

SUMMARY: The document below is a memorandum dated 29 August 1545 which appears to have been prepared in connection with the dissolution of the Blackfriars, as it is noted as having been examined by Thomas Mildmay, one of the auditors of the Court of Augmentations. For Thomas Mildmay, see the *ODNB* article on his younger brother, Sir Walter Mildmay (1520/21–1589).

The memorandum concerns property in the Blackfriars on which George Brooke (d. 29 September 1558), 9th Baron Cobham, held an 80 year lease from 10 April 1536.

According to the memorandum, the premises had formerly been in the tenure of ‘Lady Jane Guildford’. In Holder, Nick, ‘The Medieval Friaries of London’, PhD thesis, University of London, August 2011, p. 55, available online, she is identified as Leicester’s mother, Lady Jane Guildford.

However in Smith, Irwin, *Shakespeare’s Blackfriars Playhouse*, (New York: New York University Press, 1964), p. 114, she is identified as the widow of Sir Richard Guildford (c.1450-1506), and it is the latter identification which would appear to be the correct one.

‘Lady Jane Guildford’ in the document below was thus Jane or Joan Vaux, the daughter of Sir William Vaux (1437–1471) of Harrowden. According to the *ODNB*, a ‘Dame Joana Guildford’ was among the ladies who attended Elizabeth of York’s coronation, and according to Ellis, *infra*, p. xiii, she and Sir Richard Guildford were married in the presence of Henry VII and Queen Elizabeth, his wife. See the *ODNB* article on her brother, Nicholas Vaux (c.1460–1523), 1st Baron Vaux, and Ellis, *infra*, pp. xiii-xiv, where she is said to have been still living in 1531.

For her husband, Sir Richard Guildford, who died in Jerusalem on 6 September 1506 while on pilgrimage, see his will, proved 10 May 1508, TNA PROB 11/17/381, in which he left to his wife ‘all my stuff that I have at the Black Friars except two books’; and a tract describing his journey, Ellis, Henry, ed., *The Pylgrymage of Sir Richard Guylforde to the Holy Land, A.D. 1506*, (London: Camden Society, 1851).

According to the pedigree in Ellis, *supra*, p. xvii, Leicester’s mother, Lady Jane Guildford (d. 22 January 1555), was the daughter of Sir Edward Guildford, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, eldest son of Sir Richard Guildford (d. 6 September 1506) by his first marriage to Anne Pympe. The ‘Lady Jane Guildford’ mentioned in the document below was thus the step-grandmother of Leicester’s mother, Lady Jane Guildford (d. 22 January 1555).

It is also of interest, considering the Guildford connections with others who held property in the Blackfriars, that Sir Richard Guildford’s daughter Philippa married Sir John Gage; that his daughter Mary married Sir Christopher Kempe; and that his daughter Frideswide married Sir Matthew Browne (d. 6 August 1557) of Betchworth, Surrey (for the latter marriage, see Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 341), whose grandson, Thomas Browne (d. 9 February 1597), married Mabel Fitzwilliam, by

whom he was the father of Sir Matthew Browne (died c.1603), one of the trustees of Nicholas Brend (d. 12 October 1601), who leased the ground on which the Globe was built by lease dated 21 February 1599 to Richard Burbage, Cuthbert Burbage, William Kempe, Augustine Phillips, Thomas Pope, John Heminges and William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon (see TNA REQ 4/1/2). See the will, dated 2 August 1603 and proved 19 April 1608, TNA PROB 11/111/273, of Sir Matthew Browne (died c.1603).

Sir Matthew Browne's father, Sir Thomas Browne (d. 9 February 1597), was one of the signatories to the petition headed by Lord Burghley's sister-in-law, Lady Russell, which blocked James Burbage's Blackfriars theatre. See Laoutaris, Chris, *Shakespeare and the Countess: The Battle That Gave Birth to the Globe*, (London: Fig Tree, 2014), pp. 121, 123, 130, 176-7, 277, 278, 324.

For Lord Cobham's property in the Blackfriars and its relationship to the first Blackfriars theatre, see also SHC LM/347/4.

The transcript below was prepared from the transcript in Feuillerat, Albert, *Blackfriars Records*, (Oxford University Press: Malone Society, 1913), pp. 12-13 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/collectionspt102malouoft#page/12/mode/2up>.

The Lord Cobham's particular of his purchase in the Blackfriars

P{ar}cell{a} terraru{m} et possessionu{m} nup{er} domus fr{atru}m p{re}dicatoru{m} infra Ciuitatem London [=Parcel of the lands and possessions of the late house of Friars Preachers within the city of London]

p{ar}cell{a} Scitus siue p{ro}cinct{us} d{i}c{t}e nup{er} domus fr{atru}m p{re}dicatoru{m} [=Parcel of the site or precinct of the said late house of Friars Preachers]

Ffirma vnus Tenement{i} siue mansionis ib{ide}m cum quadam ffenestra voc{ata} le closet wyndowe ad p{er}spiciend{um} in Eccl{es}iam ib{ide}m simull cum om{n}ib{us} Cameris coquinis promptuar{ijs} larder{ijs} Cellarijs solarijs et om{n}ibus alijs domibus et edificijs cum conductu aque in dictam coquinam gardinu{m} & al{ijs} Locis ib{ide}m eidem tenement{o} siue mansione spectan{tibus} Que nup{er} fuerunt in tenuta Domine Iane Guildford et modo dimiss{is} honorabili viro Georgio D{omi}no Cobh{a}m p{er} Indenturam cuius dat{um} est decimo die Ap{ri}lis anno Regni R{egis} henrici octaui xxvijmo p{ro} termino iijjxx Annoru{m} ex tunc p{ro}x{ime} sequen{tium} et plenar{ie} complend{orum} Reddend{o} inde ad festa Ann{un}ciacionis b{ea}te marie virginis et s{an}c{t}i mich{ael}is arch{angel}i equaliter p{er} annu{m} vli vjs viijd at ix yers xlviijli

[=The farm of one tenement or mansion there, with a certain window called ‘le closet window’ looking into the church there, together with all rooms, kitchens, storerooms, larders, cellars, solars and all other the houses and buildings, with a conduit of water in the said kitchen garden, & other the places there to the same tenement or mansion belonging which formerly were in the tenure of Lady Jane Guildford and now demised to the honourable George, Lord Cobham, by indenture dated the tenth day of April in the 27th year [=10 April 1536] of the reign of King Henry VIII for the term of 80 years from thence next following and fully to be completed, yielding therefore at the feasts of the Annunciation of Blessed Mary the Virgin and St Michael the Archangel by equal portions by year £5 6s 8d, at nine years £48.]

These been the first particulars.

xxixno die Augusti Anno xxxvijmo R{egni} R{egis} h{enrici} viij p{ro} georgio D{omi}no Cobh{a}m [=29th day of August in the 37th year of the reign of King Henry VIII for George, Lord Cobham]

Ex{aminatur} p{er} me Thomam Myldmaye Auditor{em} [=Examined by me, Thomas Mildmay, Auditor]

The farm of one tenement and other the premises within the precinct of the late Blackfriars in London by year 106s 8d, which rented at nine years’ purchase is £48.

John Baker, Richard Southwell, Edward North

Irr{otulatur} p{er} Ioh{ann}em Hawbye [=Enrolled by John Hawby]