

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 12 June 1627 and proved 25 February 1628, of Richard Bacon, whose father was bailiff of Oxford's manor of Lavenham, and whose maternal grandfather, William Blackwell (d.1570?), mother, Anne Blackwell Bacon, and brother, Mathy Bacon (d.1639), are all mentioned in the indenture by which William Shakespeare (1564-1616) of Stratford upon Avon and others purchased from Henry Walker (d.1616) a dwelling-house or tenement and plot of ground in the precinct of the Blackfriars on 10 March 1613. See Folger MS Z.c.22(45) and London Metropolitan Archives CLC/522/MS03738 for the purchasers' and vendor's copies of the indenture, respectively.

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.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator was the son of Thomas Bacon (d.1577), Serjeant of the Acatry to Queen Mary, and bailiff of Oxford's manor of Lavenham. For the will of Thomas Bacon, see TNA PROB 11/49/473.

The testator's father married firstly Anne Tomlinson, by whom he had two sons, the testator's brothers of the half blood:

-Thomas Bacon.

-Robert Bacon.

See the will of the testator's father, *supra*.

After the death of Anne Tomlinson, the testator's father married secondly the testator's mother, Anne Blackwell, the daughter of William Blackwell (d.1570?) and Margaret Campion (d.1586). For the will of William Blackwell, see TNA PROB 11/52/400. For the will of Margaret Campion Blackwell, see TNA PROB 11/69/398.

For the testator's siblings of the whole blood by his father's marriage to Anne Blackwell, see the will of the testator's father, *supra*.

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

According to the will of his brother, Mathy Bacon, the testator married, and had three sons and two daughters. From the will, dated 21 April 1639 and proved 6 July 1639, of Mathy Bacon, TNA PROB 11/180/622:

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.

It seems likely that the testator's daughter, Marie Walker, widow, was related to Henry Walker (d.1616), to whom Mathy Bacon sold the Blackfriars gatehouse in 1604, and from whom William Shakespeare (1564-1616) of Stratford upon Avon and others later purchased it. See the will of Henry Walker, TNA PROB 11/128/230, and the excerpt from the indenture of 10 March 1613 quoted above.

Although Henry Walker does not mention a wife in his will, 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 Henry Walker in 1604.

LM: T{estamentum} Richardi Bacon

In the name of God, Amen. I, Richard Bacon, citizen and apothecary of London, being sick in body but of perfect memory, do make and ordain this my last will and testament.

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, hoping through the merits and passion of my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, to have forgiveness of all my sins and to be partaker of everlasting salvation;

And my body I bequeath to the earth to be buried in Christian burial;

And as concerning my goods & chattels, both real and personal, and whatsoever else I am possessed of, I have already by my deed under my hand and seal lawfully executed bearing date the twelfth day of this instant June [=12 June 1527] given, granted and confirmed the same unto my good friends, Robert Blackwell, esquire, and Thomas Hawarde, gentleman;

And the better to enable them to execute the contents thereof and to recover and receive all such debts as are now owing unto me, I do hereby ordain, constitute, nominate and appoint the said Robert Blackwell and Thomas Hawarde the sole executors of this my last will and testament, hereby revoking all former wills by me made heretofore;

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the twelfth day of June Anno Domini one thousand six hundred twenty-seven and in the third year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord Charles by the grace of God King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc. Richard Bacon.

Sealed and delivered by the said Richard Bacon the day and year aforesaid in the presence of John Haward, George Steward, Francis(?) Haward, Anthony Bredham.

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum apud London Coram Magistro Will{el}imo Sames legum doctore Surrogato venerabilis viri domini Henrici Marten Militis legum etiam doctoris Curie Prerogative Cantuariensis Magistri Custodis siue Commissarij l{egi}time constituti Vicesimo quinto die mensis ffebruarij Anno domini iuxta Cursum et computac{i}o{n}em Eccl{es}ie Anglicane Millesimo sexcentesimo vicesimo septimo Iuramento Thome Haward vnus Executorum in huiusmodi Testamento nominat{orum} Cui Commissa fuit Administratio omnium et singulorum bonorum iurium et Creditorum dicti defuncti De bene et fideliter Administrando eadem ad sancta Dei Evangelia Iurat{o} Reservata potestate similem Commissionem faciendi Roberto Blackwell altero Execut{ori} in huiusmodi Testamento nominat{o} cum venerit eandem petitur{o}

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before Master William Sames, Doctor of the Laws, Surrogate of the worshipful Sir Henry Marten, knight, also Doctor of the Laws, lawfully constituted Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the twenty-fifth day of the month of February in the year of the Lord according to the course and reckoning of the English Church the thousand six hundred twenty-seventh by the oath of Thomas Haward, 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, with power reserved for a similar grant to be made to Robert Blackwell, the other executor named in the same testament, when he shall have come to petition [+to be admitted?] the same.]