

SUMMARY: The document below is the interrogatories in a lawsuit brought in the Court of Chancery by the family of Nicholas Brend (d. 12 October 1601), who had leased the land on which the Globe playhouse was built to William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon and other members of the Lord Chamberlain's Men on 21 February 1599, against Sir John Bodley, landlord of the Globe from 1601-1622, claiming that Bodley had unduly enriched himself as a trustee appointed under the will of Nicholas Brend. For Bodley's role in the financial affairs of Nicholas Brend and as landlord of the Globe after Brend's death, see TNA C 54/1682, mm. 10-11.

The Brends' bill of complaint and Sir John Bodley's answer have not survived. For the Brends' replication, see TNA C 2/ChasI/Z1/6. For the depositions given in response to the interrogatories by William Fellows, Mary Strelley, George Archer and Mercy Brend Frobisher, see TNA C 24/496/114, ff. 1-8.

The complainant Sigismund Zinzan (d.1663) had married Nicholas Brend's widow, Margaret Strelley. See the will of Sir Sigismund Zinzan's father, Sir Robert Zinzan (d.1607), TNA PROB 11/111/51.

The complainants Sir Matthew Brend (1600-1659), John Brend, Jane Brend, Mercy Brend Meese and Frances Brend were the children of Nicholas Brend and Margaret Strelley. The complainant Robert Meese was Mercy Brend's husband.

For the will and inquisition post mortem of Thomas Brend (d. 21 September 1598), father of Nicholas Brend, mentioning properties named in the second interrogatory, see TNA PROB 11/93/316 and TNA C 142/257/68. For the will of Nicholas Brend, appointing his step-brother, Sir John Bodley, as one of his trustees and overseers, and directing the sale of the lands mentioned in the second interrogatory below to provide portions for his children, see TNA PROB 11/98/348. For the inquisition post mortem taken after the death of Nicholas Brend, see TNA C 142/271/151.

For the will of Sir Matthew Browne (d.1603), who is mentioned in the fourth interrogatory, see TNA PROB 11/111/273.

After a full hearing on 26 June 1626, the case was dismissed with costs against the Brends, the Court having determined that Sir Matthew Brend had no standing since the properties concerned were not part of his inheritance. For orders in the case, see TNA C 33/147, ff. 932-3; TNA C 33/149, f. 537; TNA C 33/149, f. 936; TNA C 33/151, f. 485; and TNA C 33/151, f. 528.

Will{el}m{u}s ffellowes iur{atus} 24 Ian{uarij} 1622 R{obert}o Riche
 Maria Strelley iur{ata} 31 Ian{uarij} 1622 R{obert}o Riche
 Georgius Archer iur{atus} 1o ffebr{uarij} 1622 R{obert}o Riche
 Marria ffrowbusher iur{ata} prima ffebr{uarij} 1622 R{obert}o Riche

Interrogatories to be ministered unto witnesses produced by and on the part and behalf of Sir Sigismund Zinzan, knight, Dame Margaret, his wife, Sir Matthew Brend, knight, John Brend, Jane Brend, Robert Meese, Mercy his wife, & Frances Brend, complainants,
against Sir John Bodley, knight, defendant

1 Inprimis, do you know the said parties, plaintiffs and defendant, some or any of them, and how long time have you known them or any of them?

2 Item, whether do you know the manor or farm called the Mace in the parish of Cudham in the county of Kent, and the six tenements in the parish of East Greenwich in the said county of Kent, and the seven tenements in St Mary Axe in the parish of St Andrews Undershaft near Lime Street in London, and the two tenements in Candlewick Street in the parish of St Mary Abchurch in London, and certain other tenements situate upon St Peter's Hill, London, which were or were accounted to be lands and tenements of Nicholas Brend, esquire, at the time of his death, some or any of them, and of what clear yearly value were the same or so many of them as you know at the death of the said Nicholas, and of what yearly value are the same and every of them now of, and what several rent or rents were at the death of the said Nicholas paid or payable for the same? Declare what you know or believe to be true concerning the contents of this interrogatory or any part thereof.

3 Item, what sum or sums of money was the said defendant offered for th' inheritance of the said premises or any part or parts thereof, whether did he refuse to accept thereof, and did he sell the same or any part thereof at under value or values or for less than he was offered for the same or any part of parts thereof, and for what sum or sums of money did he sell the same premises or any part or parts of them, and when and to whom, & what rent or rents or other profit hath the said defendant made or received of or out of the said premises or any part or parts thereof as you know or have credibly heard?

4 Item, how long time after the death of the said Nicholas Brend died one Sir Matthew Browne, knight, as you know or have credibly heard?

5 Item, whether do you know or have you credibly heard that the said defendant, Sir John Bodley, is now of better ability in lands and goods or both than he was at or about the time of the death of the said Nicholas Brend, and by how much in money and by how much in the yearly value of his lands, and of what yearly value were his lands then accounted to be worth, and how much were his money, goods and personal estate then accounted to be worth, and of what yearly value now are or lately were the said defendant's lands esteemed or accounted to be worth, and how much in money and personal estate is he now or was lately esteemed to be worth as you know, have credibly heard or believe to be true, & what moveth you so to say or believe?

6 Item, what profit or benefit did the said defendant make or raise of or by the money or any part thereof for which he sold the said manor, lands and premises, some or any of them, and whether did the said defendant confess in your hearing that he had in his hands

a great sum or any sum of money which he made or raised of or by the said money made of the sale of the said premises or some part or parts thereof, & what was the same sum of money he did so confess to be in his hands, & when did he so confess the same, and before whom, and whether he said that he would pay it, and to whom, as he said? Declare the truth of every part of this interrogatory upon your oath.

7 Item, of what age and ages were the said complainants John Brend, Jane Brend, Mercy Meese and Frances Brend at the time of the death of the said Nicholas Brend, their father, as you know or believe, and what moveth you so to say or believe, and whether they or any of them oftentimes demanded of the said defendant their portions and maintenance which their said father gave them before the said defendant paid to them the same, and how often as you know or have credibly heard?

8 Item, whether do you know, have you credibly heard or believe it to be true that the said defendant, Sir John Bodley, did require or had ten pounds pro cent{um} per annum use money allowed him for such money as the said Nicholas Brend at his death owed to the said defendant or for which the said defendant stood engaged for the said Nicholas, and for how long time after the death of the said Nicholas had he such use money allowed him, and for how much money or debt which the said Nicholas owed to the said defendant or for which he stood engaged for the said Nicholas, and when was he allowed or paid the same use money?