

SUMMARY: The document below is a notice dated 11 October 1572 from Sir William Alleyn, then Lord Mayor of London, containing interrogatories and depositions of witnesses on behalf of Sir William More (1520-1600) of Loseley in his controversy with Henry Poole (d.1580) over property in the Blackfriars which had been granted to Margaret Neville Cheyney Poole as her jointure by her first father-in-law, Sir Thomas Cheyney, in his will (see TNA PROB 11/42B/105).

The premises which comprised Margaret Poole's jointure are identified in the interrogatories and depositions as (1) the former dining parlour of the friars, which in 1573 was the Joyner fence school, and (2) the former butler's lodging, which in 1573 was leased to Lawrence Bywater as his residence. Oxford, John Lyly and the Italian master of fence, Rocco Bonetti (d.1587) later had leases of the fence school premises (see Folger MS L.b.352).

Irwin Smith (p. 126), Charles William Wallace (pp. 186-7) and Joseph Quincy Adams all agree that John Lyly later had a lease of the fence-school premises, which were on the ground floor. However they disagree as to whether the former fence-school was the location of James Burbage's second Blackfriars theatre. On p. 194 Wallace states that the Burbage theatre 'covered the site of the fence-school'. Adams says the same (pp. 85-6). Smith, however, disagrees, locating the Burbage theatre on the upper floor in the former Parliament chamber (pp. 165-8). It would appear from Sir John Portinary's deposition (see below) mentioning that he saw a play in the former fence-school in 1550 that the former fence-school was suitable for the production of plays, and that Wallace and Adams may be correct in stating that it was the site of James Burbage's second Blackfriars theatre. It was of considerable size. In another deposition below it is describes as 'a great paved room'.

See Smith, Irwin, *Shakespeare's Blackfriars Playhouse* (New York University Press, 1964), pp. 126, 165-8; Wallace, Charles William, *The Evolution of the English Drama up to Shakespeare*, (Berlin: Georg Reimer, 1912), pp. 186-7, 194-5; and Adams, Joseph Quincy, 'The Conventual Buildings of Blackfriars, London, and the Playhouses Constructed Therein', *Studies in Philology*, Vol. 14, No. 2 (April 1917), University of North Carolina Press, pp. 64-87.

In 1601 the former butler's lodging which had been the Bywater house in 1573 was included in premises sold to Richard Burbage and Cuthbert Burbage (see Folger MS L.b.357).

In his deposition below, Sir John Portinary states that shortly after Sir Thomas Cawarden was granted the site of the Blackfriars in 1550, Portinary and his wife and others dined with Cawarden in the former dining parlour of the friars which by 1573 had become the Joyner fence school, and there saw a play:

And further saith that in the beginning of King Edward's time Sir Thomas Cawarden, knight, entered into the same house in the name of all that which the King had given him

within the said [Black]friars, and made his lodging there, and about that time did invite this examinant and his wife to supper there, together with divers other gentlemen, and they all supped together with the said Sir Thomas Cawarden in the same room where the said school of fence is now kept, and did there see a play.

For the military engineer Sir John Portinarty, see the *ODNB* article on him under the name Sir Giovanni Portinari.

For Sir Thomas Cawarden (c.1514–1559), see the *ODNB* entry:

In 1550 he became steward of Hampton Court and was granted the site of the London Blackfriars, to which he removed the revels office from Warwick Inn. He turned the parish church of St Anne's (part of the Blackfriars complex) into a store for tents, having ordered the parishioners to remove the sacrament over the altar before he did so himself.

For the arbitration award dated 4 February 1573 by which Anthony Browne (1528-1592), 1st Viscount Montagu, and John Apsley decided the controversy between Sir William More and Henry Poole, see Loseley MS No 1396, Award.

For further details of the controversy between More and Poole, see also the will of Henry Poole, TNA PROB 11/62/182.

According to a later set of interrogatories and depositions, a cluster of facilities which included the kitchen, brewhouse, buttery, butler's lodging and a dining parlour for the friars was situated in the west block of the Blackfriars prior to the dissolution. Exact locations are not supplied in these later depositions, but the witnesses attest that these facilities were all 'hard by' or 'handsome to' each other, and in fact they were so closely situated that Edward Muschamp deposed that at the time the friars still occupied the premises, the friar who served as butler had to pass through the butler's lodging (which in 1573 was in the occupation of Lawrence Bywater) to reach the brewhouse.

In the depositions below, several witnesses also depose that the friars' former dining parlour (in 1573 the Joyner fence-school) adjoined 'an old buttery of the friars'.

The depositions below, as well as the later set of depositions, establish that the butler's lodging/Bywater house was occupied consecutively by Thomas Phillips (for two years), Thomas Blagrove and Lawrence Bywater, with Phillips, during his tenure, also having the use of the friars' dining parlour/Joyner fence-school to store wood in.

For Thomas Phillips, Clerk of the Revels, see Wallace, *supra*, p. 141.

For Thomas Blagrove (1522 – 18 June 1590), acting Master of the Revels from 1573 to 1577, see his will, proved 10 November 1590, TNA PROB 11/76/297, and:

http://www.berkshirehistory.com/bios/tblagrove_revels.html

For Jasper Fylloll (Fillol or Filliol) mentioned in the interrogatories and depositions below, who was the uncle of Katherine Fylloll, first wife of the Protector Somerset, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/fylloll-jasper-1467-1536-or-later>

For William Lilgrave mentioned in the interrogatories and depositions below, see the will of Richard Jerningham, TNA PROB 11/22/172:

Item, I will and bequeath to William Lilgrave my lease that I have of a house and garden at the Blackfriars in London, and mine executors to recontent and pay to the said William forty marks which the said William paid for me for the said lease.

The modern-spelling transcript below was prepared from the original-spelling transcript in Feuillerat, Albert, *Blackfriars Records*, (Oxford University Press: Malone Society, 1913), 45-53 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/collectionspt102malouoft#page/44/mode/2up>

To all Christian people to whom this present writing shall come or that shall see, hear or read, William Alleyn, knight, Lord Mayor of the city of London, send greeting in Our Lord God everlasting;

Forasmuch as amongst divers others the great and manifold deeds and works of pity and charity the witnessing & declaration of the truth in all matters of questions, ambiguities and doubts is not to be accounted the least, but rather as a chief virtue & mean whereby the truth adumbrate and many times suppressed for a season doth rather appear and is brought forth into the light and knowledge of men is with the chiefest to be embraced, exalted and commended:

I, therefore, the said Lord Mayor, signify and declare unto all your Honours and Worships to whom it shall appertain and to every of the same that the days of the date of these presents hereunder written there did appear and come personally into the Queen's Majesty's court holden before me, the said Lord Mayor, and my brethren, the aldermen, in the utter chamber of the Guildhall of the said city these deponents hereunder named, which upon their own free will without any manner of coercion or constraint upon their corporal oaths upon the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God then and there taken exactly and severally examined by our common clerk of the said city by our commandment and appointment upon certain interrogatories, which interrogatories together with their several depositions hereafter ensue word for word as followeth:

Interrogatories to be ministered to witnesses on the behalf of William More, esquire:

1 Inprimis, whether do you know William More, esquire, and Henry Poole, esquire, and whether did you ever know Sir Thomas Cheyney, knight, Jasper Fyloll, Thomas Ferreby and William Lilgrave, and how long have you known them or any of them;

2 Item, whether do you know the little house wherein Lawrence Bywater dwelleth within the precinct of the Blackfriars in London, which house hath in the glass window chalices and singing cakes painted, and is ceiled above with wainscot, and how long have you known the same;

3 Item, whether was not the said little house a lodging used for the use of some one of the friars, and never let out to any person during the time that the friars stood;

4 Item, whether do you know the house wherein Joyner keepeth now a fence-school within the precinct of the said [Black]friars, whereunto joineth an old buttery of the friars, and how long have you known the same;

5 Item, whether the said house wherein the said school of fence is kept was not always used during the time of friars by the friars themselves to their own proper use, and never let out to any tenant during the said time;

6 Item, whether the said Jasper Fyloll, Thomas Ferreby, William Lilgrave or Sir Thomas Cheyney did ever hold or occupy the said little house or the house wherein the school of fence is kept as aforesaid before the dissolution of the friars;

7 Item, whether they or any of them did ever hold or occupy the said little house or school of fence since the said house of friars was dissolved to your knowledge.

Nono Die Maij 1572 [=9 May 1572] Annoq{ue} xiiiijo Elizabeth Regine, Margaret Harbottle, wife of Christopher Harbottle, citizen & haberdasher of London, aged 68 years or thereabouts, sworn and examined the day and year abovesaid on the behalf of William More, esquire, upon her said oath deposeth and saith as followeth:

1 To the first interrogatory she saith that she knoweth William More, esquire, and Henry Poole, esquire, and hath known them of long time, and that she did well know Sir Thomas Cheyney, knight, Jasper Fyloll and William Lilgrave, and hath known them forty years past & more, but she saith she doth not well remember Thomas Ferreby in the said interrogatory named.

2 To the second interrogatory she saith she knoweth a little house wherein Lawrence Bywater dwelleth within the precinct of the Blackfriars, which house hath in the glass window chalices and singing cakes painted, and is ceiled above with wainscot, but she saith she hath known that little room but a small time, but the rooms next the same little room she hath known these forty years.

3 To the third interrogatory she saith she cannot depose.

To the fourth interrogatory she saith she hath seen of late a great room paved in the precinct of the said friars whereunto joineth an old buttery of the friars.

To the fifth interrogatory she cannot depose,

6, 7 To the sixth & seventh interrogatories she saith that as she hath before said, she did well know Jasper Fylloll, William Lilgrave and Sir Thomas Cheyney, but she saith that she did never know or understand that they or any of them did hold or occupy the said little house nor the said great room paved adjoining to the friars' buttery in the times of the friars or any time since, neither doth she well remember to what use the same were put.

Die et anno predict{o}, Alice Aylande, wife of John Aylande, citizen and cutler of London, aged 58 years or thereabouts, sworn & examined the day and year above-written on the behalf of William More, esquire, on her said oath deposeth and saith as followeth:

That she did well know Sir Thomas Cheyney, knight, and one Mr William Lilgrave, and hath known them when she was about 18 years old, and she knoweth that Sir Thomas Cheyney dwelt in a fair house in the precinct of the [Black]friars in a garden, and the said Mr Lilgrave dwelt in the said [Black]friars and kept house there;

Also she saith that of late she hath seen a great room paved in the said [Black]friars where a school of fence is kept, as is said, and she well remembereth that the said Mr Lilgrave never dwelt in the said house now called the fence-school, neither in the house wherein one Bywater dwelleth in the said [Black]friars, neither doth she know that Sir Thomas Cheyney or Mr Lilgrave ever had or occupied any other houses in the said [Black]friars but the two houses where they severally dwelt and kept their houses.

Duodecimo Die Maij 1572 [=12 May 1572] Annoq{ue} decimo quarto Elizabeth Regine, Julian Whitlock, widow, dwelling in the Whitefriars of London, aged 48 years or thereabouts, sworn and examined the day and year abovesaid on certain interrogatories to her ministered on the behalf of William More, esquire, on her said oath deposeth and saith as followeth:

1 To the first interrogatory she saith she knoweth William More, esquire, in the said interrogatory named, but she knoweth not the said Henry Poole, esquire, in the said interrogatory mentioned.

2 To the second interrogatory she saith she knoweth well the little house wherein Lawrence Bywater dwelleth within the precinct of the Blackfriars, which house hath in the glass window chalices and singing cakes painted, and is ceiled above with wainscot, & hath known the same these forty years past for that she was born within the precinct of the said Blackfriars.

3 To the third interrogatory she saith that the said little house was in the time of the friars a lodging for one of the friars, and she remembereth that a friar, being a butler of the same house, did lodge in the same little house, and further saith that the same little house was never let out to any person during the time of the said friars.

4 To the fourth interrogatory she saith that she well knoweth the house wherein Joyner now keepeth a fence-school within the precinct of the said friars whereunto joineth an old buttery of the friars, and hath known the same by the space of forty years last past.

5 To the fifth interrogatory she saith that the house wherein the said school of fence is kept was always used during the time of the friars and during the time of her remembrance by the friars themselves to their own proper use, and never let out to any tenant since she could remember and during the time of the said friars.

6 To the sixth interrogatory she saith that Jasper Fylloll, Thomas Ferreby, William Lilgrave nor Sir Thomas Cheyney nor any of them did ever hold or occupy the said little house in the tenure now of the said Bywater or the house wherein the school of fence is kept before the dissolution of the said friars and since the time of her remembrance.

7 To the seventh interrogatory she saith that the said Jasper Fylloll, Thomas Ferreby, William Lilgrave nor Sir Thomas Cheyney nor any of them did hold or occupy the said little house or the house where the school of fence is kept since the said house of friars was dissolved to her knowledge.

ijo Die Maij 1572 [=2 May 1572] Annoq{ue} Elizabeth Regine quartodecimo, Elizabeth Baxter, widow, dwelling within the Whitefriars of London, aged 70 years or thereabouts, sworn and examined the day and year abovesaid on certain interrogatories to her ministered on the behalf of William More, esquire, on her said oath deposeth and saith as followeth:

1 To the first interrogatory she saith she knoweth William More in the said interrogatory named, but she saith she knoweth not Henry Poole in the said interrogatory named.

2 To the second interrogatory she saith she knoweth a little house wherein Lawrence Bywater dwelleth within the precinct of the Blackfriars, which house hath in the glass window chalices and singing cakes painted, and is ceiled above with wainscot, and hath known the same since the suppression of the said house of Blackfriars and 4 or five years before, for that her husband, Richard Baxter, was porter of the house of the said Blackfriars there in the time of the said friars.

3 To the third interrogatory she cannot depose.

4 To the fourth interrogatory she saith that she knoweth the house wherein Joyner keepeth now a fence-school within the precinct of the said Blackfriars whereunto joineth

an old buttery of the said friars, and hath known the same since her said husband was first porter of the said Blackfriars.

5 To the fifth interrogatory she saith that the said house wherein the said school of fence is kept was always used during the time that she was in the said house of the friars, which was until a year before the suppression of the house, by the friars themselves to their own proper use, & never let in her time to any tenant or occupied by any other than the said friars themselves.

6 To the sixth interrogatory she saith that Jasper Fylloll, Thomas Ferreby, William Lilgrave nor Sir Thomas Cheyney nor any of them did ever hold or occupy the said little house wherein the said Bywater dwelleth or the house wherein the school of fence is kept before the dissolution of the friars during the time of her being in the said friars, which was four or five years before the dissolution of the said house.

7 To the seventh interrogatory she saith that the said Jasper Fylloll, Thomas Ferreby, William Lilgrave nor Sir Thomas Cheyney nor any of them did ever hold or occupy the said little house or the house where the school of fence is since the said house of friars was dissolved to her knowledge.

Duodecimo Die Maij 1572 [=12 May 1572] Annoq{ue} xiiijto Elizabeth Regine, Lawrence Bywater, yeoman, dwelling within the Blackfriars, aged 46 years or thereabouts, sworn and examined the day and year abovesaid on certain interrogatories to him ministered on the behalf of William More, esquire, upon his said oath deposeth and saith as followeth:

1 To the first interrogatory he saith he knoweth William More, esquire, and Henry Poole, esquire, in the said interrogatory named.

2 To the second interrogatory he saith he hath known the said house wherein he, this examinant, dwelleth, which hath chalices and singing cakes painted in the window of the same, being the house mentioned in the said interrogatory, 15 years last past, and hath dwelt therein 12 years, and it plainly appeareth that the said house hath been covered with lead;

3 To the third interrogatory he saith he cannot say anything of his own knowledge, but he saith he hath heard one widow Churchgate, mother of this deponent's wife, who dwelled in the said [Black]friars in the time of the said friars, divers times say that the said little house was a lodging for one of the friars who was butler of the same house, and that she hath had ale from the buttery of the said house through the said little house.

4 To the fourth interrogatory he saith he knoweth the house wherein Joyner keepeth now a fence-school within the precinct of the said [Black]friars whereunto joineth an old buttery of the friars, and hath known the same by the space of fifteen years last past.

5 To the fifth interrogatory he saith he knoweth nothing of his own knowledge, but he saith that by the standing of the same it is very like that the same must needs be occupied by the friars themselves in their time to their own use, and he remembereth that one Woodman did hold the said house where the said school of fence is kept and another house there by of Sir Thomas Cawarden, and in thother room kept an ordinary table, and had his way to the same through the said house where the said school of fence is kept.

6, 7 To the sixth and seventh interrogatories he saith he cannot depose.

Vicesimo Tertio Die Iunii 1572 [=23 June 1572] Annoq{ue} Elizabeth Regine xiiijto, Henry Jones, one of the Queen's Majesty's Sergeants at Arms, aged 76 years or thereabouts, sworn and examined the day and year above-written on his said oath deposeth and saith as followeth:

That he doth now know a house wherein one Joyner keepeth a fence-school within the precinct of the Blackfriars in London, and also knoweth one other little house in the same [Black]friars ceiled above with wainscot, and hath in the glass window certain chalices & singing cakes painted;

Also he saith he did very well know Sir Thomas Cheyney, knight, Jasper Fyloll, Thomas Ferreby and William Lilgrave, and did know them a[l]most fifty years since;

Also he saith that the said Sir Thomas Cheyney, Jasper Fyloll, Thomas Ferreby nor William Lilgrave did not at any time to his remembrance or knowledge hold or occupy the said room wherein the said school of fence is kept, or the said house ceiled and painted in the window with chalices & singing cakes before the said friars dissolved or any time after, yet he saith he doth know and well remember that the said Sir Thomas Cheyney, Mr Ferreby and Mr Lilgrave had lodgings in the same [Black]friars above forty past years, and remembereth where their several lodgings were.

Vicesimo Sexto Die Iunii 1572 [=26 June 1572] Annoq{ue} Elizabeth Regine, Sir John Portinary, knight, aged 64 years or thereabouts, sworn and examined the day and year above-written on his said oath depose[th] & saith as followeth:

That he very well knoweth one house within the precinct of the late Blackfriars of London wherein one Joyner now or lately kept a school of fence, and hath known the same ever since the said house of friars came to the King's hands;

And further saith that in the beginning of King Edward's time Sir Thomas Cawarden, knight, entered into the same house in the name of all that which the King had given him within the said [Black]friars, and made his lodging there, and about that time did invite this examinant and his wife to supper there, together with divers other gentlemen, and they all supped together with the said Sir Thomas Cawarden in the same room where the said school of fence is now kept, and did there see a play;

And further he saith that when the said house of Blackfriars was dissolved and came to the King's hands, by order from the King the keys of the said house were delivered to this examinant to keep, who had a fee for the keeping of the said house of friars, and whilst he kept the same the said room, now a fence-school, was not put to any use, neither anybody then dwelt in the same from the time of the delivery of the said keys to him unto the time that he was at supper with the said Sir Thomas Cawarden there, as before he hath said, and more in effect he cannot depose.

xxvijmo Die Iunij 1572 [=27 June 1572] Annoq{ue} xiiijto Elizabeth Regine, Thomas Blagrove of West Bedwyn in the county of Wiltshire, esquire, aged 50 years or thereabouts, sworn and examined the day and year above-written, on his said oath deposeth and saith as followeth:

That he knoweth one house in the precinct of the late Blackfriars of London wherein one Joyner now or lately kept a school of fence, and hath known the same since the 38th year of King Henry the Eight [=1546/7], and saith that at that time he was sergeant to Sir Thomas Cawarden, knight, who then was Master of the Revels and of the Tents to King Henry the Eight, and that the said Sir Thomas then had the whole use of the said house now the school of fence, and that he, this examinant, and others then sergeants to the said Sir Thomas Cawarden hath divers times lain in the same house;

And further saith he doth know one other house wherein one Lawrence Bywater now dwelleth, and hath known the same since the beginning of King Edward's time;

And that he did know one Thomas Phillips sometime dwell in the same, who was then Clerk of the Tents and Revels, and saith that afterwards the said Phillips was removed by the said Sir Thomas Cawarden from the said house to a place called the Anchorage in the said [Black]friars, to have that by reason of his said office;

And afterwards the said Sir Thomas Cawarden did let to him, this deponent, the said house wherein the said Bywater now dwelleth, and the same being too little for him and his wife, this examinant did take of one person(?) Wythers, servant to Sir Thomas Cheyney, knight, one chamber adjoining to the same house, which chamber was the said Sir Thomas Cheyney's, and held the said chamber of the said Sir Thomas Cheyney for years, and also held the said house of the said Sir Thomas Cawarden at will, and at the death of the said Sir Thomas Cheyney the said chamber was taken from this examinant, who afterwards took the same of Henry Poole, esquire, and for the house remained tenant to the said Sir Thomas Cawarden, and after as tenant to the said Sir Thomas Cawarden's wife, and after as tenant to William More, esquire, and saith the said chamber is now in the possession of the said Henry Poole, esquire, or his assigns, as he thinketh;

Also he saith that to his now remembrance he did never know any tents lying in the said house where the said Bywater now dwelleth;

Also this deponent saith that he hath heard that the said house in times past was covered with lead, and verily thinketh it was so;

And more in effect he cannot depose.

In faith and testimony whereof I, the said Lord Mayor, the common seal of mine office of mayoralty of the said city at the desire of the said William More, esquire, to these presents have caused to be put. Written at the said city of London the 11th day of October 1572 and in the fourteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith etc.

Stapleton