

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 8 March 1572 and proved 29 March 1572, of Dunstan Walton (d. 19 March 1572), brother-in-law of the poet, Thomas Watson (d.1592), who dedicated *Ekatompathia* to Oxford in 1582 (see STC 25118a). The testator's wife, Blanche Watson (d. 24 April 1593), was the daughter of William Watson (d.1559), and his second wife, Jane Stanney, while the poet, Thomas Watson (d.1592), was the son of William Watson (d.1559) and his third wife, Anne Lee (d.1561). For the will of William Watson (d.1559), see TNA PROB 11/43, ff. 26-7.

After the testator's death, his widow, Blanche (d. 24 April 1593), married the London grocer and mercer, John Lambert (d.1582), whose first wife had been Katherine Pakington, the aunt of Humphrey Martyn, the addressee of the *Langham Letter* which describes Leicester's entertainment of Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth in the summer of 1575. After John Lambert's death, Blanche (d. 24 April 1593), married the London mercer, alderman, and later Lord Mayor, Thomas Skinner (d.1596), who had purchased Castle Camps from Oxford. For Thomas Skinner's fraudulent dealing against Oxford, see BL Lansdowne 68/11, f. 26 and BL Lansdowne 63/76, ff. 191-2. For the will of John Lambert, see TNA PROB 11/64, ff. 21-3. For the will of Thomas Skinner, see TNA PROB 11/89, ff. 394-5. For the inquisition post mortem setting out the relationship between the testator, his wife Blanche (d. 24 April 1593), her father, William Watson (d.1559), and her second and third husbands, John Lambert (d.1582) and Thomas Skinner (d.1596), see 'Inquisitions: 1593-4', *Abstracts of Inquisitiones Post Mortem for the City of London: Part 3* (1908), pp. 171-219, available online at: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=65901>.

The testator leaves bequests to his wife's brother, John Watson (d. 19 December 1574) and sister, Anne (nee Watson) Ducke (d. 18 October 1574) and her daughter, Blanche:

Item, I will and give unto John Watson, my brother-in-law, forty shillings in money.

Item, I will and give unto Thomas Ducke, my brother-in-law, and to his wife, three pounds in money.

Item, I will and give unto Blanche Ducke, to be paid unto her at the day of her marriage, twenty pounds in money.

The testator also leaves bequests to Thomas Haselfoote, the husband of his wife's stepsister, Barbara (nee Watson) Haselfoote, the daughter of William Watson (d.1559) and his first wife, whose name is unknown:

Item, I do forgive unto Thomas Haselfoote, my brother-in-law, all such sum and sums of money as is due or owing unto me by the said Thomas.

Item, I will and give also unto the said Thomas Haselfoote, my brother-in-law, three pounds in money.

A Walton pedigree shows that the testator was the son of William Walton of Shapwick, Somerset, and his wife, Joan. See Weaver, Frederick William, ed., *The Visitations of the County of Somerset*, (Exeter: W. Pollard, 1885), p. 134, available online. In a letter written by the Muscovy Company's first agent, George Killingworth, on 27 November 1555, the testator is described as the servant of his father-in-law, William Watson (d.1559):

And if it please you to send any letters to Dantiske to Robert Elson, or to William Watson's servant, Dunstan Walton to be conveyed to us, it may please you to enclose ours in a letter sent from you to him, written in Polish, Dutch, Latine or Italian: so inclosed, coming to the Mosco to his hands, he will convey our letters to us wheresoever we be.

See Hakluyt, Richard, *The Principal Navigations*, Vol. IIIp. 85, available online.

In the London port book for 1665, Dunstan Walton is described as one of the largest exporters of broadcloths. See Zins, Henryk, *England and the Baltic in the Elizabethan Era*, trans. H.C. Stevens (Manchester: University of Manchester Press, 1972), p. 174.

One of the witnesses to the will, Edward Atslowe, was likely the physician Edward Atslowe, the husband of Oxford's first cousin, Frances Darcy (see TNA C 2/Eliz/A2/56).

RM: Testamentum Dunstoni Waltoun

In the name of God, Amen. The 8th of March one thousand five hundred threescore and eleven and in the fourteenth 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, Dunstan Walton of the city of London, mercer, the unprofitable servant of God, weak in body but strong in mind, thanks be given unto Almighty God for the same, do make and ordain this my last will and testament, and do willingly and with a free heart render and give again into th' hands of my Lord my God my spirit, which of his fatherly goodness gave unto me when he fashioned this my body within my mother's womb, by that means making me a living creature, nothing doubting that this my Lord God for his mercy's sake set forth in the precious blood of his dear beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our only Saviour and Redeemer, will receive my soul into his glory, and place it in the company of the heavenly angels and blessed saints;

And as concerning my body, even with a good will and free heart I give it over, commending it unto the earth whereof it came, nothing doubting but that, according to the article of our faith, at the great day of the general resurrection when we shall appear before the judgment-seat of Christ, I shall receive it again by the mighty power of God

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wherewith he is able to subdue all things to himself, not a corruptible, weak and vile body, as it is now, but an incorruptible, immortal, strong and perfect in all points like unto the glorious body of my Lord and Saviour, Christ Jesus;

And as concerning my worldly possessions, goods, chattels, plate, jewels, ready money and debts whatsoever, I make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say:

First I will that all such debts as of right I owe and shall be lawfully proved to be my debt shall be contented and paid by my executrix hereunder named;

Item, I will, give and grant unto Blanche, my well-beloved wife, and unto her heirs forever all that my house with th' appurtenances and every part and parcel thereof wherein I now dwell, situate and being in Marke Lane in London;

Item, I also will and give unto the said Blanche, my wife, the one half of all my goods, chattels, household stuff, plate, jewels, ready money and debts whatsoever, my debts and funerals being paid;

Item, I will and give unto my brother, Richard Walton, six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence;

Item, I will and give unto my brother, Harry Walton, thirteen pounds six shillings and eight pence in money;

Item, I will and give unto my brother, Francis Walton, four pounds in money;

Item, I will and give unto my brother, Robert Walton, three pounds in money, so as he do deal faithfully, uprightly and truly with my executrix hereunder named;

Item, I do forgive unto Thomas Haselfoote, my brother-in-law, all such sum and sums of money as is due or owing unto me by the said Thomas;

Item, I will and give also unto the said Thomas Haselfoote, my brother-in-law, three pounds in money;

Item, I will and give unto Thomas Ducke, my brother-in-law, and to his wife, three pounds in money;

Item, I will and give unto my cousin, Edward Sothwarthe [=Southworth?], and to his wife, forty shillings in money;

Item, I will unto these 4 houses, Ludgate, Newgate, the King's Bench and the Marshalsea, 20s apiece;

Item, I will and give unto my cousin, John Payne of Glastonbury and to Anne, his wife, three pounds in money;

Item, I will and give unto Blanche Ducke, to be paid unto her at the day of her marriage, twenty pounds in money;

Item, I will and give unto John Watson, my brother-in-law, forty shillings in money;

Item, I will and give unto the poor of the parish where I now dwell, to be distributed according to the discretion of my executrix, 20s in money;

Item, I will and given unto John Foxall, mercer, forty shillings to make him a ring;

Item, I will and give unto every of my maidservants in my house ten shillings apiece;

Item, I will and give unto Katherine Draper ten shillings in money;

Item, I will and give for three several sermons to be made according to the discretion of my executrix 6s 8d apiece;

Item, I will and give unto Barnaby Feelde forty shillings;

Item, I do will and give unto Mr Stoddarde forty shillings in money;

Item, I will and give unto Roger Flowdd forty shillings to make him a ring;

Item, I will and my mind is that as little pomp and charges shall be used in the day of my burial as shall be thought meet by the discretion of my executrix;

And of this my last will and testament I make and ordain Blanche, my well-beloved wife, my whole and sole executrix, and for overseers thereof I make and ordain my friends, Mr Stoddard and Barnaby Feelde;

The residue of all my goods, chattels, household stuff, plate, jewels, ready money and debts whatsoever, I will and give unto Blanche, my well-beloved wife;

In witness whereof unto this my last will and testament I have subscribed my name and set to my seal the day and year abovesaid. By me, Dunstan Walton, mercer.

In witness that this is the last will and testament of the within-named Dunstan Walton, we hereunder named have set to our names with our own hands. Edward Atslove. Per me, John Lendall(?). Per me, Thomas Robleye. Magistri(?) iegrnimo Ascholari

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum coram magistro Drewry curie prerogatiue cantuariensis comissario apud London vicesimo nono die mensis Martij Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo septuagesimo secundo Iuramento Radulphi Browne notarij publici procuratoris Blanchie relicte et executricis in huiusmodi testamento nominate Cui comissa fuit administracio omnium et singulorum bonoum &c De bene &c Ad sancta dei Evangelia Iurati

[=The above-written testament was proved before Master Drury, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at London on the twenty-ninth day of the month of March in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred seventy-second by the oath of Ralph Browne, notary public, proctor of Blanche, relict and executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc.]