

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 20 August 1584 and proved 28 September 1584, of Lettice (nee Ireland) Worsop Wayte, whose second husband, Anthony Wayte, gentleman, of Clapham, Surrey, appears to have been related to William Wayte (d.1603), who on 29 November 1596 obtained a writ requesting sureties of the peace against William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon and the theatre owner, Francis Langley. See TNA KB 29/234 at:

<https://shakespearedocumented.folger.edu/resource/document/langley-writ-court-kings-bench-writ-attachment-against-william-shakespeare>

## ***FAMILY BACKGROUND***

### ***Testatrix' parents***

The testatrix was the daughter of William Ireland. In his will, TNA PROB 11/27/356, the testatrix' first husband, John Worsop (d.1538), refers To 'Joan Ireland, widow, late wife to William Ireland, deceased, and Thomas Ireland, son and heir of the said William'.

### ***Testatrix' siblings***

The testatrix had a brother:

**-Thomas Ireland.** As noted above, he is mentioned in the 1538 will of the testatrix' first husband, John Worsop, *supra*. He appears to have predeceased the testatrix. His children are left bequests in the will below:

*Item, I give unto every of the children of Thomas Ireland living at the time of my decease six shillings eight pence apiece, to be paid at their full age of one and twenty years or day of marriage, which shall first happen.*

## ***MARRIAGES AND ISSUE***

### ***Testatrix' first marriage***

The testatrix married firstly John Worsop (d.1538). For their children, and his children by his first marriage to a wife whose name is unknown, see his will, *supra*.

A few days after John Worsop's death, the testatrix, Sir John Gresham and William Harding were godparents, on 24 November 1538, at the church of St Pancras, Soper Lane, to the son of the London scrivener, Thomas Pierson. See Bannerman, W. Bruce, ed., *The Registers of St. Mary le Bowe, Cheapside, All Hallows, Honey Lane, and of St. Pancras, Soper Lane*, Part I, (London: Harleian Society, 1914), Vol. XLIV, p. 126 at:

<https://archive.org/details/registerstofstmar44stma/page/126/mode/2up>

*First the 24 day of November and year aforesaid was John Pierson, the son of Thomas Pierson, scrivener, christened. Sir John Gresham, knight, and William Harding his godfathers, and Lettice Worsop his godmother.*

### ***Testatrix' second marriage***

By 1540 the testatrix had married secondly Anthony Wayte (d.1559), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/42B/217. See also Dallaway, James, *A History of the Western Division of the County of Sussex*, (London: T. Bensley, 1815), Vol. I, p. 49 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=0VkMAQAAMAAJ&pg=RA2-PA49>

*Fleshmonger leases to Anthony Wayte, of Clapham, in Surrey, gent., and Lettice, his wife, Cowdry farm, in Byrdham. . . Dated Nov. 2, 1540.*

LM: T{estamentum} Letticie Wayte

In the name of God, Amen. The 20<sup>th</sup> day of August in the year of Our Lord God one thousand five hundred four score and four, I, Lettice Wayte of Clapham in the county of Surrey, widow being [+sick?] in body but of good and perfect memory, praise be therefore unto Almighty God, ordain and make this my present last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I commend my soul unto the Blessed Trinity, hoping assuredly by the death and passion of Jesus Christ, my Saviour, to have salvation and full remission of all my sins [-of all my sins] and offences;

And my body to be buried in such decent order as to mine executors shall be thought meet and convenient;

And as touching the disposition of all my goods and chattels, I give and dispose them in manner [f. 206r] and form following:

First I will that all such debts and duties as of right I shall owe unto any person at the time of my decease be truly answered and paid;

Item, I give unto the poor prisoners of Newgate, the King's Bench and the White Lion thirty shillings, that is to say, to the prisoners in every of the said houses ten shillings;

Item, I give unto the poor prisoners in Ludgate, the Fleet, the Marshalsea, the Counter in Wood Street and in the Counter in the Poultry twenty-five shillings, that is to say, to the poor prisoners in every of the said houses five shillings;

Item, I give unto six poor women whose names mine executors have in a note, to every one of them a gown of five shillings a yard ready made for them;

Item, I give to the reparations of Clapham church twenty shillings;

Item, I give to every poor householder dwelling only in Clapham at the time of my decease twelve pence the house, they to whom gowns are given excepted;

Item, I give unto my poor godchildren whose names mine executors have in a note six shillings eight pence apiece, to be paid unto them at their full age of one and twenty years or at the day of marriage, which shall first happen;

Item, I bequeath twenty shillings to be given amongst poor people at my burial;

Item, I give unto James Clark forty shillings;

Item, I give to Thomas Clarke, his brother, other forty shillings;

Item, I give unto every of the children of Thomas Ireland living at the time of my decease six shillings eight pence apiece, to be paid at their full age of one and twenty years or day of marriage, which shall first happen;

Item, I bequeath unto James Traves, my godson, my cross of gold with a ruby stone in the midst thereof and having unto it one hanging pearl and garnished about with twelve other small pearls;

Item, I bequeath unto Lettice Traves, my god-daughter, one pair of beads of cornelian stones and small beads of gold and garnished with sixteen half crowns;

Item, I bequeath unto Richard Worsop, my godson, one tablet of gold having the Resurrection graved on the one side and the story of Jonas in the other;

Item, I bequeath unto Lettice Worsop, my god-daughter, one little cup of blue and white stone garnished with silver and gilt having a loose cover thereunto;

Item, I bequeath unto Rose Worsop, my god-daughter, one little ring of gold with a rose of diamonds therein;

Item, I give unto Edmund Traves one ring of crown gold with a death's head therein worth thirty-five shillings;

Item, I give unto William Traves one ring of gold with a death's head therein worth thirty shillings;

Item, I give unto Margaret Traves one ring of mine own with a death's head therein worth twenty-two shillings;

Item, I give unto Susan Dalborne one ring of angel gold weighing half an ounce with the fashion;

Item, I give unto Margaret Dalborne, daughter to the said Susan Dalborne, one little flagon-chain of gold worth eighteen shillings;

Item, I give unto Robert Dalborne, my godson, son to the said Susan, one brooch of gold having the story of Solomon and two women with the dead child engraven therein worth thirty shillings;

Item, I bequeath unto Edward Worsop, my son, my wedding-ring of gold having the Five Wounds engraven therein, and also forgive my said son, Edward, and release unto him all such debts and duties as he any way oweth unto me;

Item, I given unto Anne Worsop, wife unto my said son, Edward Worsop, my best ring of gold with a fair diamond therein;

Also I give unto her my six cushions of arras work;

Item I give unto John Worsop, my son, my ring of gold with a sapphire stone therein;

Item, I give unto Martha Worsop, his wife, my ring of gold with a ruby stone therein;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the children of my said son, Edward Worsop, that is to say, to William, John, Martha, Edward, Thomas, Mary, Margaret and Elizabeth and Frances Worsop, to every of them ten pounds apiece;

And I give unto my godchildren, Richard Worsop and Lettice Worsop, two other of the children of my said son, Edward, twenty pounds apiece, all which sums of money I will shall be paid unto every one of them as they shall accomplish their lawful age of one and twenty years or days of marriage, which shall first happen;

And I will that if any of the children of the said Edward, my son, shall decease before his or her age of one and twenty years or day of marriage, that then I will that [f. 206v] the portion of him, her or them so deceasing shall remain to the other surviving, equally amongst them to be divided;

And further I will and my mind and full meaning is that my said son, Edward Worsop, shall have the keeping and custody of all the said sums of money given before

bequeathed to his children until they shall accomplish their several ages of one and twenty years or days of marriage;

And I will that my son, John Worsop, one of the executors of this my testament, his executors or administrators, shall not in any wise be charged or chargeable for any of the said legacies or sums of money by me before bequeathed to the children of my said son, Edward Worsop, but that he be of the same sums of money and legacies freely acquitted and discharged forever as fully and largely in every respect as if the said John Worsop had not been named mine executor;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the children of my said son, John Worsop, that is to say, John, Edward, Thomas, Bartholomew, Elizabeth and Martha Worsop, to every of them ten pounds apiece;

And I give unto my god-daughter, Rose Worsop, one other of the children of my said son, John, twenty pounds, all which sums of money I will shall be paid unto every one of them as they shall accomplish their lawful age of one and twenty years or days of marriage, which shall first happen;

And I will that if any of the children of the said John, my son, shall decease before his or her age of one & twenty years or day of marriage, that then I will that the portion of him, her or them so deceasing shall remain to the other surviving, equally amongst them to be divided;

And further I will and my mind and full meaning is that my said son, John Worsop, shall have the keeping and custody of all the said sums of money given before bequeathed to his children until they shall accomplish their several ages of one and twenty years or day of marriage;

And I will that my said son, Edward Worsop, one of the executors of this my testament, his executors or administrators, shall not in any wise be charged or chargeable for any of the said legacies or sums of money by me before bequeathed to the children of my said son, John Worsop, but that he be of the same sums of money and legacies freely acquitted and discharged forever as fully and largely in every respect as if the said Edward Worsop had not been named mine executor;

Item, I make and ordain the said Edward Worsop and John Worsop, my sons, mine executors of this my last will and testament;

This will published by the same Lettice in the presence of us, Thomas King, clerk. By me, Elizabeth Coole(?).

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum apud London Coram m{agist}ro Will{el}imo Mawse Legum Doctore Surrogato venerabilis viri m{agist}ri Will{el}mi Drury Legum

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etiam Doctoris curie prerogatiue cantuarien{sis} commissario etc Vicesimo octavo Die mens{is} Septembris Anno Domini mill{es}imo quingentesimo octogesimo quarto Iuramento Edwardi Worsop et Iohannis Worsop exequutor{um} [sic?] etc Quibus commissa fuit administrac{i}o bonor{um} etc De bene etc Iurat{is}

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before Master William Mowse, Doctor of the Laws, Surrogate of the worshipful Master William Drury, also Doctor of the Laws, Commissary etc. of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the twenty-eighth day of the month of September in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred eighty-fourth by the oath of Edward Worsop and John Worsop, executors etc., to whom administration was granted of the goods etc., sworn to well etc.]