

KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE PROBATE COURT RECORDS

Between 1449 and 1794 King's College, Cambridge, was permitted to exercise Probate Jurisdiction within the precincts of the College. The wills of members of the College, servants, tradesmen and tenants were proved in its court, which also granted, where appropriate, Letters of Administration. The College retains transcripts of the relevant archives in a series of Ledger Books, which have been examined by Nesta Evans in her capacity as General Editor of the British Records Society (BRS) 'Series of Indexes to Probate Records'. By kind permission of the BRS, her extracts are reproduced below.

Dates of Ledger Books

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|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. 1451-1558 | 2. 1558-1600 | 3. 1600-1618 |
| 4. 1618-1642 | 5. 1642-1658 | 6. 1659-1681 |
| 7. 1681-1705 | 8. 1702-1723 | 9. 1723-1751 |
| 10. 1751-1770 | 11. 1771-1784 | 12. 1784-1796 |

Alphabetical index of wills (see 'Notes' below)

Anderson, Edmund, Fellow of King's College, 1660, LB6 f.31

Argentin, John, Provost of King's College, 1507, LB1 f.212r

Asledyn alias Persyvall, John, yeoman and College servant, 1596, LB2 p.621

Atkynson, Dr Richard, Provost of King's College, 1556 LB1 f.369v

Attewell, John, M.A. of King's College, 1508, LB1 f.214r

Aungier, John, gentleman of King's College, 1656, LB5 f.213

Bacon, Godfrey, 1724, LB9, f.6. [Part of will only, concerned with lease of property of King's College.]

Bagley, William, Bachelor of Divinity of King's College, 1665, LB6 f.117

Bainbrigg, Mary, widow, 1670, LB6 f.203

Baker, John, M.A. and Fellow of King's College, to be buried in College chapel, 1554, LB1 f.359r

Banister, Henry, B.D. and a senior Fellow of King's College, 1615, LB3 p.500

Bankes, John, College tenant, 1560, LB2 p.50

Beaumont, Henry the elder, barber, 1688, LB7 f.172

Beche, Richard, 1476, LB1 f.96v

Beckwhof, James, butcher and College servant, 1600, LB3 p.25

Belchier, James, Fellow of King's College, 1745, LB9 f.214

Bente, Philip, 1478, BL1 f.105r
Bertilmewe, John, Cambridge, 1474, LB1 f.93r
Boston, William, clericus (clerk), 1473, LB1 f.77r
Bowyer, John, Fellow of King's College, 1676, LB6 f.271 Admon only
Bradman, John, Fellow of King's College, 1665, LB6 f.133
Brassie, Robert, Provost of King's College, to be buried in College Chapel, 1558, LB1 f.405r
Brinley, Thomas, Fellow of King's College, 1672, LB6 f.218
Bullock, Mary, widow, 1716, LB8 f.164
Burgate, John, 1691, LB7 f.204. Admon only
Byas, John, 1708, intestate, LB9 f.124. Admon only
Caresby, Godewin, 1458, LB1 f.20v
Chace, William, Fellow of King's College, 1603, LB3 p.69
Collins, Samuel, Professor of Theology, 1644, LB5 f.16
Collis, William, upholsterer, 1746, LB9 f.193. Admon only
Collynson, John, 1559 LB2 p.43
Coole, Robert, Fellow of King's College, 1547, LB1 f.352v
Cotton, John, tailor, c. 1592-1593, LB2 p.521
Crosby, Francis, yeoman, 1668, LB6 f.157 [prob. date]
Dickson, John, 1683, LB7 f.43. Admon only
Dodsworth, Francis, 1726, LB9 f.28
Doiley, Oliver, Doctor of Laws and Fellow of King's College, 1693, LB7 f.232
Dover, Henry, 1715, LB8 f.145. Admon only
Ellis, Ann, widow, 1659, LB6 ff.1, 36
Ellis, John, master cook of King's College, 1639, p.482
Eusden, Lawrence, clerk, 1680, LB6 f.354. Admon only
Eusden, Mary, widow, 1661, LB6 f.2
Eusden, William, yeoman, 1626, LB4 p.151
Ewesden, Mary, widow, LB6 f.39
Finch, Griffith, confectioner, 1683, LB7 f.51
Flower, William, printer, 1675, LB6 f.282
Fowler, Bridget, widow, 1661, LB6 f.2

Foxe, Dorothy, widow, of Great St Mary's parish, 1613, LB3 p.462
Freeman, Edward, yeoman, 1778, LB11 f.118
Garner, William, cook, 1686, LB7 f.120
Gearing, Thomas, 1692, LB7 309
Geffrey, John, magister of King' College, 1479, LB1 f.107v
Gibbs, Ellen, widow, 1677, LB6 f.283
Goad, Mr Thomas, 1678, LB6 f.313. Admon only
Goad, Thomas, 1684, LB7 f.85. Admon only
Graves, Elizabeth, widow, intestate, LB9 f.130. Admon only
Graves, George, stationer of St Benedict's parish, 1669, LB6 f.174. Admon only
Graves, Thomas, gentleman, 1667, LB6 f.172
Griffith, Mary, widow of Richard, 1724, LB8 f.205
Gumbart, William, 1718, LB8 f.171
Hacomblen, Robert, D.D., unworthy Provost of King's College 1528, LB1 f.278v
Haines, blank, 1678, LB6 f.313. Admon only
Hamond, Thomas, yeoman and Master of the Choristers of King's College, 1604, LB3 p.121
Hampson, John 'petific' and Elizabeth, 1661, LB6 f.36; also ff.89, 189, 231, 247. Admons only
Harberte, William, cook, 1612, LB3 pp.350-3
Hawkins, Chandler, living in precincts of King's College, 1605, LB3 p.166
Hayley, John, Vice Provost of King's College, 1720, LB8 f.205
Haynes, Joan, widow and College tenant, 1565/6, LB2 p 127
Holt, Edmund, esq, late Fellow of King's College, 1794, LB12 f.230
Humphreys, William, B.A. of King's College, 1725, LB9 f.13. Admon only
Hurrell, John, presbyter and vicar of Boxted, Essex, 1718, LB8 f.200
Hurrell, William the elder, cordwainer, 1683, LB7 f.128
Jackson, Ellen, widow, 1679, LB6 f. 323. Admon only
Kidgell, Alice, widow of Thomas, 1693, LB7 f.226
King, James, baker, 1727, LB9 f.56
Kirk, John, butler of King's College, 1614, LB3 p.469
Lamb, Susanna, spinster, of St Edward's parish, 1779, LB11 f.140

Lee, Philip, scholar of King's College, 1584, LB2 p.351

Lister, Theophilus, Fellow of King's College, M.A., 1747, LB9 f.214

Lovell, John, chaplain of King's College, 1476, LB1 f.96v

Lovington, Ann, widow, 1627, LB4 p.160

Lovington, Thomas, plumber, 1625, LB4 p.134

Martin, Edward, Vice Provost of King's College, 1720, LB8 f.205

Mayfield, Mary, wife of James, 'potifici', 1708, LB8 f.65. Admon only

Mayfield, Mr Owen, alderman, 1685, LB7 f.118

Meale, John, Fellow of King's College, 1680, LB7 f.20

Mendham, William, of King's College, 1640, LB4 p. 525

Neville, Charles, Fellow of King's College, 1660, LB6 f.3

Nicholson, Christopher, burgess of Cambridge, 1557, LB2 p.7

Node, John, clerk of King's College, 1519, LB1 f.249r

Page, Martin, brewer, 1605, LB3 p.153

Page, Sir Thomas, Provost of King's College, 1680, LB7 f.4

Parley, Samuel, vintner, 1646, LB5 f.23

Peere (?), Richard, carpenter, 1601, LB3 p.60

Penne, John, 1504, LB1 f.191v

Pomfrett, Elizabeth, widow, of Great St Mary's parish, 1606, LB3 p.185, probate p.334

Porter, Thomas, cutler, of St Edmund's parish, 1705, LB8 f.41

Porter, Thomas, cutler, 1711, LB8 f.90

Pyke, Peregrine, gentleman of King's College, 1687, LB7 f.234

Read, Elizabeth, widow, of Granchester, 1620, LB4 p.63

Rendir, Thomas, priest, 1517, LB1 f.247r

Reynolds, Phillipp, Professor of Theology of King's College, 1690, LB7 f.182. Admon only

Richardson, John, College tenant, 1577, p.232

Roberts, Charles, Clerk and Fellow of King's College, 1709, LB8 f.84

Roderick, Charles, D.D., Provost of King's College and Dean of Ely, 1712, LB8 f.103

Roderick, Charles, Professor Theology of King's College, 1708, LB8 f.8.

Roderick, Mary, widow of Charles, 1710, LB8 f.83. Admon only

Rogers, Susan, widow, 1704, LB8 f.25

Roskyn, William, 1449, LB1 f.lr

Rowe, Thomas, D.D. and Fellow of King's College. 1641 LB4 p.487

Russell, John, M.A. Fellow of King's College, 1686, LB7 f.131

Russell, John, M.A. Fellow of King's College, 1681, LB7 f.14. Admon only.
[Also John Russell, clerk of King's, 1681, LB7 f.14]

Sampson, John, priest, 1519, LB1 f.247v

Sampson, Mr, weaver, 1687, LB7 f.131. Admon only

Savage, John, chaplain of King's College, 1474, LB1 f.78r

Sawcer, John, M.A., 1517, LB1 f.247v

Scarlet, Peter, stationer, nuncupative, probate 1642, LB4 p.526

Seamer, William, surgeon, 1633, LB4 p.364

Smith, Dr William, Provost of King's College and parson of Willingham, 1615, LB3 p.480

Smith, Katherine, widow, 1631, LB4 p.229

Smyth, Richard, apothecary, 1504, LB1 f.191v

Smythe, George, B.A., 1560, LB2 p.45

Smythe, John, Fellow of King's College, 1556, LB1 f.398v

Spence, Mrs Mary, widow, 1692, LB7 f.235

Spencer, Tobias, brewer, 1661, LB6 f.88

Stagg, John, cook, 1704, LB8 f.24

Stagg, Mary, widow, 1708, LB8 f.71

Stephens, Diana, widow, of Milton, 1728, LB9 f.40

Stok, John, 1458, LB1 f.24v

Stonarde, John, glover and College tenant, 1585, LB2 p.375

Tabor, Mary, widow, 1718, LB8 f.171

Tabor, Nicholas, gent, LB7 f.87. Admon only

Tayler, James, vintner, 1611, LB3 p. 329

Tempest, James, of Norbunwell Green, Middx, 1680, LB7 f.70 [Will proved 4 Oct 1680 in Prerogative Court of York (PCY)]

Thackham, Charles, MA Fellow of King's College, 1725, LB9 f.21

Thackham, William, Vice Provost of King's, 1722, LB8 f.229. Admon only.

Thirsby, John, 1685, LB7 f.88. Admon only

Tomson, Anthony, tailor, 1617, LB3 p.507

Traheron, Thomas, Fellow of King's College, 1711, LB8 f.84. Admon only

Tucke, John, bricklayer, 1757, LB10 f.48

Turner, Candlemas, of Cambridge, 1728, LB9 f.40. Admon only

Wade, William, pantler? of King's College, 1745, LB9 f.179. Admon only

Waters, Alice, widow, 1587, nuncupative, LB2 p.393

Welschet (?Melschet), John, Fellow of King's College, 1525 LB1 f.268v

Wendy, William, 1729, LB9 f.51

West, John, butler, 1745. LB9 f.200

Wever, James, gentleman, 1617, LB3 p.513

Whaley, John, 1746, intestate, 1746, LB9 f.187. Admon only

Wiche, William, magister, 1475, LB1 f.92v

Wilcocks, John, yeoman, 1676, LB6 f.312

Wilkinson, Robert, B.A. and Conduct of King's College, 1615, LB3 p.490

Winterton, Ralph, Doctor of Physic and the King's Professor 1636, LB4 p.397

Wood, Stevyn, 15** [date is not given but believed to be c. 1517], LB1 f.247r [asked to be buried in King's College within the new church]

Wright, John, chandler, 1631, LB4 p. 230

Wright, Mary, widow, 1619, LB4 p.22

Wright, Richard, skinner, 1605, LB3 p.155

Yardley, Edward, cook, 1633, LB4 p.382

Younge, Katheryn, widow, of St Mary in the Market Place, 1510, LB1 f.253v

Notes

LB1 (2, 3, 4 etc) refer to the Ledger Book from which the entry was taken, e.g. LB1 is Ledger Book 1, 1451-1558. A full list of Ledger Books and their dates is given at the beginning of this article.

Admons, short for letters of administration, were taken on the estates of persons who did not leave a will. Generally an admon does not contain as much information as a will, but they are still useful. Most admons give the name and relationship of the administrator, the date of the administration, and names of two bondsmen. The bondsmen are usually relatives, neighbors or close friends of the deceased.

Other Sources

Within the King's College Archive see also:

- **KCHR/3/3:** 'Probate Jurisdiction of King's College, Cambridge', Typescript notes for a talk given by Peter Jones, Librarian of King's College, to the Cambridge University Heraldic and Genealogical Society (CUHAGS). 23 April 2004.
- **KCAR/3/3/5:** Wills, inquests and powers of attorney. 1447-1955.
- There are also wills scattered throughout the Estates papers, reference **KCAR/6**.

Sources can be searched via the Janus website: <http://janus.lib.cam.ac.uk/>. Click on 'Participating Institutions' and scroll down to 'King's College' or go directly to the King's College page: <http://janus.lib.cam.ac.uk/db/node.xsp?id=EAD%2FGBR%2F0272>.

Copies of the papers are not available online, but the catalogues provide good descriptions.

If you would like to see or obtain copies of any of the material listed please contact the Archivist:

By e-mail: archivist@kings.cam.ac.uk

By post: Archive Centre,
King's College, Cambridge, CB2 1ST

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