herein contained fulfilled), I wholly give and bequeath unto the foresaid Anne, my well-beloved wife, she to order and dispose the same at her liberty, free will and pleasure, which Anne, my well-beloved wife, I ordain, constitute and make my full and sole executrix of this my last will and testament;

And overseer of the same I ordain, name and appoint my brother-in-law, Richard Lambert of London, grocer, and I do give unto him for his pains and travail to see the same my last will truly performed (as my special trust is in him), besides his charges in that behalf to be sustained, five pounds of lawful English money;

In witness whereof I, the said Edmund Style, to this my present last will and testament have subscribed my name and set to my seal the day and year first above-written, these persons whose names be hereunder written being witnesses by me thereunto specially called and desired. Per me, Richardum Lambert as witness this to be a true will as above specified. P{er} me, William Wale.

LM: Vltima voluntas eiusdem Style

This is the last will and testament of me, Edmund Style, of the parish of Saint Michael at Bassishaw in London, grocer, made and declared the first day of February in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred threescore and three in the sixth 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., touching and concerning th' order and disposition of all my lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances in the county of Suffolk and in the City of London in manner and form following, that is to say:

First, I will that Anne Style, my well-beloved wife, shall have and enjoy my head house in Ipswich with all orchards, gardens, dovehouses, lands, tenements, meadows, pastures, and all my other hereditaments in Ipswich aforesaid, with all the profits to them or any of them belonging, to have and to hold to the same Anne and her assigns during her natural life;

Also I will and devise to the said Anne, my wife, all that my dwelling-house in Saint Michael's parish at Bassishaw in London wherein I now dwell with the garden and hen-yard thereunto adjoining or belonging with all and singular their appurtenances in as large and ample manner as I now occupy the same, to have and to hold the same my dwelling-house and all other the premises last before mentioned to her, the same Anne, and to her heirs and assigns to her and their proper uses forever;

Item, I will that my said wife shall have and enjoy my four tenements now made unto three tenements in the said parish of Saint Michael at Bassishaw during her natural life, and if I fortune to decease without issue of my body lawfully begotten, then I will that after the decease of my said wife all that my head house in Ipswich aforesaid with all my lands, tenements, meadows, pastures, orchards, gardens, dovehouses and all my other hereditaments in Ipswich aforesaid with all the profits to them belonging shall remain to th' heirs males of the body of my cousin, Sir Humphrey Style, late of Langley in the parish of Beckingham [=Beckenham] in the county of Kent, knight, deceased;

And for lack of such heirs males of the body of the same Sir Humphrey lawfully begotten, I will all the said premises in Ipswich aforesaid with th' appurtenances shall remain unto th' heirs males of the body of James Kempe, son of Edmund Kempe, late of London, mercer;

And for lack of such heirs, I will all the said premises in Ipswich aforesaid shall remain to th' heirs males of Nicholas Robertson of Boston in the county of Lincoln;

And for lack of such heirs males, I will all the said premises in Ipswich aforesaid to th' heirs general of me, the said Edmund Style, forever;

Item, I will and devise that after the decease of the said Anne, my wife, two tenements now made into one tenement next adjoining to my head house in the said parish of St Michael at Bassishaw in London to Oliver Style and to his heirs;

Item, I will and devise that after the decease of the said Anne, my wife, my other two tenements next adjoining to the said two tenements now made into one tenement last before remembered towards the Guildhall gate unto Nicholas Style and to his heirs;

Provided always and I will and do by this my last will bind and charge my said wife that she, during her life natural, shall uphold, keep and maintain from time to time sufficiently repaired all my said lands, houses, tenements and hereditaments aforesaid which I have hereinbefore devised or willed unto her during her natural life according unto my true intent and meaning herein, and if the said Anne, my wife, or her assigns shall not do the aforesaid reparations within one half year's warning thereof to her given by any of my aforesaid heirs or by my overseers without fraud or covin, then my mind and intent is and I will that it shall be lawful for my said heirs to enter upon all or any such of the premises given to my said wife during her natural life as aforesaid not sufficiently repaired as is aforesaid according to the true meaning of this my last will;

And I will that the said Anne, my wife, during her natural life, and also my said heirs after her decease to whom any of my lands, tenements or hereditaments in Ipswich aforesaid by force of this my last will shall descend or come, shall from time to time maintain and uphold in and with all manner of reparations necessary and needful all those my two alms-houses in Ipswich aforesaid during the time that they or any of them shall enjoy any of the same lands, tenements or hereditaments in Ipswich aforesaid to them given as is aforesaid;

And I will that they or any of them at any time hereafter shall not receive or take any rent or other thing for the said two alms-houses or any of them, but that they and every of them shall quietly permit and suffer poor people to enjoy and occupy the same alms-houses and either of them at all times after my decease forever, in like manner and form as they have done heretofore, or hereafter during my natural life shall do, and that according to my true intent and meaning therein, any article, clause, devise, matter or thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding;

In witness whereof to this my last will and testament concerning the order and devise of my lands, tenements and hereditaments, I, the said Edmund Style, have set to my seal the day & year above-written, these persons being witnesses of the same by me specially called and desired. Per me Richardum Lambert as witness this to be his will. Per me Will{elm}um Wale.

Probatum fuit h{uius}mo{d}i Testamentum Coram d{omi}no Waltero Haddon Legum doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cant{uariensis} Commissario apud London vicesimo quarto die mensis Marcij Anno Domini millesimo quingent{es}imo sexagesimo tertio Iuramento

Anne Style relicte et executricis in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}at{e} Cui commissa fuit Administrac{i}o omniu{m} bonoru{m} de bene etc Ad{ministrando} ac de pleno Inventario &c Necnon de fideli Comp{ot}o reddend{o} &c Iurat{e}

[=The same testament was proved before Sir Walter Haddon, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at London on the twenty-fourth day of the month of March in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixty-third by the oath of Anne Style, relict and executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all the goods, sworn to well administer etc., and [+to prepare] a full inventory etc., and also to render a faithful account.]