

SUMMARY: The document below is the will, dated 30 April 1577 and proved 21 June 1577, of Dorothy Pakington, widow of Sir Thomas Pakington (d.1571) of Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire. For his will, see TNA PROB 11/53, f. 238. Their son, Sir John “Lusty” Pakington (1549-1625), was a favourite of Queen Elizabeth, and one of Oxford’s companions at court (see BL Cotton Titus C.6, ff. 7-8). The testatrix was the daughter of the wealthy London mercer and sheriff, Sir Thomas Kitson (1485-1540) of Hengrave, Suffolk, whose son, Sir Thomas Kitson (1540-1603) is also mentioned as being part of Oxford’s circle of acquaintances in allegations by Charles Arundel (see SP 12/151/48, ff. 107-8). After the death of Sir Thomas Kitson (1485-1540), his widow, Margaret, married Sir Richard Long (d.1546), a gentleman of the privy chamber. This family relationship continued in a later generation. Sir Walter Long (1555?-1610), grandson of Sir Richard Long’s brother, Sir Henry Long (d.1556?), married the testatrix’ daughter, Mary Pakington. The testatrix’ sister, Katherine Kitson, was the wife of Sir John Spencer of Althorp (d.1586). Three of the daughters of Sir John Spencer and his wife Katherine Kitson were praised by the poet Edmund Spenser as ‘Phyllis, Charillis, and sweet Amaryllis’ in *Colin Clout’s Come Home Again* (1595). Not long after Sir Thomas Pakington’s death, the testatrix married Thomas Tasburgh (c.1554–1602) of Hawridge, a young lawyer and future Teller of the Exchequer. She is said to have died on 2 May 1577, aged 46 years and 7 months. For the foregoing and other information concerning the testatrix and her family, see the entries in the online edition of *The Dictionary of National Biography* for the testatrix; her father, Sir Thomas Kitson; her brother, Sir John Pakington; and her father-in-law, Robert Pakington.

LM: Testamentum Domine Dorathee Pakington

In the name of God, amen. I, Dame Dorothy Pakington, late wife of Sir Thomas Pakington, knight, deceased, and now wife unto Thomas Tasburgh of Hawridge in the county of Buckinghamshire, esquire, being at the time of the making hereof in good and perfect memory, thanks be given to God, do ordain and make this my last will and testament as followeth:

First, I commend my soul to Almighty God, my Creator, and to his dearly-beloved Son, Jesus Christ, my Redeemer, through whose most victorious death and passion I faithfully believe to be saved, and to be an inheritor of his everlasting kingdom, my body to be buried in Christian burial within the church of Hawridge, and that without all vain and worldly pomp and solemnity commonly used therein;

Secondly, where it hath pleased my said husband at my earnest request and desire to suffer me to make my will and thereby to dispose whatsoever and to whom it shall seem good to me, who hath also promised me to see this my will performed to the uttermost he may, in declaration whereof, first I make my said husband my sole and only executor, hoping that he will take upon him the execution hereof, and discharge all such matters wherewith myself or he as in my behalf stand now any way by law charged, which being

performed, whatsoever is remaining in me which in law I may dispose, I give and bequeath the same to my husband, my executor;

And if he shall refuse to take the same upon him, then I make my brother Gyll my executor, desiring him to deal therein;

In witness whereof I have hereunto as to my last will put my hand and seal this present Tuesday the 30<sup>th</sup> of April, 1577.

Vicesimo Primo Die Mensis Iunij Anno Domini Millesimo Quingentesimo Septuagesimo Septimo in Edibus Magistri Drurye Commissarij &c ac coram eo me [sic?] presenti me Anthonio Lawe Notario publico comparuit personaliter Magister Petrus Iohnson Notarius publicus et exhibuit procuratorium suum litteratorie pro predicto Thoma Tasburghe Armigero et fecit se partem pro eodem et exhibuit testamentum suprascriptum ac nomine eiusdem Thome Tasburghe atque ex certis causis animum suum moventibus oneri executionis dicti testamenti expresse renunciavit quam quidem renunciacionem Dominus ad eius petitionem admisit Et statim ad petitionem dicti Iohnson exhibiti aliud procuratorium litteratorie conceptum pro prefato Iohanne Gill executore in testamento suprascripto nominato et facientis se &c ac petentis idem testamentum probari approbavit et insinuavit eundem testamentum commisitque administracionem omnium et singulorum bonorum iurium et creditorum dicte defuncte eidem Iohanni Gyll De bene &c In persona eiusdem Iohnson procuratoris sui rite Iurato

[=On the twenty-first day of the month of June in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred seventy-seventh in the house of Master Drury, Commissary etc., and before him being present me, Anthony Law, notary public, Master Peter Johnson, notary public, appeared personally, and exhibited his letters of proxy for the foresaid Thomas Tasburgh, esquire, and made himself party(?) for the same, and exhibited the above-written testament, and in the name of the same Thomas Tasburgh and also for certain causes him moving expressly renounced the burden of the execution of the said testament, which same renunciation the Lord [+Archbishop?] admitted at his petition, and immediately, at the petition of the said Johnson exhibiting other letters of proxy received for the forenamed John Gill, executor named in the above-written testament, and making himself etc. and praying the same testament to be proved, he probated and entered the same testament, and granted administration of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased to the same John Gill, in the person of the same Johnson, his proctor, duly sworn to well etc.]