

SUMMARY: The document below is the will, dated 3 September 1568 and proved 22 November 1569, of Oxford's first cousin, Robert Darcy, a younger brother of John Darcy (d. 5 March 1581), 2nd Baron Darcy of Chiche. The latter, together with Sir William Waldegrave (d.1613), jointly entered into guarantees amounting to £5000 for Oxford's debt to the Court of Wards (see TNA C 2/Eliz/T6/48).

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator was the son of Thomas Darcy (1506-1558), 1st Baron Darcy of Chiche, and his second wife, Oxford's aunt Elizabeth de Vere (d. 26 December 1565), sister of John de Vere (1516-1562), 16th Earl of Oxford.

For further details of the testator's family background see the wills of his father, mother and elder brother, TNA PROB 11/44/115, TNA PROB 11/48/328 and TNA PROB 11/63/135.

One of the principal legatees in the testator's will is his brother-in-law, Edmund Pyrton (d.1609), who is also mentioned in the will of Oxford's first cousin John Vere (d.1624) of Kirby Hall (see TNA PROB 11/143/706).

LM: T{estamentum} Roberti Darcye

In the name of God, Amen. I, Robert Darcy of Saint Osyth in the county of Essex, do make & ordain this my last will and testament, being in perfect mind and memory, the third day of September and the tenth year [=3 September 1568] of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., in manner and form following:

First, I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my Maker & Redeemer, & my body to the earth from whence it came;

Item, I bequeath to my Lord & brother one basin & ewer parcel-gilt;

Item, I give to his two elder sons two standing gilt pots;

Item, I give to my sister Pyrton two beds with all the furniture thereunto belonging, with all other implements, whatsoever they be, with my part of the hangings;

Item, I give to my brother [=brother-in-law] Pyrton my brooch with a diamond;

I give to my sister Thomasine a silver drinking-pot with ribs;

Item, I give to my nephew Pyrton a dozen of silver trenchers;

Item, I give to Thomas Tey a black guarded cloak with velvet and with a cap being in my Lord's chest at London, and my white leather hose being in my press at St Osyth;

Item, I give to my brother [=brother-in-law] Pyrton a plain cloak with a cap lined throughout with unshorn velvet, and a red pair of carnation hose trimmed fair with lace and never worn, being in my press at St Osyth, and also a black Dutch cloak trimmed with lace;

Item, I give to my servant Valey all my cast apparel with my doublets and jerkins and 20s;

And I do ordain and make my brother, Edmund Pyrton, and Constance, his wife, my sister, my executors, the Lord John Darcy, my brother, supervisor of this my last will & testament;

In witness of this my last deed(?) & testament have put to my hand & seal the day and year abovewritten, per me, Robert Darcy, these being witnesses: George Knightley. Per me, Robertum Cotton.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum coram Mag^{ist}ro Waltero Haddon Legum doctore Curie p^{re}rogatiue Cantuar^{iensis} commissar^{io} apud London xxij die Novembris anno d^{omi}ni Mill^{es}imo quingen^{tes}imo sexagesimo nono Iuramento Iustiniam Kydd procurator^{is} Edmundi Pyrton et Constancie vxor^{is} eius executor^{um} in testamento h^{uius}mo^di no^miⁿat^{orum} Quib^{us} com^miss^a fuit administracⁱo omⁿiu^m et sing^ulor^{um} bonor^{um} &c De bene &c. Ad sancta dei Evangelia Iurat^{orum}.

Collacⁱo ffacta per me Iustinianum Kydd

[=The above-written testament was proved before Master Walter Haddon, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at London on the 22nd day of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixty-ninth by the oath of Justinian Kydd, proctor of Edmund Pyrton and Constance, his wife, executors named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods etc., to well etc. Sworn on the Holy Gospels.]

Collation(?) made by me, Justinian Kydd