

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 17 April 1615 and 30 August 1616 and proved 30 August 1616, of Henry Walker from whom William Shakespeare (1564-1616) of Stratford upon Avon and others purchased the Blackfriars gatehouse on 10 March 1613. See Folger MS Z.c.22(45) (purchaser's copy) and London Metropolitan Archives CLC/522/MS03738 (vendor's copy).

From London Metropolitan Archives CLC/522/MS03738 at:

<http://www.shakespearedocumented.org/exhibition/document/shakespeare-purchases-blackfriars-gatehouse-copy-bargain-and-sale-signed-buyers>

. . . part of which said tenement is erected over a great gate leading to a capital messuage which sometime was in the tenure of William Blackwell, esquire, deceased, and since that in the tenure or occupation of the right honourable Henry, now Earl of Northumberland;

And also all that plot of ground on the west side of the same tenement which was lately enclosed with boards on two sides thereof by Anne Bacon, widow, so far and in such sort as the same was enclosed by the said Anne Bacon

Which said dwelling-house or tenement and other the premises above by these presents mentioned to be bargained and sold the said Henry Walker late purchased and had to him, his heirs and assigns forever of Mathie Bacon of Gray's Inn in the county of Middlesex, gentleman, bearing date the fifteenth day of October in the year of Our Lord God one thousand six hundred and four.

For the will, dated 21 April 1639 and proved 6 July 1639, of Mathy or Mathias Bacon who on 15 October 1604 sold the Blackfriars gatehouse to the testator, see TNA PROB 11/180/622.

Although the testator does not mention a wife in the will below, the possibility cannot be entirely ruled out that Mathy Bacon's niece, Marie Walker, was his wife, particularly in view of Mathy Bacon's sale of the Blackfriars gatehouse to the testator in 1604.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator states in the will below that he was born in the parish of Kington, Herefordshire. Little is known of his family. For a brief biography, see Hotson, Leslie, *Shakespeare's Sonnets Dated*, (London: Rupert Hart-Davis, 1949), pp. 215-16.

As for the vendor, Henry Walker, he was born at Kington, Herefordshire, on the border of Wales; a member of the Minstrels' or Musicians' Company of London; lived in a house in St. Martin Ludgate belonging to William Hicke, and took Hicke's son Samuel

as one of his apprentices. That he was a man of considerable property appears by his will, proved August 30, 1616 (P.C.C. 94 Cope). Both Hickes and Overy witnessed it, and Overy is named as an overseer

Walker . . . was also a shopkeeper at his house in St Martin Ludgate; but the nature of his wares remains annoyingly unspecified. On Friday, May 1, 1607, a holiday, he opened his shop for business, and his neighbours the churchwardens presented him for it to the Bishops official (Lib. Act. in Nwgoc. Offic. Lond., 1607-1608, f. 74, February 15, 1607/8)

For a brief biography, see also Palmer, Alan and Veronica Palmer, *Who's Who in Shakespeare's England*, (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1999), p. 258 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=6BK1Vu6pw84C&pg=PA258>

In the will below the testator mentions his brothers, John Walker and Lancelot Walker; a sister, Helen Chubbe, and her children, including two sons, Thomas Chubbe and Owen Chubbe; and several cousins, Mr Doctor Whitinge and his wife, Mr Shopham the elder, Mary Bowler, and William Rose.

The testator may have been related to Henry Walker, mercer, of Stratford upon Avon, father of William Walker (1608-1680), bailiff of Stratford upon Avon in 1649. William Walker is thought to have been William Shakespeare's godson, and was bequeathed 20s in his will. See Palmer, *supra*, p. 258.

It also seems likely that the testator was related by marriage to Mathy Bacon (d.1639), from whom he purchased the Blackfriars gatehouse in 1604. In his will, Mathy Bacon leaves a bequest to his niece, Marie Walker, widow, daughter of his brother, Richard Bacon (d.1528?):

And my further will and mind is that my executors hereafter named shall pay unto Mathie Bacon, my godson, one of the sons of my brother, Richard Bacon, deceased, the sum of fifty pounds of lawful money of England, which I freely give and bequeath unto him.

And I give and bequeath to his brother, Francis Bacon, and Edward Bacon, two other of my brother Richard Bacon his sons, twenty pounds of like money, viz., to either of them ten pounds apiece.

And I do also give and bequeath to Marie Walker, widow, and to Elizabeth Marriott, two of my brother Richard Bacon his daughters, twenty pounds of lawful money of England, viz., to either of them ten pounds apiece.

For the will of Mathy Bacon, see TNA PROB 11/180/622. For the will of his brother, Richard Bacon, see TNA PROB 11/153/263.

TESTATOR'S PROPERTY

The testator leaves a message in Kington to his brother, John Walker and his heirs, remainder to his brother, Lancelot Walker.

TESTATOR'S BEQUEST TO THE POOR OF KINGTON

The testator bequeaths £120 to the Company of Musicians in London as a stock out of which £8 per year is to be paid to the churchwardens of Kington for the benefit of the poor there. For the testator's bequest, see also *The History of Kington*, (Kington: Charles Humphreys, 1845), pp. 178-81 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=3w4HAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA178>

OTHER PERSONS NAMED IN THE WILL

The testator leaves bequests to members of the Hickes family:

Unto my apprentice, Samuel Hickes, a cloak of black cloth of forty shillings price.

I will and bequeath to my good friend and landlord, Mr William Hickes, ten pounds, and to his wife, other ten pounds, to their daughter, Mrs Fisher five pounds, and to all other their children living at my decease, three pounds.

For the will of the testator's 'good friend and landlord', the wealthy London scrivener, William Hickes, dated 25 September 1622 and proved 30 September 1622, see TNA PROB 11/140/270.

The testator also leaves a bequest to his friend, Edward Overy, one of the witnesses to the indenture by which William Shakespeare (1564-1616) of Stratford upon Avon and others purchased the Blackfriars gatehouse from Henry Walker (d.1616) on 10 March 1613.

To my loving friend, Edward Overy, in my last will mentioned, ten pounds.

For the will, dated 18 May 1621 and proved 29 May 1621, of Edward Overy, see TNA PROB 11/137/472.

For further information on persons named in the will, including William Hickes and Edward Overy, see Hotson, Leslie, *Shakespeare's Sonnets Dated* (London: Rupert Hart-Davis, 1949), pp. 211-17.

LM: T{estamentum} Henrici Walker

In the name of God, Amen. I, Henry Walker of the parish of St. Martin within Ludgate, London, being in good health & of perfect and sound mind & memory, do make, ordain and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following, viz.:

First and before all things I commend & commit my soul into the hands of the blessed and undivided Trinity, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, three persons & one eternal and Almighty God, hoping through the death and merits of Jesus Christ, my only Saviour and Redeemer, to obtain remission of all my sins and to enjoy life everlasting, and my body I commit to the earth to be buried according to the discretion of my executors hereafter named;

And touching such worldly goods as it hath pleased God of his goodness to bestow upon me, I do dispose of them as followeth, viz.:

Inprimis I give and bequeath unto the poor children harboured within Christ's Hospital in London the sum of four pounds of lawful money of England in case I die or be buried within the City of London or the liberties thereof, and that they be present at my funeral and do accompany my body to the grave;

Item, I will that there shall be distributed according to the discretion of my executors to such poor people as shall resort to my burial upon the day of my funeral the sum of five pounds;

Item, I will that my executors shall bestow the sum of three pounds upon a banquet for such of my neighbours and friends as shall be present at my funeral;

Item, I farther will that there shall be bestowed upon a supper for such of the parishioners where I shall happen to be buried as my executors shall think meet the sum of five pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath to the Master, Wardens and Assistants of the Company of Musicians in London for the time being, of which Company I am a member, the sum of one hundred and twenty pounds of lawful money of England, to be paid unto them at a court to be holden within their Hall within the space of one year after my decease, and my will and mind is that the said Master and Wardens and Assistants or so many of them as my executors shall think fit shall upon the receipt of the said sum enter into bond or other sufficient assurance to my executors or the survivors of survivor of them or the executors or administrators of them or either of them for the payment of eight pounds yearly to the churchwardens for the time being of the parish of Kington in the county of Hereford where I was born, and for the payment and delivery of the said sum of one hundred and twenty pounds to such as shall succeed them and either of them in the said several offices or to such other as I shall appoint by this my will, and my will is that the successors of them and either of them for the time being shall yearly from year to year forever enter into the like bond or assurance so that the said sum of one hundred and twenty pounds may remain forever as a stock for the use and benefit of the poor of Kington aforesaid;

And if the said Master, Wardens and Assistants of the said Company of Musicians for the time being or any of their successors shall refuse or fail to enter into the bond or assurance aforesaid and to pay the said sum of eight pounds yearly as aforesaid, then I will that they shall repay the said sum of one hundred and twenty pounds to mine executors hereafter named or to the survivor of them if they or either of them shall be then living, and if they be both dead, then to the churchwardens of Kington aforesaid for the time being, they and every of them and the successors of them & every of them from time to time putting in good security for the delivery of the said sum to their next and immediate successors in the said office of churchwarden or to such others as I shall appoint by this my will, and for the payment of eight pounds yearly to the poor of the said parish in such manner and form as by this my will is hereafter limited and appointed;

And if the said churchwardens or their successors shall refuse or not be able to put in such security as before I have appointed, then I will that the person or persons in whose hands the said sum of one hundred and twenty pounds shall remain shall pay and deliver the said sum to six of the most wealthy and sufficient landed men within the parish of Kington aforesaid, they putting in sufficient security for the payment of eight pounds yearly to the churchwardens of the said parish of Kington to the use of the poor of the said parish as aforesaid and for the leaving of the said sum to other sufficient landed men within the said parish to the use of the poor of the said parish as aforesaid;

And if they or any of them shall refuse or not put in such security as I have before limited and appointed, then I will that the said sum of one hundred and twenty pounds shall be paid and delivered to the children of my sister, Helen Chubbe, which shall be then living, to be equally divided between them;

And my will and mind is that such person or persons to whom the said sum of one hundred and twenty pounds shall by virtue of this my will come or be payable (except the children of my said sister), shall put in good & sufficient security for the delivery of the said sum to such other to whom I have appointed the same to remain in case they or any of them shall fail in the performance of the conditions before in this my will severally mentioned and expressed;

And my further will is that the said churchwardens shall weekly, after the receipt of the said sum or the foresaid sum of eight pounds for the use thereof, bestow weekly out of the said sum of eight pounds the sum of three shillings and four pence in bread, which bread I will shall every Sunday after morning prayer and before dinner be equally divided between and amongst twenty of the poorest people of the said parish, especially such as are or shall be blind or lame, and if I shall have any poor kindred within the said parish, I will that they shall be preferred, and shall receive their part of the said bread before any other;

Item, I give and bequeath to my sister, Helen Chubbe, two hundred pounds of lawful money of England, to be paid within one year after my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Thomas Chubbe, one of the children of my said sister, the sum of fourscore pounds of like lawful money, and I will that the said sums shall within one year next after my decease be paid and delivered into the hands of the churchwardens of the parish of St Martin within Ludgate, London, aforesaid for the time being, they putting in and making such good and sufficient assurance in the law as shall be devised by my executors for the payment of the said sum, and also of five pounds yearly for the use or increase thereof, to the said Thomas Chubbe or to such other as I shall appoint by this my will at his or their age or ages of one and twenty years;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Owen Chubbe, one other of the children of my said sister, Helen Chubbe, the sum of thirty pounds to be likewise paid and delivered into the hands of the churchwardens of St Martin Ludgate aforesaid, they likewise putting in such good and sufficient assurance in the law as shall be devised by my executors for the payment of the said sums, and also of the sum of forty shillings yearly and for every year for the use or increase thereof, to the said Owen Chubbe at his age of one and twenty years if he be then living, or else to such other as I shall appoint by this my will;

And my will and mind is that if either the said Thomas Chubbe or Owen Chubbe shall die before they shall attain to their several ages of one & twenty years as aforesaid, that then the portion of him so dying shall remain to him that shall survive, and if they both die before their several ages of one and twenty years, then I will that the said several sums of money of fourscore pounds and thirty pounds, together with the money due for the use or increase of the said several sums, shall be equally divided between the rest of the children of my said sister which shall be living at the time of my decease;

Item, I give to the rest of the children of my said sister, Helen Chubbe, the sum of forty pounds to be equally divided between them, to be paid to them and every of them within one year after my decease, and if any of them happen to die before their legacies shall be due, then I give the legacy of him or her so dying to the rest that shall survive, equally to be divided between them;

Item, I give, devise and bequeath one messuage or tenement with all the lands and other the appurtenances thereunto belonging, lying and being within the parish of Kington aforesaid, now in the tenure or occupation of Richard Godwyn, unto John Walker, my brother, during his natural life, and after his death to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for want of such heirs, I give and devise the same messuage or tenement and other the premises to Lancelot Walker, my brother, during his natural life, and after his decease to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for want of such heirs, I will and devise and my mind is that the same messuage or tenement and other the premises shall remain and come to the right heirs of me, the said Henry Walker, forever;

Item, I give and bequeath to Helen Goughe, my maidservant, if she be dwelling with me at my death, a mourning gown of forty shillings, and further I give unto her the sum of four pounds;

Item, I give to my now two apprentices, viz., Robert Gyll and Marmaduke Baxter, to each of them a mourning cloak of forty shillings apiece;

The nineteenth day of August, 1616. I, the said Henry, have with my own hands given unto the Master, Wardens and Assistants of the Company of Musicians one piece of plate of the price of (blank) in lieu and recompense of [-of] the plate herein by me given and bequeathed unto them, and do therefore revoke, cancel and make void the same gift and legacy, and I entreat them that they will take upon them and faithfully perform the trust which I have reposed in them in this my will, and to accept of this small gift of mine as a token of the goodwill and love which I bear unto them;

Item, I will that within one year after my death there shall be delivered into the hands of the churchwardens of Kington aforesaid by my executors the sum of twenty pounds, which sum my will and meaning is shall remain for a stock in the said town forever, and shall be laid out in corn sometime after the feast of St Michael th' Archangel and before the Annunciation of Our Blessed Lady St Mary the Virgin every year at such time and whenas it shall be most cheap, for and to the use of the poor inhabitants and householders of the said town and parish of Kington aforesaid, and that the same corn shall be laid up and kept in the market house of the said town or in some other convenient place, and that they, the said churchwardens of the said town for the time being shall, betwixt Easter and the feast of St Bartholomew th' Apostle in every year at such time as corn shall be at the dearest rate in the said town, sell the said corn to the poorest and neediest people being householders inhabiting within the said town & parish of Kington aforesaid for so much as they paid for the same and for no more, and that they shall not sell above the quantity of half a bushel at one time within the space of a week to any one person; nevertheless my will and meaning is that all the said corn be sold before the feast of St Michael th' Archangel every year;

And my further will and meaning is that the churchwardens of the said parish of Kington for the time being shall every year at Michaelmas enter into good and sufficient bond to the minister of the said parish for the time being to deliver over to the said churchwardens successively happening the said sum of twenty pounds to be employed and laid out according to the true intent and meaning of this my will as aforesaid, and my will and meaning is that if the churchwardens of the parish of Kington aforesaid shall refuse to enter into bond for the performance of this part of my will as aforesaid, that then in not performing and after such refusal made by the said churchwardens for the time being, my will and meaning is the said sum of twenty pounds shall come, remain and be to the poor of the parish of Lyonhalls in the said county of Hereford, and that the churchwardens of the said parish of Lyonhalls for the time being shall have full power and lawful authority by virtue of this my last will and testament to receive the said sum of twenty pounds out of the hands of the churchwardens of Kington aforesaid, and shall employ the same to the best benefit and towards the relief of the poor of the said parish of Lyonhalls as it shall seem most fit in their discretions;

All other my lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever, and also all other my goods, chattels and debts whatsoever which do, may or shall any way belong or be due

unto me, I give and bequeath to John Walker and Lancelot Walker, my brothers, to be equally divided between them;

And I do make and ordain the said John Walker & Lancelot Walker executors of this my last will and testament, and I do entreat my good friends William Tyas and John Walcott, esquires, Edward Overy and Humphrey Minn to be the overseers of this my testament and last will;

And I do give unto the said William Tyas, John Walcott and Edward Overy three pounds apiece, and to the said Humphrey Minn the sum of six pounds for his and their care and pains to be taken therein, to be paid unto them within three months next after my death;

And I do hereby revoke, retract and make void all other former wills and testaments whatsoever by me at any time heretofore made, and do appoint that this shall stand for my last will, and none other;

In witness whereof I have unto every leaf or sheet of this my will, containing in all twelve sheets or leaves of paper, put to my hand, and have unto this last leaf or sheet and unto a label or piece of silk riband in the top of this my will put my seal the seventeenth day of April in the year of Our Lord God one thousand six hundred fifteen, and in the years of the reign of our Sovereign Lord James by the grace of God of England, Scotland, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith etc., viz., of England, France and Ireland the thirteenth, and of Scotland the eight & fortieth;

Sealed, subscribed and acknowledge in the presence of us, Gregory Lennarde, John Walcott, Daniel de Montafilan, Humphrey Minn.

Whereas I, Henry Walker, citizen and musician of London, have made & declared my testament and last will in writing bearing date the seventeenth day of April one thousand six hundred fifteen and in the thirteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King James, and amongst other legacies therein mentioned have bequeathed unto the Master, Wardens and Assistants of the Corporation of Musicians, London, one piece of plate, and for that I have lately given them (to the use of the same Corporation) a piece of plate of greater value, I do hereby revoke, disannul and make void the same gift and legacy, and forsomuch as I have omitted in and by the same my last will my thankful remembrances of many my loving friends, and for that I intend some larger portions unto my sister, her children and others of my kindred, do declare the same my intent and will in manner and form as followeth:

Inprimis, I will and bequeath unto my sister, Helen Chubbe, over and above the sums mentioned in my said last will, the sum of one hundred pounds of lawful money of England;

Item, I will and bequeath unto her son, Thomas Chubbe, the sum of twenty pounds of like money over and above the sum to him willed in and by the same last will;

Also unto her son, Owen Chubbe, the like sum of twenty pounds;

Also unto and amongst the other children of my said sister, Helen Chubbe, the sum of threescore pounds of like money over and besides the sum given them by my said last will;

Item, I will and devise that the said sums and every of them be paid unto them & every of them in such manner as in the same last will is declared, together with the legacies, gifts or bequests therein willed as aforesaid;

Item, I will and bequeath unto the worshipful my very good cousin, Mr Doctor Whitinge, the sum of five pounds for a ring, and to my good cousin, his wife, the like sum for a ring;

Unto my cousin, Mr Shopham th' elder, the sum of twenty pounds;

Item, I will and bequeath unto my cousin, Mary Bowler, the sum of five pounds;

To my cousin, William Rose, the sum of five pounds;

I will and bequeath to my master, Mr Winson, three pounds; to my kind mistress, his wife, forty shillings; to their two daughters, Mary and Elizabeth, thirty shillings to each of them for rings;

Item, I will & bequeath to my servant Helen Goughe, over and besides the legacy given her by my will, for her pains taken in my sickness, six pounds;

Unto my servant, Robert Gill, five pounds;

Unto my apprentice, Samuel Hicke, a cloak of black cloth of forty shillings price;

I will and bequeath to my good friend and landlord, Mr William Hicke, ten pounds, and to his wife, other ten pounds, to their daughter, Mrs Fisher five pounds, and to all other their children living at my decease, three pounds;

To my loving friend, Edward Overy, in my last will mentioned, ten pounds;

To my friends, Mr Bayard, three pounds, to his wife, other three pounds;

To Mr Florey [=Florio?], three pounds, to his wife, twenty shillings for a ring;

Item, I will and bequeath unto Mr Purchas, parson of St Martin's at Ludgate, the sum of five marks English money, humbly thanking him for his pains taken in visiting & comforting of me in my sickness;

I will and bequeath unto and amongst the poor of St Martin's inhabiting within the Gate the sum of forty shillings;

And my will is that this codicil or schedule be and be adjudged and taken to be parcel of my last will, and be of force by right of a codicil or by any other right in the best manner that may be;

And do require my brother, John Walker (who I name my sole executor), that he do cause all things in this codicil contained to be faithfully performed as if the same were contained in the same last will and testament;

In witness whereof to this codicil or schedule I have set my hand and seal the nineteenth day of August one thousand six hundred sixteen and in the fourteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King James etc. Henry Walker. Signed, sealed and pronounced in the presence of me, William Hicke, and of me, Edward Overy.

Probatum fuit testamentum supra scriptum vnicuique Codicillo apud London coram venerabili viro Domino Iohanne Benett milite Legum Doctor Curie Prerogative Cantuariensis magistro Custode sive Commissario legitime constituto tricesimo die mensis Augusti anno Domini millesimo sexcentesimo decimo sexto Iuramento Iohannis Walker fratris dicti defuncti et vnicuique executorum in huiusmodi testamento nominatorum Cui commissa fuit administratio omnium et singulorum bonorum iurium et creditorum dicti defuncti De bene et fideliter administrando eadem ad sancta dei Evangelia iuratus Launcelotto Walker altero executorum in huiusmodi testamento etiam nominatus demortuo.

[=The above-written will was proved, together with the codicil, at London before the worshipful Sir John Bennett, knight, Doctor of the Laws, lawfully constituted Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the thirtieth day of the month of August in the year of the Lord the thousand six hundred sixteenth by the oath of John Walker, brother of the said deceased and one of the executors named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, Lancelot Walker, the other executor named in the same testament, having died.]