

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 15 March 1595 and proved 11 April 1595, of John Worsop, gentleman, of Clapham, Surrey, whose brother, Edward Worsop, was bound, together with Robert Burbage, to Sir William Cecil in connection with the latter's purchase of Theobalds.

CONNECTION TO THE EARLS OF OXFORD

On 31 October 1564 Robert Burbage (d.1575) and the testator's brother, Edward Worsop, bound themselves in £400 to Oxford's future father-in-law, Sir William Cecil, to perform certain provisions of an indenture dated 11 December 1563 by which Cecil purchased from Robert Burbage the manor of Theobalds alias Tongs on which he built his mansion of Theobalds. See TNA C 54/670, No. 24.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator was the son of John Worsop (d.1538), Scrivener of the Court Letter, by his second wife, Lettice Ireland (d.1584). For the will of John Worsop (d.1538), see TNA PROB 11/27/356.

After the death of John Worsop (d.1538), Lettice Ireland married Anthony Wayte (d.1559), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/42B/217. For the will of Lettice (nee Ireland) Worsop Wayte, see TNA PROB 11/67/318.

Testator's siblings

For the testator's siblings of the half blood and the whole blood, see his father's will, *supra*.

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testator married Martha Cole (1541-1603?), said to have been the daughter of Thomas Cole (d.1571) and Elizabeth Hargrave. It seems likely the testator's wife was Martha Cole, daughter of the London grocer, Thomas Cole, whose birth was registered 19 August 1541. See the will of Thomas Cole, TNA PROB 11/53/177, and 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. 99 at:

<https://archive.org/details/registerstofstmar44stma/page/98/mode/2up>

For the testator's marriage to Martha Cole on 30 September 1566, see Bannerman, *supra*, Part II, (London: Harleian Society, 1915), Vol. XLV, p. 417 at:

<https://archive.org/details/registerstofstmar45stma/page/416/mode/2up>

See also Edwin-Cole, James, *The Genealogy of the Family of Cole*, (London: John Russell Smith, 1867), p. 23 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/genealogyfamily00edwigoog#page/n36/mode/1up>

In his mother's 1584 will, the testator is said to have been the father of four sons and three daughters:

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. . . .

In the will below, however, the testator mentions only one son and two daughters:

* **John Worsop** (d.1657), esquire, for whom see the WikiTree profile at:

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Worsop-9>

* **Elizabeth Worsop** (d.1623?), who is said to have married Sir Thomas Watson of Halstead, Kent.

* **Martha Worsop**.

RM: T{estamentum} Ioh{ann}is Worsopp

In the name of God, Amen. The 15th day of March Anno Domini 1594 and in the 37th year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth etc., I, John Worsop of Clapham in the county of Surrey, gentleman, being sick in body and yet of perfect remembrance, thanks be given to Almighty God, do make and ordain this my present testament and last will touching the disposing of all such goods, chattels and money as God hath possessed me of;

And first and principally I commend my soul to Almighty God, my Maker and Creator, and to his only Son, my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, by whose merits only I hope to be saved;

And I will that my body be buried in the parish church of Clapham where I dwell in such manner and order as it shall best please Martha Worsop, my loving wife;

Item, I will and bequeath to the said Martha, my wife, four hundred pounds of money;

Item, I will and bequeath to my son, John Worsop, two hundred pounds of money;

Item, I will and bequeath to my daughter, Elizabeth, two hundred pounds of money;

Item, I will and bequeath to my daughter, Martha, two hundred pounds of money;

The rest of all my goods, chattels, leases and debts, my debts being paid and my funeral expenses discharged, I give and bequeath to the said Martha, my loving wife, whom I do make and ordain my sole and only executrix of this my last will and testament;

In witness whereof I have hereunto put my hand and seal the day and year first above-written. By me, John Worsop.

Signed, sealed, pronounced and delivered by the said John Worsop as his last will and testament of his goods in the presence of me, James Stanley, and of me, William Cole.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentu{m} apud London coram Mag{ist}ro Ioh{an}ne Amye Legum doctore surrogat{o} vene{rabi}lis viri m{agist}ri will{el}mi Lewin legum etiam doctoris curie prerogative Cant{uariensis} mag{ist}ri Custod{is} siue Commissarij vndecimo die mens{is} Aprilis anno d{omi}ni mill{es}imo quingentesimo nonagesimo quinto Iuramento Thome Lovell notarij publici procur{ator}is Marthe Worsoppe rel{i}c{t}e et executric{is} in dicto testamento nominat{e} Cui comissa fuit administracio omniu{m} et singulorum bonorum iuriu{m} et creditoru{m} d{i}c{t}i defuncti &c De bene et fidel{ite}r administrando eadem &c ad s{an}c{t}a dei evangel{ia} iurat{i}

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before Master John Amye, Doctor of the Laws, Surrogate of the worshipful Master William Lewin, also Doctor of the Laws, Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the eleventh day of the month of April in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred ninety-fifth by the oath of Thomas Lovell, notary public, proctor of Martha Worsop, relict and executrix named in the said testament, to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same etc.]