

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 13 February 1593 and proved 25 May 1593, of Robert Heywood, clerk, parson of Rothwell and Ashby cum Fenby, Lincolnshire.

According to the *ODNB*, the testator was the father of the dramatist, Thomas Heywood. See the *ODNB* entry and Clark, Arthur Melville, *Thomas Heywood: Playwright and Miscellanist*, (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1931), pp. 1-4 at:

<https://archive.org/details/in.ernet.dli.2015.5428/page/n9>

The identification of the testator as the father of the dramatist is based on conjecture. There is no evidence that the testator in the will below was married by the time the dramatist was born, or that he had a son named Thomas. Moreover the brother, Edmund, to whom the testator leaves 10s in the will below cannot be identified with the uncle mentioned by the dramatist in the dedication to Sir Henry Appleton in *The English Traveller*. See *Old English Plays*, Vol. VI, (London: Whittingham and Rowland, 1815), pp. 106-7 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=SFJjAAAACAAJ&pg=PA106>

*Noble Sir, For many reasons I am induced to present this poem to your favourable acceptance, and not the least of them that alternate love and those frequent courtesies which interchangeably passed betwixt yourself and that good old gentleman, mine uncle Master Edmund Heywood, whom you please to grace by the title of father. . . .*

The Edmund Heywood referred to in the dedication left a will dated 7 October 1624 and proved 1 February 1626, TNA PROB 11/148/200, in which he describes himself as a gentleman and in which he bequeaths a gold ring to ‘Sir Henry Appleton, knight and baronet’.

Sir Henry Appleton (1599-1649), 2<sup>nd</sup> Baronet, was a descendant of Margaret Roper, whose brother, William Roper (d.1578), the son-in-law and biographer of Sir Thomas More (1478-1535), was an associate of the London lawyer, Richard Heywood (d.1570). Richard Heywood had a son, Edmund, who can almost certainly be identified with the Edmund Heywood whose will is mentioned above.

For evidence that the dramatist was not the son of the testator, but rather the grandson of Richard Heywood (d.1570), see his will, TNA PROB 11/52/234, and Bates, Katharine Lee, ed., *A Woman Killed With Kindness and The Fair Maid of the West*, (Boston: D.C. Heath and Company, 1917), pp. xlv-liv at:

<https://archive.org/details/womankilledwithk00heywuoft/page/xliv>

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RM: Roberti Heywoode

In the name of God, Amen. The thirteenth day of February Anno Domini a thousand five hundred ninety-two, I, Robert Heywood, clerk, parson of Ashby within the county of Lincoln, sick in body but strong in faith and of good and perfect remembrance, praised be God, do ordain and make my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my Creator, trusting by the merits of Christ his passion to be saved, and no other ways, and so to be partaker of his heavenly kingdom amongst the elect children of God, of which number I verily believe myself to be saved one;

And my body I refer to be buried at the discretion of my executor;

And touching my worldly goods, I bestow them as followeth:

First I will that my goods be divided into three parts, one part whereof I give to Elizabeth, my wife, and the lease I took of Sir John Radcliffe, and Hopkins his land during her natural life, and if she think it good for her, I am content that she shall sell the same land for her behoof and her children, or for the taking of her lease again;

Item, I give the other two parts of my goods to my children to be equally divided amongst them all;

Item, I give to my niece, Elizabeth Crossley, the quye [=cow] with calf which I bought of Tatam, with one ewe and a lamb;

Item, I give to my sister Wilson two ewes and two lambs;

Item, I give to my brother Wilson my new frieze coat;

Item, I give to Abigall Hanson an ewe lamb;

Item, I give to Mr Richard West my book called the *Poor Man's Library* and my gilted *Testament*;

Item, I give to Simon Dawson an ewe lamb;

Item, I give to my sister Yonge five shillings;

Item, I give to my brother, Edmund Heywood, ten shillings;

Item, I give to my cousin, William Wilson, an ewe lamb;

Item, I give to every godchild I have six pence;

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Item, to every cottager in Ashby and Rothwell six pence;

Item, to William Towell the younger an ewe lamb;

Item, I give towards the repair of Lincoln minster 12d;

Item, I give to Richard Farowe, Anthony Sharpe and Margaret Dearcye, my servants, 12d apiece;

Item, to Margaret Garricke six pence;

Item, I give to Robert Beche an ewe lamb;

Item, to Richard Clarke 12d;

Item, to Richard Bayons, clerk, one such book as he shall like of in my study;

Item, to Richard Clayton of Randall two shillings six pence;

Lastly I make Elizabeth Heywood, my wife, my sole executrix;

And the supervisors of this my last will and testament I make Mr William Wraye, esquire, hoping he will do so much of his goodness in regard of my wife and poor children, and I give unto him my grey ambling nag, and Mr Michael Spenser, to whom I give ten shillings;

These being witnesses the day and year afore remembered: Richard Bayons, clerk, John Hanson and Simon Dawson.

[Proved 25 May 1593 by Elizabeth Heywood, relict]