

Nicholas Longespee's will was published in the *English Historical Review*, XV, July, 1900, p. 523-528. The translation from Latin to English given here was done by Oxford Latin in 2004.* The 1900 publication contains this physical description of the will:

The following document is preserved in the muniment room of Salisbury cathedral, Press iv. Box W. The parchment measures 17 ½ x 13 ¼ inches; the writing, 16 x 10 ½ inches. The document was folded in on all sides, and the dorse, 9 x 5 inches, entirely filled by the probate act.

In the name of God, Amen. I, Nicholas Longespee, humble minister of the church of Salisbury, draw up my will in this way, namely in our manor at Remmesbury on the feast of St. Valentine the martyr, in the year of our Lord 1295.

Firstly I bequeathe my soul to God my creator and my body to be buried in the greater church of Salisbury before the altar of the Blessed Virgin where the antiphon (Salve Regina) is sung, at the foot of my father's tomb. Similarly I bequeathe to the great altar my two large silver basins of a superior quality, and my new pontifical robe with all the apparel to the deacon and subdeacon. Similarly I bequeathe 200 marks to buy 200 pounds of annual revenue to mark my anniversary and that of my father every year in perpetuity: this should take place in accordance with the administration of the deacon, chapter and my executors. Similarly I bequeathe my heart to be buried in the abbey of Lacock and with it my silver crucifix, so that it might be fixed in the middle of the altar which is situated there in the choir of the nuns. Similarly I bequeathe to the aforesaid abbey two silver basins, my chalice, together with 2 large silver phials and 2 other smaller silver ones, with a pen case and one gold ring ornamented with a sapphire and one bronze vessel to carry holy water to the abbess' room. Similarly I bequeathe to the infirmary there 3 pairs of irons for making wafers, waffles and pancakes.

Similarly I bequeathe to the said abbey 200 marks sterling for this reason, namely so that the abbess who will be there at the time, and the convent of this place should find two chaplains in perpetuity who will celebrate perpetually for my soul and that of my parents and all the faithful. If they receive this money, I wish that at the time of payment of the said 200 marks the abbess and convent should be obliged by a document confirmed by the common seal to carry this out faithfully; otherwise my executors should decide what should be done with the said 200 marks for my soul, as they think fit. Similarly I bequeathe to Ela, my sister, countess of Warwick, a gilded cup. Similarly I bequeathe to my niece, lady Margaret de Lascy, countess of Lincoln, a silver pitcher, a golden cup with a cover which Lord Robert of Wichampton, a former bishop of Salisbury, left to me, a goblet of nut wood and a picture which I used to wear round my neck, and a silver goblet with pictures chased on it which he gave me as a gift, and that spoon which was meant for my mouth and two spoons embossed in the middle, two rochets which I used to celebrate, one cloth, one hand towel which I had from my mother, lady Ela. Similarly I bequeathe to lady Eveline Longespee, my niece, a cup of silver from which I used to drink wine. Similarly I bequeathe to the prior and convent of Henton, 10 marks and to the prior and convent of Bradenstock 10 marks, to the abbot and convent of Abbotsbury 10 marks, to the abbot and convent of Schireburn 10 marks, to the abbess and convent of Schafton 30 marks, to the abbot and convent of

* Please note that the original will does not contain paragraph breaks, but a few have been added here to aid the reader.

Radingh 20 marks, to the prioress and convent of Bromhale 10 marks, to the prioress and convent of Kynton 10 marks, to the prior and convent of Powghele 10 marks, to the prior and convent of Mandelford 5 marks, to the brothers and sisters of the hospital of St. Nicholas at Salisbury, 10 marks. To the brothers and sister of Maidenbradley I bequeathe 10 marks, to the abbot and convent of Cerne 10 marks, to the abbess and convent of Wilton 10 marks, to the abbess and convent of Tarent 10 marks, to the provost and chaplains of St. Edmund of Salisbury 10 marks, and to the abbot and convent of Middleton, 40s. To the scholars of the vale of schools in Salisbury, 40s. To the prior and convent of Mount Oderosus, 40s. Similarly I bequeathe to the Dominicans at Salisbury 50 marks for the fabric of their church and to the Franciscans at Salisbury 100 marks for the fabric of their church, to the Dominicans at Canterbury 20s., to the Franciscans there 20s, to the Dominicans at Warwick 20s., to the Franciscans at Coventry, 20s. Similarly I bequeathe to the Franciscans at Reading 40s, to the Franciscans in Dorset 40s., to the Dominicans in Exeter 40s, and to the Franciscans there 40s. To the Dominicans in Oxfordshire 40s as well as to the Franciscans. Similarly I bequeathe to the poor of the parish at Sutton 40s.; at Tamworth, 40s., at Lacock 40s., at Calne 5 marks, at Yatesbury 20s., at Fikelden 40s., at Alwardbury and Putton, 40s. At Iwern and Henton, 6 marks, at Henlega (Henley), 40s., at Gussich 20s., at Wicham 40s., at Southampton 40s.

Similarly I bequeathe to master William of Abingdon, Archdeacon of Wiltshire, a silver bowl, to lord Richard of Coleshill, knight, a silver bowl and 20 marks for service rendered to me. To master Richard of Sotteswell, canon of Salisbury, one silver bowl and 100s. To Lord Stephen of Remmesbury, one silver bowl and 100s. To Lord William of Braybrok, rector of the church of Wittenham, one silver bowl and 100s. To Nicholas of Ruddham 100s. To Lord Richard of Porstok 100s. To Lord Adam, vicar of the treasury of Salisbury, 100s. To Lord Robert of Jernemue, vicar of Salisbury, 100s. To Lord Robert, vicar of Remmesbury, 8 marks. Similarly I bequeathe to my vicar in the church of Salisbury 5 marks, in such a way that the aforesaid Adam, Robert, Robert and my vicar should each celebrate immediately after my death or arrange that one sequence of daily masses for a year should be celebrated for my soul and for the souls of all the faithful. Similarly I bequeathe my new missal to the church at Calne. I bequeathe my better portable breviary to Lord Nicholas of Jarpenvile and 20 marks. Similarly I bequeathe my old missal, my new portable breviary, psalter and my better chapel vestment, one silk cape of the choir, together with the frontal and altar cloth to the church at Iwernminster. I bequeathe the vestment I had as a gift from Master Walter who was once my seneschal, to the church at Henley together with my tropary. I bequeathe to Thomas son of Gilbert my relative, 10 marks, to Nicholas son of Lambert my godson, my decretals. I wish in addition that those boys whom I now support in the schools of Oxford, namely Nicholas of Jarpenvile, Thomas son of Gilbert, Nicholas and Walter sons of Lambert, should be supported from my goods in the schools for a whole year after my death. Similarly I leave to John de Herterigg 60 marks, 10 cattle, 6 cows, 200 sheep and 20 pigs. Similarly I leave to Lambert my chamberlain and foster son, 100

pounds sterling, 16 cattle, and 6 cows, 200 sheep and 20 pigs from my better cattle, cows, sheep and pigs wherever they may be. I similarly leave to Lambert all the dishes and silver saucer, one silver salt-cellar, 2 large and one medium silver pitcher, 28 silver spoons, one silver cup, 8 cups of silver plate, two wooden goblets with feet and 2 without feet. I bequeathe to him also all my vessels and utensils of brass and the cauldrons from my pantry, butlery, bakery and brewery. I leave to him all the coffers from my chamber and wardrobe together with everything pertaining to the wardrobe, namely cloths, ? 'cavena', small cloths and various other things. Similarly I wish that all

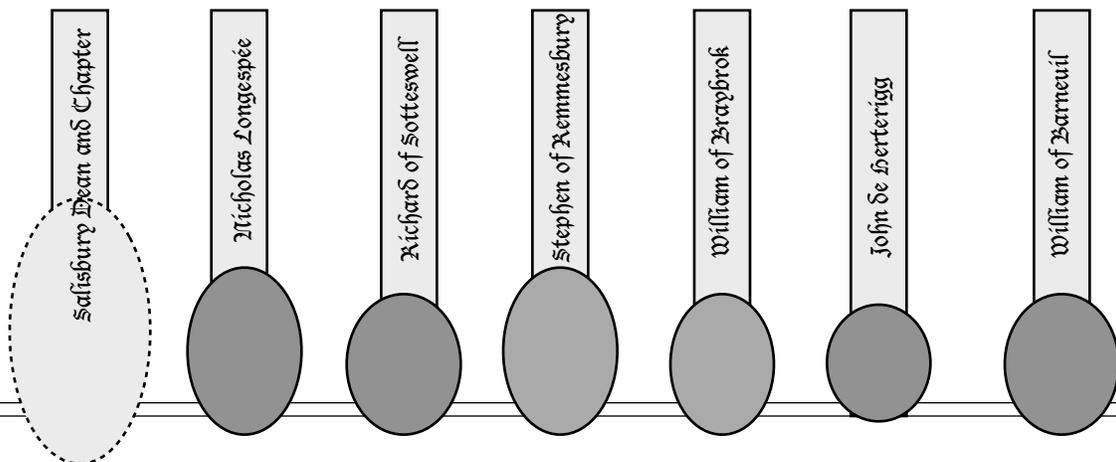
these things should be left to Lambert immediately after my death and released to him without delay, before any execution or administration of this will takes place. Moreover I wish that the said Lambert should be supported from my possessions for a whole year after my death in all that he needs.

Similarly I leave to each of my squires 10 marks. I leave to Walter (the) carpenter 10 marks, John le Ferur 10 marks, John Drew 10 marks, John Walwain 100s. Similarly to each of my valets 6 marks for his service. I leave to my subchamberlain 100s, to each clerk of my chapel 6 marks. I leave to Robert of Littleton 10 marks. I leave to each of my serving-boys 4 marks. Similarly I leave to Lambert my foster son the whole attire of my armour to cover his body and his horse. I leave to John de Herterigg the armour to cover his body and his horse. I leave to master William de Braybrok, rector of the church of Wittenham, the armour to cover his body and his horse. I leave to William of Barneuil the armour to cover his body and his horse. And I wish that the rest of my armour should be shared out among the remaining of my squires according to the disposition of my executors. To all those in my household I leave these things only if they remain in my service until my death. Moreover, I wish that all my debts should be paid in full before any administration of this will of mine takes place. Those things I want released to my foster son Lambert have been noted above.

I appoint the following executors of my will. Firstly master Richard of Sotteswell, canon of Salisbury, master Stephen of Remmesbury, succentor of the aforesaid church, master William of Braybrok, rector of the church of Wittenham, John de Herterigg and William of Barneuil. To each of them I leave 100s. For the fulfillment of this will of mine, all my movable and immovable goods that are not bequeathed should be sold. And if any remain, they should be given away for my soul, according to what my executors consider is best. I also wish that this will should be executed in full as soon as possible and then retained in perpetuity at the treasury in Salisbury. I have thought fit to have my seal attached to this present will of mine as evidence of this. And I have arranged for my executors' seals to be attached for the memory of future generations.

I also leave 20 pounds for the fabric of the church at Salisbury and 20 marks to John son of William of Barneuil and to Margaret his sister, issue of Alicia wife of the said William. Similarly I leave 5 marks to master Henry, vicar of Inglesham to celebrate the daily services for a year for my soul and the souls of all the faithful.

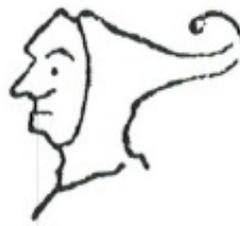
[Seven black wax seals were attached to the will with parchment strips. The first is missing, but the impression it made where it was folded onto the document shows it was from Salisbury Dean and Chapter. The second seal is Nicholas Longespée's, the remaining five being those of the executors named in the next-to-last paragraph above.]



Upon the death of Nicholas Longespee, the will was opened and this text about the act of probate was written on the back (dorse) of the will:

This will has been proved and opened according to legal provision in the presence of master Robert, by God's grace Archbishop of Canterbury and primate of all England, and it was read by the Archbishop at Chartham on the Wednesday before the feast of the Lord's Ascension, namely May 29th in the year of our Lord 1297. An oath was taken by master Richard of Sotteswell, masters Stephen of Rammesbury and William of Braybrok, canons of Salisbury and John of Herterigg, named as executors of the said will on the said day and in the said place, regarding the making of a reliable inventory as quickly as possible of the possessions of the deceased, or regarding the things which have been among his possessions and regarding the reliable administration of these goods according to the last will of the testator when the administration was granted to these executors according to legal provision, and also regarding the reliable reckoning in the presence of the said lord Archbishop or someone else appointed for this by the Archbishop. Regarding the performance of this administration at a suitable time, it is granted to the executors by the lord Archbishop by his special grace for specific reasons and to preserve the possessions of the testator so that they should immediately sell the possessions relating to the will as they consider would benefit the deceased and should collect the money from this and should put it somewhere safely in the event of handing over the administration in full to these executors and should arrange for it to be guarded properly. But in such a way that this does not set a precedent for any other will in the future and that the said executors from these goods pay nothing beyond the cost of the funeral, once the inventory has been made and approved, the full administration of the goods should be handed over to the executors. It is also proved that the said testator in the expression of his final will, in the presence of witnesses called together for this purpose, expressly said and also ordered that if anything was granted or paid to the legatees of this will after the completion of the will by this testator or in his name, this would be counted among the things bequeathed to the legatees and an account made of it, and the bequest should be paid if there are enough goods remaining at the end. And it has been decreed by the lord Archbishop that this should happen in this way.

Henry Ferar, Registrar.



Regestrarius