

SUMMARY: The document below is an order dated 2 May 1626 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 interrogatories, see TNA C 24/496/114, m. 9. 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.

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 other orders in the case, see TNA C 33/147, ff. 932-3; TNA C 33/149, f. 936; TNA C 33/151, f. 485; and TNA C 33/151, f. 528.

For the year in which the order was made, see Cheney, C.R., ed., *Handbook of Dates for Students of English History*, (London: Offices of the Royal Historical Society, 1961), Table 19, p. 120, in which it is stated that May 2nd fell on a Tuesday in 1626.

Martis 2 Maij [=Tuesday, 2 May 1626]

Iohn Brend & Iohn Bodly

mil{es} et Mathewe Brend mil{es} defendents

Ac inter p{re}dict{um} Matheu{m} Brend

mil{item} et al{ios} & Iohn Bodly mil{item} def{endentem}

Where by an order of the 22nd of March last upon information that the several bills had dependence one upon another, and so fit to come to hearing together, the said Sir Matthew Brend's cause being appointed to be heard on the eighth of this month, it was ordered that unless the said Sir Matthew Brend should on the first day of this term show to this Court good cause to the contrary, then both the said causes should come to hearing together, as was then desired;

Forasmuch as this Court was this present day informed by Mr Rogers, being of the said Sir Matthew Brend's counsel, that the said causes are for several matters not depending one upon another, and that publication is not yet granted in the said John Brend's cause;

It is thereupon ordered that the said Sir Matthew Brend's cause shall come to hearing as it is appointed, and not wait upon the said John Brend's cause, but if the said Brend can prepare his cause so as by the rules of the Court he can bring it to a hearing at that time, then this Court will be pleased to give both causes hearing together. w.4