

A RIGGE FAMILY OF HAWKSHEAD FROM THREE 16TH-CENTURY WILLS

by
Alvy Ray Smith, FASG

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This is a paper in my Edwardian Riggs series.

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A RIGGE FAMILY OF HAWKSHEAD



1 The first few lines of the will of Edward Ridge/Ridge of Cambridge, 1582

I. WILL OF EDWARD RIDGE, CAMBRIDGE, 1582

Following is a transcription of the last will and testament by Edward Ridge of Cambridge University¹ on 27 May 1582, proved 15 June 1582.² For easier reading I have initiated a new paragraph at each occurrence of the word “Item,” or equivalent event. I also number them. These paragraphs and numbers do not exist in the original.³

In the name of god amen : the xxviith daie of May Anno Domini A thowsannde fyve eightie twoe. I Edward Ridge of Cambridge in the Countye of Cambridge and Dioces of Elye Bachelo^r of lawe, beinge of bodye weake, but (thanks be to my Lord god) of perfecte remembrance, Doe ordeyne and declare this my last will and testamente in manner and fourme followinge.

¹ Venn, John, and J. A. Venn, *Alumni Cantabrigienses: A Biographical List of All Known Students, Graduates and Holders of Office at the University of Cambridge, from the Earliest Times to 1900* (Cambridge, England: The University Press, 1924), 457, “Ryldge, Edward. B.A. 1544-5; LL.B. 1555. Of Isleham. Will proved (P.C.C.) 1582 and (Peterb.) 1584; ‘bachelor of laws and notary public’ (formerly of Trinity; leaves a legacy to the College). (M.W. Noble).”

² I was unaware until years after writing this paper of the analysis of the same will in this reference: H. S. Cowper, “The Will of Edward Ridge, of Cambridge, 1582,” article VIII in W. G. Collingwood (ed.), *Transactions of the Cumberland & Westmorland Antiquarian & Archaeological Society*, Vol. IV, New Series (Kendal, 1904), 146-53. It does not include the full transcription. Cowper is an author noted elsewhere in this paper for his work in Hawkshead.

³ P.C.C. 25 Tirwhite. FHL 91963.

FROM THREE 16TH-CENTURY WILLS

[1] First I bequeathe my soule into the handes of allmightie god my heavenly father, trustinge by the death and merites of my savioure Christ Jhesus to inheritt the kingedome of heaven. And my bodye I bequeathe to the earthe from whence it came to be decentlie buried at the discrecion of the righte worshipfull Maister Doctor Harvey and Maister Foxton hereunder named or either of theme. And further as concerninge those worldlie gooddes whiche god of his goodnes hathente unto me, I will and dispose the same as followeth videlt, my will and minde is that a Sermon be made at the tyme and place where I shalbe buried by some godlye preacher, to whome I bequeathe for his paines therein tenne shillings.

[2] Item I give & bequeath to be delyvered into the handes of the Church wardens of everie parrishe within the towne of Cambridge, the daie of my buriall to the use of the poore, three shillings fower pence, respectiblie to everie parrishe there, to be distributed at the discrecion of the saide Church wardens of the saide severall parrishes.

[3] Item I will and my verie will and minde is, that Threescore poundes of lawfull monney of Englande shall bee delivered by my executoure uppon sufficient securitie and discharge to be broughte unto him to Cambridge and he or theye that bringe suche discharge to carrye the same monney into the Northe partes to be distributed amonge my poore kynffolkes there, and otherwise (in manner hereunder expressed and specified) within one half yeare after my decease. And likewise other threescore poundes of Lawfull englishe monneye to be also delivered by my executoure uppon like sufficient securitie and discharge to be broughte unto him to Cambridge. And he or theie that bringe suche discharge, to carrye the same monneye into the Northe within one yeare and an half after my decease: to the perfourmannce of my will and legacies hereunder also declared and gyven I saye the saide Somme of Sixscore poundes, to be delivered by Maister William Foxton Alderman of the Towne of Cambridge my executor in manner aforesaide to thende [the end] that the same maie comme to the handes of my brother James Rigge, my cosen William Sowrey, my brother in lawe Robert Braythwate and my cosen Robert Rigge dwellinge at Rogergrownde or the Survivors of theme, to be paide and discharged by theme accordinge to this my will, that is to saie,

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[4] First (whiche I bequeathe) to Agnes Elrowe daughter of John Elrowe fyve poundes of lawfull englishe monneye.

[5] Item to Elinor Elrowe daughter of John Elrowe fyve poundes of lawfull englishe monneye.

[6] Item to Christopher Braythwate and his wyffe Three poundes five shillinges eighte pence, And to everie of their fyve childrenne whiche theie have nowe fyve shillinges eighte pence a peece.

[7] Item I doe will and request my brother Robert Braythwate that he will discharge and paye unto Agnes Brathwate [sic] (whiche is nowe remayninge in his hande) excepte he canne shewe sufficient acquittanncce thereof, the Somme of Three poundes thirtene shillinge fower pence whiche shoulde have comme unto Margarett Brathwate [sic] deceased, late sister unto the same Agnes. And I doe gyve and bequeathe by this my will unto the same Agnes Braythwate Three poundes sixe shillinge eight pence, to be paide and delivered to the custodye of my cosen William Sowrey and my brother James Rigge by thence to be ymployed and putte to her best use and profitt to helpe her withall. And I will all the said legacies by me herein above bequeathed, to be paide within one half yeare after my decease, to theme whiche be of sufficient yeares and discrecion to receive the same, and likewise to the lawfull and sufficient Guardians of the rest beinge not hable of themselves to make sufficient discharge.

[8] Item I bequeathe to Brian Makrell dwellinge in kendall twentye shillinges.

[9] Item to George Makrell dwellinge at Skelloth fortie shillinges, And to everie of his children that he hath nowe, twentie shillinges a peece.

[10] Item to Agnes Braythwate Isbell Brathwate [sic], and Elizabeth Brathwate [sic] daughters of Rollande Braythwate to everie one of theme Three ponde sixe shillinges eighte pence a peece, to be paide within one yeare after my deathe.

[11] Item to everie one of the children of the wiffe of Leonard Benson nowe borne tenne shillinges a peece.

[12] Item to my cosen John Sowrey tenne shillinges.

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[13] Item to Thomas Braythwate, William Braythwate and Christopher Braythwate my sisters sonnes to everie one of theme fourtye shillings a peece.

[14] Item I will and bequeathe fourtye shillings to make a Dynner at John Braythwates for the neighboures.

[15] Item to my brother James his fower daughters forty shillings a peece. And further yf god take me awaye to his mercye, then I forgyve to Edward Rigge my brother Alexanders sonne, that Three poundes sixe shillings eighte pence whiche he oweth me of Lente monney.

[16] Item I gyve and [page 2 of will] bequeathe to William and James Riggis [sic] sonnes of the sayde Alexander my brother three poundes sixe shillings eighte pence a peece.

[17] Item to the wife of William Satterforthe three poundes sixe shillings eighte pence, And to everye of his children that he hathe at this presente sixe shillings eighte pence a peece.

[18] Item to the wife of William Braythwate of Satterhowe and her children fourtye shillings amonge theme.

[19] Item to Robarte [sic] Braythwate my brother in lawe twenty shillings, And to his sonne William fourtye shillings.

[20] Item to my brother James Riggis [sic] twenty shillings And to his sonne William fortye shillings.

[21] Item I will and my mynde is that twentye poundes of good and lawfull englishe monneye shalbe [shall be] bestowed uppon the repayringe of the highe wayes, speciallye on the mosse betwene Colte howse and the Church of Hawxsyde and at the Stange or bridge at Eskwater Foote (where moste neede is) at the oversighte and good discrecion of Maister Rolland Nicholson my cosen William Sowrey my brother James Rigge, my brother in lawe Robert Braythwate, and my cosen Robert Rigge dwellinge at Rogergrownde, Of whiche sayde twentye poundes last before mencionned I will Tenne poundes thereof to be delyvered (towards the repayringe of the sayde highe wayes) when, and at suche tyme as they begynne thee worke, And the other tenne poundes afterwarde, as the worke shall goe forwarde and be accomplished. And to those Super-

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visors and overseers being then living I will and bequeathe tenne shillings a peece Provided and I will, that if the repayringe of the highe wayes shalbe neglected by the overseers above named, that then the monneye thereof unbestowed, to be and remayne to the poore people inhabiting within the precinctes of the sayde parrishe of Hawxside.

[22] Item moreover I doe will and bequeathe by these presente to be distributed amonnges [sic] the poore people dwellinge in the same parrishe of Hawxside (at the discrecion of the overseers and Supervisors last above named or the overlivers [sic] of theme) sixe poundes thirtene shillings fower pence of lawfull Englishe monneye.

[23] Item I will gyve and bequeathe unto my lovinge frende & Contreymanne Thomas Manser, whoe was with me in the tyme of my sycknesse Thirtene shillings fower pence

And if anye thinge shalbe [shall be] remayninge of the saide Somme of Sixescore [smudged but verified below] poundes, after all these legacies be satisfied and discharged, whiche I have above bequeathed and willed into the North partes, Then I will the same remaynder so remayninge, to be at the discrecion of thabovenamed [sic] Supervisors and overseers dwellinge in the Northe, or the Survivours of theme, to be bestowed as they shall thincke best. Yet moreover I will (notwithstandinge anye thinge abovesayde) that sixe poundes of lawfull Englishe monneye parcell of the saide Sixescore poundes shalbe bestowed in erectinge buildinge and settinge upp of an howse at the water syde in Swynnesse (if it maye well suffred by the order, custome or contrey there) for people to praye in and defende them selves there againste the tempeste when theye comme and tarye at the water side, to bee built and erected at the discrecion and oversight of the supervisors in the Northe above named, or thee Overlyvers of theme. And if the saide Somme of sixescore poundes will not be sufficient to discharge all the sayde legacies above by me herein bequeathed to goe into the Northe parte, Then I will that thee same Legacies shalbe made owte of suche other monneye as shall also be conveighed into the Northe specified hereafter in this my will.

[24] Item I doe will and bequeathe to twoe of my poore kynswomen, thone [the one] beinge at London in a Gouldsmythes howse whiche is a

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strannger [sic] dwellinge in litle [sic] S^t Barthilin[Jes, thother [the other] beinge in Cambridge, twenty shillinges a peece.

[25] Item I geve [sic] to one Marye Mayes, goodwife Awdryes kynswoman of Fulmer sixe shillinges eighte pence towards her marriage.

[26] Item I gyve to Elizabeth Chamberleyne servannte to goodman Awdrye of Fulmer aforesaide three shillinges fower pence.

[27] Item to everye maide servannte nowe there in that howse beside twelve pence a peece.

[28] Item to everie man servannte nowe in that howse twelve pence a peece.

[29] Item to a layme maide at Widdowe Awdries three shillinges fower pence.

[30] Item to everie of the saide Widdowe her other maydes nowe in that howse twelve pence a peece.

[31] Item I gyve to everie man servannte and maide servannte nowe at this tyme beinge in goodman Swannes howse of Newton twelve pence a peece.

[32] Item I gyve to everye maide servannte nowe in John Fullers howse of Foxton twoe shillinge a peece. And to everye man servannte there at this present twelve pence a peece.

[33] Item I bequeathe to Christopher Raie for ous[?]e acquaintaunce, and for that my horse stode there in his stable a peece of this laste wynter thirtene shillinge fower pence.

[34] Item I gyve to A mother Alexander in S^t. Clemente churcheyarde twoe shillinge.

[35] Item I gyve to Widowe Baynes of saincte [sic] Clemente p[a]rishe in Cambridge xij^d. And to the widowe dwellinge under my chamber or Office of the Register xij^d.

[36] Item to Richard Moodye myne olde russett gowne, and to everie one of his children by the wyfe whiche he hathe nowe xij^d a peece.

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[37] Item I gyve to Marye Pomfrett myne hoste Tooley his maide fyve shillings And to eche of the other twoe maide servannte there xx^d a peece.

[38] Item to Tro[x?]ghte a yong [sic] fellowe [page 3 of will] there twooe shillings. And to the little boye or scull [?] there twelve pence.

[39] Item to myne [L?]oste Rayes man William nowe or last Ostler[?] there twelve pence.

[40] Item I give to widowe Awdrie myne olde redde satten dublett.

[41] Item to everie one of Arthure Charletons children twelve pence a peece

[42] Item that I owe to Trinitie Colledge for Sizinge (I thincke aboute sixe shillings) I will it be paide, be it most or lesse.

[43] Item provided if my debtes oweinge unto me maie be gathered uppe to extende to the valewe of fortie poundes or upward, then I will everie of the legacies above gyven herein to servanntes in Maister Fullers howse, goodman Awdrie and goodman Swannes before mencionned, to be dubbled at the discrecion of my executoure.

Furthermore all the rest of my movable goode, not bequeathed nor gyven within this my will (as apparell beddinge, bookes and all my other things that be myne beinge movable) I will to be converted into monney to be delyvered by my executoure in manner above specified, and to be bestowed (my debtes before beinge thereof paide and my funeralle and legacies discharged) uppon godlie uses, as uppon the repayringe of highe waies wheare I was borne, and uppon my poore kynffolke at the discrecion and oversight of my abovesaide Supervisors dwellinge in the Northe, viz James Rigge; William Sowreye, Roberte Braythwate Robert Rigge or the Survivors of theme, and that where moste neede is, especiallye (as they will awswere[?]) uppon their consciences.

And I constitute and appointe executours of this my last will and testament Maister William Foxton one of the Aldermen of the Towne of Cambridge. And I gyve unto him for his paynes (over and besides all his charges aboute this my will) a greate goulde ringe with my name on it, or else a fyne cheyne [chain] ringe and a Riall of goulde. Moreov[er] where-

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as I the saide Edwarde Ridge the Testator abovesaide am to have and enioye [enjoy] to me, and theie (whome in the name of one Thomas Hopkyns Publique Notarye) I shall appoinete[?] or name as Deputye or Depute of the saide Thomas Hopkyns for and duringe the naturall life of the same Thomas, the exercisinge of the Scribeshipp or principall Regestershipp of the Archedeaconry of Elye togither [sic] with the fees and commodities thereof. And likewise the collectinge of procuracans[?] and other Dueties for Maister Archedeacon of Elye for the tyme beinge, in suche ample & beneficiall manner as I the saide Edward have at anye tyme enioyed or ought to have enioyed the same Offices of Register-shippe and collectorshippe, or as is specified in an originall patent thereof, made and grannted to the saide Thomas Hopkins etc[?] togither with a deede of Deputacion made from thee saide Thomas Hopkyns unto me the saide Edward. And further wheras [sic] I have also the collectinge of Elye Farthinge and certeyn Elye Rentes belonginge to the Church of Elye, and of some other dueties belonginge unto Maister Deane of Elye (with the fees therof beinge fower marke by yere) I doe by these presente in the [?] name of the saide Thomas Hopkyns name and appoinete my welbeloved [sic] John Fryckley of Jhesus Colledge Publique Notarye to exercise the saide Offyce & [?] Offices, aswell of the principall Register-shipp, with the custodye of the same, and the [?]mente thereto belonginge, duringe the life naturall of the saide Thomas Hopkyns, And to receive take have and enioye to the same John Frickley (duringe the saide terme) all and singuler [sic] the commodities thereof of righte or custome due to the Regester, A[b?] likewise to have the collectinge of the saide prucacions[?] and other dueties for M^r Archedeacon (with Elye Farthinge and Elye Rente with the dueties for M^r Deane of Elye above mencioned) And to have and enioye unto him the said John Frickleye (in suche ample and beneficiall manner as is abovesaide) the ordinarye fees and duetyes accustomed for the same, He the siade John Frickleye to paie Twelve poundes yearlie for the same from the tyme of suche his entrye to the premisses (viz Three poundes quarterlye) to the handes of the saide M^r Foxton towards the perfourmannce of this my p[re]sent testamente and last will. And further to be bounde to discharge myne heires and ex-ecutors against all persons towcheinge his exercisinge of the saide Office and his Collections above mencioned, and for the faithfull keepinge and custodye of the bookes and all other thinge apperteyninge to the sayde

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Regestershipp. And further if it please god, that the saide John Fricklye doe departe this life before the saide Thomas Hopkyns, or be away by the space of one quarter of a yeare together, then I name and appoinete my lovinge frendes John Norcoft Scribe, and (in defecte or wante of him) John Smithe publique Notarie (in the name of the saide Thomas Hopkyns) to exercise the saide Offices, and to have the fees and commodities thereof, payinge and enteringe bone as above is saide, and writte of thee abovenamed John Frickeley. And further whereas certeyne wills, Inventaries [sic] and obligations concla[r]ning [page 4 of will] ad ministracions graunted and other thinges be remayninge owte of the saide Offyce, [delte?] in by M^r Doctor Randall, whiche never came to my handes, the same (to the uttermost of my knowledge) is sett downe in a note or [Rotule?] remayninge in the sayde Offyce (whiche I doe the rather herein notifie for the discharge of my self and my Successoure on Successors) over and besides nyne willes and as many Inventaries [sic] whiche M^r Archedeacon hathe himself.

[44] Item my mynde and will is (notwithstandinge anye thinge herein conteyned) that one quarter rente to be paideowte of the saide Office or Registershippe in manner above rehearsed shalbe [shall be] bestowed towarde the erectinge of an hospitall whiche is intended to be hereafter appointed? w[ith]in the Universitye and Towne of Cambridge, to be delivered and paide at suche tyme as the same hospital shalbe broughte to perfection, or at the discretion and oversight of my Supervisors hereunder named.

[45] Item to the Spittlehowse in Cambridge, the Dastle [?] And the Tolbooth the fyve shillinges a peece (videlt fiftene shillinges amoung those three places) for the relief of the poore there.

[46] Item I constitute, ordeyne and name the righte worshipfull M^r Deane of Elye, M^r Docto^r Harvey, and M^r Archedeacon of Elye Supervisors of this my last will and testamente here in the sowthe [south] partes. I give to eache of theme (over and besides all their charges aboute this my will) Tenne shillinges a peece. Desyringe [desiring] the saide M^r Archedeacon to permitte the saide deputie and Depute quietlie to enioye [enjoy] the abovesaide Offyce of the Regestershippe and collection (in manner abovesaide) accordinge to the trewe meaninge hereof as my truste is in Him.

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[47] Item whereas I have sixe Gemmer ringes⁴ I will one thereof to Mrs [Mistress?] Foxton an other to Mrs Fuller, an other to the goodwife Awdrie, an other to Goodwife Swanne, the fift[h]e to widowe Awdrie, the Sixth to widowe fuller.

[48] Item to William Fuller sixe shillings eight pence.

[49] Item to Marye White my oulde gowne faced with coneye and my hatt. And to the other twoe maides in myne hoste Woodehowse twoe shillings a peece.

Finallye wher[e]as I have putt Mr Foxton in trust as my executoure in manner above, I will that he shalbe [shall be] no further chrged (towcheinge [? touching?]) suche monneye as shoulde goe into the Northe) but onelie to delyver at Cambridge uppon reasonable request to the handes of suche person or persons as shall bringe theme sufficient discharge and securitie to his contentacion [sic] and good likinge suche somme and sommes of monneye as by this my will is to be carried into the Northe, his charges allwaies provided for and deducted, sufficientlye to save hym harmelesse in eche respecte. Repeated read over, and ratified by the above named Testatoure the daye and yeere fyrste above written, in the presence of us, By William Foxton, John Aldred, per [me?] Johem Fuller, Robert Swanne, William Fuller. John Frickley, notarie publique.

A Codicill to be annexed unto the Testamente or laste will of Edwarde Ridge the Testato^r above saide. The saide Edwarde Ridge the xxvijth daie of Maye Anno Domini 1582 (viz at the tyme of the ratificacion of his saide will) beinge of perfecte memorie, emonge [among] other talk by occasion there offered did saie, Those fellowes (meaninge John Aldrie, John Fuller, and Robert Swanne) woulde have twenty shillings a peece. And did leave it (as it did seeme, and as he did in like manner some other thinges) to the discrecion of his executoure named in the saide testamente, in the presence of the wittnesses of the saide will, with Thomas Manser and others. Also the xxvijth daie of the saide mounethe [month] of Maye in the yeare above saide he did bequeathe to his hostis Woode another gowne. Item Thomas Tooleye makinge challenge concerninge certen monneye, the saide Testator did also referre it to the considera-

⁴ The OED defines gemmer (variously, gemel, gimmel, gemmow) rings as a pair of rings cut from a single larger one, so as to fit together perfectly (cf., gemini).

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cion of his saide executoure to take what reasonable [order?] he thought good. Like wise one Danne [Dane?] a Butcher dwelling beside the greate Bridge in Cambridge, makinge demaunde for a certen legacie or monneye w^{ch} [which] sholde have bene paide unto the saide Danne his wiffe deceased, by some of her frendes in the Northe, if she had lyved. The saide Testator made protestacion that the saide monneye never came to his hande yet for that she was his kynswoman, he bequeathed to the saide Danne fortye shillings, in the p[re]sence of goodwife Woode, Marye White and Thomas Tooleye.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum apud London. Coram venerabili viro magro willmo Drury lectum doctore curie prerogative cantuarien commissario etc decimo quinto die mentis Junn anno domini milimo quincfentesimo octogesimo secundo [15 June 1582] Juramento willmi Foxton executoris etc Cui commissa fuit administracio bonozum etc De bene etc Jutat.

From the 1582 will above we deduce that Edward Ridge of Cambridge had the following relatives in the “Northe,” namely Hawkshead (or Hawxsyde, as Edward called it):

1. James Rigges (item 20, but Rigge in items 3, 7, and 21), brother, with four daughters, unnamed (item 15), and son, William (item 20).
2. Alexander Rigges (item 16), brother, with sons, Edward (item 15), William, and James (item 16).
3. Robert Braythwate (items 7 and 19), brother-in-law, with three sons, Thomas, William, and Christopher (items 13 and 19). Robert Braythwate was to discharge funds to Agnes Brathwate (variously Braythwate) that would have gone to her sister, Margaret Brathwate, deceased (item 7). I assume these to be probably two daughters of Robert’s, Agnes and Margaret, the latter deceased by 1582.
4. Robert Rigge of Rogergrownde, cousin (items 3 and 21).
5. William Sowrey, cousin (items 3, 7, and 21, Sowreie in text preceding item 44).
6. John Sowrey, cousin (item 12).

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And the following appear to have been also Edward's relatives, although no relationships were specified in his will:⁵

7. John Elowe, with daughters, Agnes and Elinor (items 4 and 5).
8. Christopher Braythwate, his (unnamed) wife, and five (unnamed) children (item 6).
9. Rollande Braythwate, and his daughters, Agnes Brathywate, Isbell Brathwate, and Elizabeth Brathwate (item 10).
10. John Braythwate (item 14).
11. William Braythwate of Satterhowe, and his (unnamed) wife, and (unnamed) children (item 18).
12. Brian Makrell, bequeathed a dwelling in Kendall (item 8).⁶
13. George Makrell, bequeathed a dwelling at Skelloth, and his (unnamed) children (item 9).⁷
14. Leonard Benson, his (unnamed) wife, and (unnamed) children (item 11).
15. William Satterforthe, and his (unnamed) wife, and (unnamed) children (item 17).

⁵ The will states in item 3 that 60 pounds were to be taken to "the Northe partes to be distributed amonge my poore kynffolkes there, . . . within one half yeare after my decease." Items number 4–20 (ignoring item 10 which specifies a one year wait) account for about 60 pounds (plus a variable amount depending on the number of children in items 9, 11, and 17). Hence I believe these items are those devoted to Edward's poor kinfolks in Hawkshead. Items 21–49 do not concern relatives, except that there are two unnamed "kynswomen" mentioned in item 24.

⁶ Kendal in Cumbria lies about 10 miles in a direct line from Hawkshead town.

⁷ Skelwith Bridge lies about 3 miles in a direct line from Hawkshead town.

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II. WILL OF JAMES RIGGE, HAWKSHEAD, 1584

Next is a transcription of the last will and testament of James Rigge of Sowrey, written 19 June 1584.⁸ As above, these paragraph and numbers do not exist in the original.

[In the name of] god Amen the xixth of June Anno Doi 1584 I James Rigge of Saureye [Sowrey] in forne Felle [Furness Fells], sicke in bodye yet whole and perfect in mynde and memorie praised be god do make this my laste will & testamente in manner and forme followinge.

[1] Firste and principallie I give and bequeathe my Soule into the mercifull hande of Almyghtie god my maker and Rede[e]mer trustinge thorowe [through] y^e Sheddinge of the bloude of my Savioure Jesus Christe my soule to be saved & my bodie to be buried in my parishe churche yarde of Hauxhead with all duties to be done to the Churche as the lawes of this Realme doth Require.

[2] Itm it is my minde and will that Williame Rigge my sonne have all my Tenement with it[s] Appertenance he doinge dutie to the quenes⁹ [Ma^r^{ie}? Majesty?] for the same. Also it is my minde and will that Margrett Rigge my wife shall have the thirde parte of my Tenement so longe as she be peth [sic, beareth?] my name.

[3] Itm it is my minde that Margrett my Daughter shall have all suche goodes as Leonard Bensonne & Willm Rigge my sonns hath to [sic] given ther promise for.

[4] Itm that wheras I should have a certaine some of monie of Cambridge by my brother Edward Rigges laste will and Testament it is my minde & will that my children shall have it equallie bestowed amongste them be it more some or lesse.

[5] Itm I give unto Margrett my wife one of my best [key?] or Cowe.

[6] Itm I give unto Agnas [sic] my daughter Willm Makreth wife a brasse potte & to her sonn a lambe.

⁸ Archdeaconry Court of Richmond, Furness Deanery, FHL 98581. Sawrey (Sowrey) lies about 2 miles from Hawkshead town.

⁹ Queen Elizabeth I reigned 1558-1603.

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[7] Itm I give unto my sonne Williames childe a lambe.

[8] Itm I give unto Ronalde Makrethe a lambe.

[9] Itm I give unto James Bensone my daughter sonn a lambe.

[10] Itm I give to Elisabeth Rigge xij^d.

[11] Itm I make Leonard Bensone Willm Rigge my sonnes and Margrett my wife my full and whole Executores [?]tlie and Severallie together of all my goodes moveable and unmoveable my debtes bequeathes & funerall expences paide & discharged.

[12] Itm I owe to Margrett Rigge my daughter xl^d & to Willm Rigge my sonn xxvj^{viii}^d.

[13] Itm I make Supervisore of this my laste will and Testament Clement Rigge of the fielde heade Ronald Makreth Robert Satterthwat & Edward Sawrey desiringe them for the love of god to see this my laste will & Testament Iustlie [justly] & trulie performed and kepte.

[14] Itm I give to everie one of my Supervisores xij^d.

Recordes hereth Thomas Satterthwate Willm Rigge sonn of Alexander Leonard Rigge Miles Pepper and Cuthbert Birkhead.

From the will of 1584, we determine that James had these relatives:

1. Edward Rigge, of Cambridge (James mentioned Edward's 1582 will), brother (item 4).
2. William Rigge, son (items 2, 3, 7, 11, and 12), with a child (item 7).
3. Leonard Bensonne, son[-in-law] (items 3 and 11).
4. Margrett Rigge, wife (items 2, 5, and 11).
5. Margrett Rigge, daughter (item 3 and 12).
6. Agnes Makreth, daughter, and husband of William Makreth, with a son (item 6).
7. James Bensone, his daughter's son (item 9).

And the following appear, some of whom might be relatives:

8. Elisabeth Rigge.

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9. Clement Rigge of fielde heade.
10. William Rigge, son of Alexander.¹⁰
11. Leonard Rigge.
12. Ronalde Makreth.
13. Robert Satterthwat.
14. Thomas Satterthwate.
15. Edward Sowrey.
16. Miles Pepper.
17. Cuthbert Birkhead.

¹⁰ Edward Rigge's will, 1582, item 16, "William and James Rigges [sic] sonnes of the saide Alexander my brother." So William was indeed a relative of James who wrote the will of 1584.

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III. WILL OF MARGARET RIGGE, HAWKSHEAD, 1585/6

Finally is a transcription of the last will and testament of Margaret Rigge, written 17 January 1585/6.¹¹ As before, the paragraph and item numbers do not exist in the original.

In the name of god Amen the xxvijth day of Jannarie 1585 I Margret Rigge sicke in [bodie] yet wh[ole and pe]rfecte in mynd & memorie prayed be god do make this my last will and testament in man [manner] and forme fo[llow]inge.

[1] First & principallie I geve [sic] & [C?]omitte [commit] my soule unto ye mercifull hands of allmyhtie [sic] god my maker and Redeemer trustinge [t lost in fold]hrowghe [through] y^e shedding of y^e blode of my savio^r Jesus christ my soule to be saved and my bodie to be buried in my parish church of Hauxhead wth all duties to be done to y^e church as y^e lawes of this realme now requireth.

[2] Itm I geve unto xrofer Braithwaite wyfe xij^d.

[3] Itm I geve unto Thomas Benson i[ij^d paper fold here].¹²

[4] Itm I geve unto James Rigge and Edward Rigge iiiij^d.

[5] Itm I geve unto Willm Macreth and Bryan Macreth iiiij^d.

[6] Itm I geve unto Willm Macreth vj^sviiij^d.

[7] Itm I geve unto Margreate Robinson xx^d.

[8] Itm I geve to y^e said Margreat A chist [chest?].

[9] Itm I geve unto Willm Macreth A great [Deke?].

[10] Itm [I geve] unto George Braithwaite wyfe & her children ij^siiiiij^d.

[11] Itm I geve unto Elisabeth Rigge xij^d.

[12] Itm I geve unto Agnas [sic] Rigge xij^d.

[13] Itm I geve John Pepper wyfe iiiij^d.

¹¹ Archdeaconry Court of Richmond, Furness Deanery, FHL 98581.

¹² Nearly every monetary amount appears to be preceeded by what looks like a v—, which I take to be a marker device indicating an amount of money to follow. Treating it as a v leads to such “numbers” as vj and vx. The monetary amounts in items 2 and 13 do not have this marker.

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[14] Itm I geve Thomas Satterthwaite son of John iiiij^d.

[15] Itm I geve Willm Satterthwaite xij^d.

[16] Itm I geve to Adam Atkinson wyfe iiiij^d.

[17] Itm I geve to Thomas Satterthwaite clothier iiiij^d.

[18] Itm I geve to George Rigge iiiij^d.

[19] Itm I geve to Agnas [sic] Dodgthon iiiij^d.

[20] Itm I geve to Leonard Benson wife A silke hatte.

[21] Itm it is my mynd & will y^t Robt Willon & Lawrence Willon? fold in paper] be my whole Executors of all my good movable & unmoveable my dettes bequeathes & funerall expenses paied & discharged.

[22] Itm I make supervisore of this my last will & testament Ronald Makreth John Satterthwaite George Braithwaite & Leonard Benson desyringe them for y^e love of god to see this my last will & testamente iustlie [justly] & trulie p[er]formed & keepte.

Records heareth [sic] Ronald Makreath, Leonard Benson, Willm Macreth, Willm Sands Cuthberte Birkhead wth others.

Unfortunately, Margaret Rigge did not identify which persons in her will were relatives, so we can only guess from her data. Let us consider the circumstantial case that she might be the wife of James Rigge who wrote his will in 1584:

1. She is named Margaret Rigge, has no husband apparently, died after James's will of 1584, and lived in Hawkshead.
2. The wife of a James Rigge died in 1586 (see the genealogical summary).
3. She mentioned in the same item James Rigge and Edward Rigge. This might seem to argue against her being James's widow, since both James and Edward of the two preceding wills were presumably deceased by the time of Margaret's will. However Alexander Rigge had sons James and Edward.

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4. Both the wills of James and Margaret Rigge share these names in common: Leonard Benson, William Macreth, Ronald Macreth, Cuthbert Birkhead, Elisabeth Rigge, Thomas Satterthwaite.
5. Both the wills of Edward and Margaret Rigge share these names in common: Christopher Braithwaite, and perhaps Brian Macrell/Macreth, if those two surnames are variations of the same name, Leonard Benson's wife.

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IV. GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

Combining the wills above, the first two principally, yields the following family structure, making the assumption that “cousin” usually meant nephew or niece in the 16th century:¹³

First Generation

1. —¹ **RIGGE**, born say 1495.

Children (in arbitrary order):

- i **EDWARD**² **RIGGE**, born say 1520 (supposing he entered Cambridge in 1540 at age 20), wrote his will 27 May 1582, Cambridge, formerly of Trinity College. It was proved 15 June 1582.

According to the *Alumni Cantabrigienses*:

Rydge, Edward. B.A. 1544-5; LL.B. 1555. Of Isleham. Will proved (P.C.C.) 1582 and (Peterb.) 1584; ‘bachelor of laws and notary public’ (formerly of Trinity; leaves a legacy to the College). (W. M. Noble.)¹⁴

- 2 ii **JAMES RIGGE**, born say 1522, married **MARGARET** —, and had at least four daughters and one son.
- 3 iii **ALEXANDER RIGGE**, born say 1524, had at least three sons.
- 4 iv **[DAUGHTER] RIGGE**, born say 1526, married **ROBERT BRAITHWAIT**, and had at least three sons and perhaps two daughters.
- 5 v **[SON] RIGGE**, born say 1528, had at least one son. The son was a “cousin” of Edward, so it is possible that he was son of James or Alexander.

¹³ I have taken the spelling Rigge as representative for the set of variations {Ridge, Rydge, Rigge, Rigges}, Braithwaite for {Braythwate, Brathwate, Braithwaite}, Sowrey for {Sowrey, Sowreye, Sawrey, Saureye}, Macrell for {Makrell, Macrell, Macrelle}, Macreth for {Makreth, Macreth, Macrethe, Makreath} (which might be the same surname as Macrell), Benson for {Bensone, Bensonne, Benson}, Satterthwaite for {Satterthwat, Satterthwate, Satterthwaite}, Hawkshead for {Hawxsyde, Hauxhead, Hauckshead, Hawkshead}, Rogerground for {Rogergrownde, Rogergrounde, Rogerground}. I have similarly fixed on Margaret for {Margarett, Margaret, Margrett, Margreate}, Agnes for {Agnas, Agnes}, and Brian for {Brian, Bryan}.

¹⁴ John Venn and J. A. Venn, *Alumni Cantabrigienses* (Cambridge: University Press, 1924), 457. Note that the will was apparently proved again in 1584.

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- 6 vi [DAUGHTER] RIGGE, born say 1530, married – SOWREY, and had at least two sons, accounting for Edward’s two Sowrey “cousins,” and assuming they were brothers.

Second Generation

2. JAMES² RIGGE (1⁻¹) of Sowrey, born say 1522, signed his will 19 June 1584, Hawkshead, died 1584, Hawkshead.¹⁵ He was mentioned as “my brother James Rigge” in the 1582 will of Edward Rigge. He married (say 1550) MARGARET –, who was alive in 1584 in her husband’s will. She was probably the Margaret, wife of James, who signed her will in 1585/6 and died in 1586, Hawkshead.¹⁶

Children (in order of appearance in James’s will):¹⁷

- i WILLIAM³ RIGGE, born say 1551, who had at least one child by 1584.¹⁸
- ii MARGARET RIGGE, born say 1553, unmarried in 1584 in her father’s will.¹⁹
- 7 iii [DAUGHTER] RIGGE, born say 1555, married LEONARD BENSON, and had at least one son.
- iv AGNES RIGGE, born say 1557 (based on age 17 at marriage), married 1574, Hawkshead,²⁰ WILLIAM MACRETH, and had at least one son. It is possible that the son was Ronald Macreth, mentioned (without specified relationship, but between two grandchildren) in

¹⁵ Henry Swainson Cowper, *The oldest register book of the parish of Hawkshead in Lancashire, 1568–1704* (London: Bemrose, 1897) (hereafter Cowper, *Hawkshead Oldest Parish Register*), xx, “[1584 deaths] . . . James Rigge.”

¹⁶ Cowper, *Hawkshead Oldest Parish Register*, 52, “[1585/6 burials] [February] xijth ux’ James Rigge.”

¹⁷ Edward Rigge’s will, 1582, item 15, “my brother James his fower daughters,” and item 20, “my brother James Rigges [sic] . . . And to his sonne William.”

¹⁸ Edward Rigge’s will, 1582, item 20, “my brother James Rigges [sic] . . . And to his sonne William”; James Rigge’s will, 1584, item 7, “I give unto my sonne Williames childe a lambe.” **There were a Myles and a James, both sons of a William Rigge, baptised in 1583.**

¹⁹ James Rigge’s will, 1584, item 12, “Margrett Rigge my daughter.” **There was a Margaret Rigge baptized in Hawkshead in each of 1572, 1575, 1576.**

²⁰ Cowper, *Hawkshead Oldest Parish Register*, xx, “[1574 marriages] . . . W^m Macrethe and Agnes Rigge”; James Rigge’s will, 1584, item 6, “Agnas [sic] my daughter Willm Makreth wife . . . & to her sonn.”

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James's 1584 will.²¹ If so, then he could not be the same Ronald Macreth who was a supervisor of James's will or of Margaret's.

- v [DAUGHTER] RIGGE, birth order unknown. She was the fourth (unnamed) daughter mentioned in her uncle Edward's will of 27 May 1582, but there was no mention of her (explicitly) in her father's will of 1584. The parish records of 1582–1584 list only two burials of women who might have been she, both in 1582: Cathren Rigge and Agnes Rigge.²² There was an Elisabeth Rigge mentioned in James's will (but listed after two, perhaps three, grandchildren),²³ and there was also an Elisabeth Rigge in Margaret's will of 1585/6, but with no relationship supplied in either case.

3. ALEXANDER² RIGGE (₁⁻¹) born say 1524.

Children, all born before 1582:

- i EDWARD³ RIGGE, born say 1552.²⁴
- ii WILLIAM RIGGE.²⁵
- iii JAMES RIGGE.²⁶

4. [DAUGHTER]² RIGGE (₁⁻¹) born say 1526, died before the 1582 will of Edward Rigge. She married ROBERT BRAITHWAIT. He was mentioned as "my brother in lawe Robert Braythwate" by Edward Rigge in his 1582 will.²⁷

Children:²⁸

²¹ James Rigge's will, 1584, item 8, "I give to Ronalde Makrethe a lambe." Item 7 is about "my sonne Williames childe," and item 9 "James Bensone my daughter sonn."

²² Cowper, *Hawkshead Oldest Parish Register*, xx and xx. **Get these dates, and keep only those which occur after 27 May 1582. Note that there was a Cathren baptized in 1572.**

²³ James Rigge's will, 1584, item 10, "I give to Elisabeth Rigge xij^d."

²⁴ Cowper, *Hawkshead Oldest Parish Register*, xx, xx, and xx.

²⁵ Edward Rigge's will, 1582, item 16, "William and James Riggess [sic] sonnes of the sayde Alexander my brother."

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Edward Rigge's will, 1582, item 19, "Robarte [sic] Braythwate my brother in lawe . . . And to his sonne William."

²⁸ Edward Rigge's will, 1582, item 13, "Thomas Braythwate, William Braythwate and Christopher Braythwate my sisters sonnes." Item 7 of Edward's will does not explicitly state that the sisters, Agnes and Margaret Braithwait, were his brother Robert Brathwate's daughters but it orders him to

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- i ?AGNES³ BRAITHWAIT, born say 1553, unmarried in 1582.
- ii ?MARGARETT BRAITHWAIT, deceased in 1582 in her Edward's will.
Definitely sister of Agnes just above.²⁹
- iii THOMAS BRAITHWAIT.
- iv WILLIAM BRAITHWAIT.³⁰
- v CHRISTOPHER BRAITHWAIT.

5. [SON]² RIGGE (₁-¹), born say 1528.

Child:

- 8 i ROBERT³ RIGGE, of Rogerground, born say 1554.³¹ Probably he who married MARGARET —, and had at least two children.

6. [DAUGHTER]² RIGGE (₁-¹), born say 1530, married — SOWREY.

Children:

- i WILLIAM³ SOWREY, born say 1555.³²
- ii JOHN³ SOWREY.³³

Third Generation

7. [DAUGHTER]³ RIGGE (₂James², -¹) born say 1555, and died before 1584 as she was not mentioned in her father's will of that year. She might have died before 1582 since she was not mentioned by name in her uncle Edward's will of that year.³⁴ She married before 1582 LEONARD BENSON, who was mentioned in Edward's and James's wills and twice explicitly called a son in James Rigge's will of 1584.³⁵

pay Agnes and to pay her sister Margaret's part too since she was deceased.

²⁹ Edward Rigge's will, 1582, item 7, "Margarett Brathwate [sic] deceased, late sister unto the same Agnes."

³⁰ Edward Rigge's will, 1582, item 19, "Robarte [sic] Braythwate my brother in lawe . . . And to his sonne William."

³¹ Edward Rigge's will, 1582, items 3, 21, "my cosen Robert Rigge dwellinge at Rogergrownde."

³² Edward Rigge's will, 1582, items 3, 7, and 21, "my cosen William Sowrey."

³³ Edward Rigge's will, 1582, item 12, "my cosen John Sowrey."

³⁴ Edward's will, 1582, item 11, "to everie one of the children of the wiffe of Leonard Benson nowe borne tenne shillings a peece." This implies more than one child in this family.

³⁵ Edward's will, 1582, item 11; James's will, 1584, item 3, "Leonard Bensonne & Willm Rigge my

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Known child:

- i JAMES⁴ BENSON, born before 1584.³⁶

8. ROBERT³ RIGGE (₅[son]², -¹), of Rogerground, born say 1554. Probably he who wrote his will in 1588, buried 1588 in Hawkshead,³⁷ and who married MARGARET -.³⁸ Margaret was perhaps she who was buried in Hawkshead in 1591 or 1592.³⁹

Children (from the 1588 will):

- i JOHN⁴ RIGGE, born say 1580.⁴⁰ A John of Rogerground was buried in 1601, Hawkshead.⁴¹
- ii [DAUGHTER] RIGGE, born say 1582, married THOMAS SATTERTHWAITE.

sons,” and item 11, “Leonard Bensone Willm Rigge my sonnes.” He might have been mentioned in Margrett Rigge’s will of 1585/6, as “Leonard Benson wife.” But this does not fit with Leonard’s wife dying before 1584 or 1582.

³⁶ James’s will, 1584, item 9, “I give unto James Bensone my daughter sonn a lambe.”

³⁷ Cowper, *Hawkshead Oldest Parish Register*, xx, “[1588 burials] . . . Robte.” **If the birth estimate is accurate, then he died young at about 34.**

³⁸ Indexed in Henry Fishwick, *A List of the Lancashire Wills proved within the Archdeaconry of Richmond and now preserved in Somerset House, London, from A. D. 1457 to 1748* (Manchester: Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire, 1884-1886), FHL 823526 item 3, FHL 942.7 B4Lc Vol. 10, p. 232, “Rigge, Robert, of Roger grounde [in Hawkshead], F ... 1588,” which will Robert Charles Anderson inspected on microfilm and noted that it mentioned: wife Margaret, son John Rigge, and son-in-law Thomas Satterthwaite.

³⁹ Cowper, *Hawkshead Oldest Parish Register*, xx, “[1591 burials] . . . ux^r Robte,” or xx, “[1592 burials] . . . ux^r Robte.”

⁴⁰ Cowper, *Hawkshead Oldest Parish Register*, xx, “[1580 baptisms] John . . . John,” for two baptisms in 1580. The closest preceeding John was baptized in 1568, the closest succeeding John, who was son of Robert, in 1603.

⁴¹ Cowper, *Hawkshead Oldest Parish Register*, xx, “[1601 burials] . . . John de Roger ground.”

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