

SUMMARY: The document below is the last will and testament dated 8 June 1608 of Thomas Kendall, who, with Edward Kirkham, Yeoman of the Revels, Alexander Hawkins and Robert Payne, was granted licence on 31 January 1604 to train up children to be called the Children of the Revels of the Queen. The testator appoints Edward Kirkham as one of the overseers of his will.

One of the witnesses to the will was Oxford's first cousin, Percival Golding, son of the translator, Arthur Golding (1535/6-1606). The testator also leaves a gold ring worth 20s to 'my friend Percival Golding'. The testator's widow, Anne Kendall, and Edward Kirkham were involved in two Chancery suits in 1609, in the first of which Percival Golding testified as a witness. See Eccles, Mark, *Martin Peerson and the Blackfriars*, Shakespeare Survey XI (1958), pp. 100-6 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=OeakAOji13EC&lpg=PA103&ots=ZUtZCWSrDN&dq=%22percival%20golding%22%20%22kendall%22&pg=PA103#v=onepage&q=%22percival%20golding%22%20%22kendall%22&f=false>.

The testator's will was proved in the Archdeaconry Court of London on 27 June 1608 (see Honigmann, E.A.J. and Susan Brock, *Playhouse Wills 1558-1642*, (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1993), pp. 79-80). Since the records of the Archdeaconry Court of London, formerly in the Guildhall Library, are now held by the London Metropolitan Archives, the reference numbers found in Honigman are now recatalogued as follows:

GL ACL MS 9052/3b is now DL/AL/C/003/09052/003B (original wills proved in 1608).

GL MS 9050 4 fo. 340r is now DL/AL/C/001/09050/004 (act book recording grants of administration and probate of wills covering 1603-1611).

In the name of God, Amen. The eighth day of June Anno Domini 1608 and in the year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord James by the grace of God King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., that is to say, of England, France and Ireland the sixth and of Scotland the one and fortieth, I, Thomas Kendall, citizen and haberdasher of London, being at this present weak in body but of good and perfect remembrance, thanks be given to God, knowing that death is a thing most certain but the time and hour thereof is only known to God, do therefore make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my Creator, and to Jesus Christ, my only Saviour and Redeemer, by whose merits, death and passion I trust assuredly to have everlasting life, and my body to the earth from whence it came, to be buried in the parish church of St Andrews in Holborn, London, according to the discretion of my executrix hereunder named;

And as touching the disposing of all my worldly substance which either myself or any other to my use shall stand possessed of at the time of my death, I give and bequeath the same in manner and form following:

Imprimis, I give and bequeath unto the two daughters of my brother, Edmund Kendall, to each of them the sum of twenty pounds of lawful money of England, to be paid unto either of them at such time as they shall come to the age of seventeen years if they live so long, and if one or both of them happen to die in the mean space, I will and my meaning is that their father, the said Edmund Kendall, my brother, shall at the foresaid time appointed receive and have to his own use the said portion or portions of them or either of them so deceased;

Item, whereas there is certain money due to me from my brother, Christopher Kendall, my desire is that the same, whatsoever it be, should be bestowed upon some one of his sons to bind him prentice in London, to which said son I likewise give and bequeath the sum of twenty nobles of lawful money of England, to be paid unto him at the expiration of the term of his apprenticeship towards the setting up of his trade, and if it happen that he die in the mean space, my will and meaning is that his father, my brother Christopher Kendall, shall have and receive the said portion of twenty nobles to bestow the same upon any other of his sons in like sort at his discretion;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my sister's daughter, Margaret Taylor, the sum of five pounds of lawful English money, to be paid unto her within one whole year next after her marriage if she so long live;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my kinswoman, now the wife of William Felles, the sum of ten pounds of lawful English money, to be paid unto her within seven years next ensuing after my decease if she so long live;

Item, I give unto my wife's grandchild, Anthony Tipsly, late son of Edward Tipsly, deceased, the sum of five pounds of lawful English money towards the binding of him an apprentice;

Item, I give and bequeath to my cousin, Christopher Kendall, my black grogram gown laid with lace, and to my cousin, John Kendall, parson of Acton, my best black wearing cloak;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my cousin, Edward Kendall of the Strand, a gold ring of the value of twenty shillings, and to his father, my cousin, Marmaduke Kendall, a ring of gold of the value of ten shillings;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my friend, Mr Percival Golding, a ring of gold of the value of twenty shillings;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Mr William Hancock a ring of gold of the value of twenty shillings;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the poor people of the parish of St Andrews in Holborn where I now dwell the sum of twenty shillings, to be paid and distributed amongst them at the time of [-of] my funeral;

All other my goods, chattels, leases, apparel, household stuff and all other my substance whatsoever not before given and bequeathed, my debts only paid and funeral expenses discharged, I wholly give and bequeath the same to Anne, my wife, whom I make and ordain to be my full and sole executrix of this my last will and testament;

And I also ordain and appoint Edward Kirkham of the Strand, gentleman, and Thomas Leedame of Southwark in the county of Surrey, yeoman, to be the overseers of this my last will and testament to see the same performed according to the true intent and meaning thereof, to either of whom I likewise give a ring of gold of the value of ten shillings;

And I do renounce as well all other wills and bequests heretofore by me made or bequeathed whatsoever, as also one will by me made bearing date the six and twentieth day of the month of May in the year of Our Lord 1608;

In witness whereof I, the said Thomas Kendall, have hereunto set my hand and seal. Given the day and year first above-written.

Signum [ ] Thome Kendall

Sealed and delivered in the presence of John Kennett(?), Percival Golding, Thomas Leedam, the mark of Richard Hardye

Probatu{m} fuit h{uius}mo{d}i test{ament}um xxvijmo die Iunij A{nn}o Do{mi}ni 1608 cora{m} ven{erabi}li m{agist}ro(?) Thoma Cret[ ] legum(?) Doctor{e} D{omi}ni Archiui London(?) Officiale [ ] prefate Anne Kendall Re{e}l{i}c{t}e et Executricis [ ] De bene &c saluo Iure &c [ ]