

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 18 November 1505 and proved 22 December 1506, of Thomas Blake of Swaffham Market, Norfolk.

The testator states in the will below that he is the son of Edmund Blake and his wife, Elizabeth, and the nephew of Simon Blake (d.1497?). For Simon Blake, see Blomefield, Francis, *An Essay Towards a Topographical History of the County of Norfolk*, (London: William Miller, 1807), Vol. VI, p. 202 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=bTAYAQAIAAJ&pg=PA202&lpg=PA202&dq=%22Simon+Blake%22+%22Brampton%22&source=bl&ots=4VfkJm9VVG&sig=7iAkyphNxotBnGO-yYoL7C2xVPs&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CCUQ6AEwA2oVChMItoL418rlyAIVEyqICh1VuADP#v=onepage&q=%22Simon%20Blake%22%20%22Brampton%22&f=false>

The testator had two sisters, both mentioned in the will below:

* Jane (or Joan) Blake, who married Joan Brampton, by whom she had a son, Thomas Brampton.

* Margaret Blake, who married Ralph Danyell of Swaffham, by whom she had two daughters:

** Elizabeth Danyell, who married Anthony Bedingfield, uncle of Thomas Bedingfield (d.1613), who dedicated his translation of *Cardanus' Comfort* to Oxford (see STC 4607 on this website). For the will of Thomas Bedingfield (d.1613), see TNA PROB 11/122, f. 21.

** Margaret Danyell, who married, as his second wife, Sir William More (1520-1600) of Loseley, who owned the property in the Blackfriars on which Oxford and his servant, the playwright John Lyly (1554-1606), held a lease in the mid-1580s and which served as the site of the first Blackfriars theatre.

For Anthony Bedingfield, and Sir William More of Loseley as the husbands of the testator's nieces, Elizabeth Danyell and Margaret Danyell, see SHC LM/COR/3/711 at:

http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/r?_st=adv&_ep=LM%2FCOR%2F3%2F711&_dss=range&_ro=any

See also SHC LM/COR/3/704:

http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/r?_st=adv&_ep=LM%2FCOR%2F3%2F704&_dss=range&_ro=any

Letter from Anthony Bedingfield, Hale, to Mr William More, Loseley. He received More's letters and 'box of writings', and has attempted to follow More's instructions at the Assizes, but the case has gone against them: Harry Hunston produced a fine levied by their father in law Ralph Daniel and others to Thomas Spryng, relating to his lands in Walsoken, 9 Hen VIII, and a recovery of the same year by Ralph and Harry Daniel, Sir John Audeley and Elizabeth his wife (late wife of Thomas Blake), which 'our counsel' believes 'cut clear away our title'. He does not think it worth pursuing the suit further, and encloses the bill of legal expenses. He was so ill at the Assizes he thought he might never see More again, but now trusts in his recovery. He sends greetings to his sister [Margaret More], 'my nephew Polsted and my niece [Elizabeth]. Dated 4 Apr [Elizabeth More married Richard Polsted in Nov 1567].

See also SHC LM/COR/3/705 at:

http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/results/r?_st=adv&_ep=LM%2FCOR%2F3%2F705&_dss=range&_ro=any.

Nothing is known of the testator's first wife, Jane. The testator married secondly Elizabeth Chedworth (d.1542), who after the testator's death married Sir John Audley (d.1530). For the will of Elizabeth (nee Chedworth) Blake Audley (d.1542), see TNA PROB 11/29/21.

The testator's executor, Sir Roger Townshend (d.1551) of Raynham, Norfolk, married Amy Brewes, the daughter of William Brewse. Their daughter, Katherine Townshend (d.1581), married Sir Henry Bedingfield (1509x11-1583), the brother of Anthony Bedingfield mentioned above. As noted above, Thomas Bedingfield (d.1613), the son of Sir Henry Bedingfield (1509x11-1583) and Katherine Townshend (d.1581), dedicated his translation of *Cardanus' Comfort* to Oxford. For the Townshend family, see the pedigree in Moreton, C.E., *The Townshends and Their World: Gentry, Law, and Land in Norfolk c. 1450-1551*, (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1992), p. 6. For Sir Henry Bedingfield (1509x11-1583), see the entry in the *ODNB*, and his will, TNA PROB 11/66/130.

RM: Test{amentum} thome Blake

In dei nomine amen. I, Thomas Blake of Swaffham Market, esquire, in full mind and whole remembrance, being the 18th day of November in the year of Our Lord God 1500 and five, make and ordain this to be my last will and very testament and none other, for I revoke all manner wills by me spoken, made or written before the date of this my last will;

In the first I bequeath my soul to God Almighty, to Our Lady Saint Mary, to Saint Dorothy, and to all the saints of heaven, and my body to be buried in the church of Swaffham beforesaid before the chantry altar;

Item, I bequeath to the high altar 20s;

Item, to the reparation of the chantry altar, 20s;

Item, I will that 26s 8d be taken yearly of the issues and profits of my manor in Holme Hale to the augmentation of the chantry of mine uncle, Simon Blake, to pray for my soul and my father, Edmund Blake, and Elizabeth, his wife, and for the souls of Jane and Elizabeth, my wives, and I will that the chantry priest for the time being shall say De profundis at the lavatory etc., and to rehearse the names beforesaid;

Item, I will have a lamp burning after the manner of the lamp of Simon Blake beforesaid;

Item, I will have another honest priest during the term of my life and Elizabeth, my wife, and of each of us longest living to sing at the said chantry altar but he be otherwise required by the vicar of the said church for the time being etc.;

Item, I bequeath to the reparation of the church and the steeple there 10 marks;

Item, I will that Elizabeth, my wife, shall have her dwelling in my place at Swaffham the term of her life, and her assignees and executors, and by the space of a year next after her decease;

And I will that my said wife shall have 2000 sheep, that is to say, 1500 of ewes and 500 wethers, and the pasturing of them in Swaffham and Sporle, and all my plate and jewels except the things that shall be rehearsed hereafter in this my will;

Item, I will that my said wife have all the stuff and utensils pertaining to my household etc.;

Item, I will that my said wife have the issues and profits of all the lands and tenements concerning her jointure, and the closes called Reyners, the tenement of Lyff etc.;

Item, I will that Ralph Blake before-named shall have all my lands & tenements with the pertinences in Swaffham, Sporle & Cotys after my decease of me and my beforesaid wife, Elizabeth, to him and to his heirs males for evermore, and they to bear the name of Blake as it is before rehearsed;

Item, I will that if the said Ralph die without issue male etc., that then all the lands and tenements to him before-named remain to the heirs male of John Brampton, and they to bear the name of Blake etc., and if they die without heir male, then I will that all the said lands and tenements be sold by mine executors or by the executors of mine executors by the advice of my wife, Master Roger Townshend, and William Heyr(?) under the pain of forfeiture of this my grant etc.;

Item, I will that my sister, Jane Brampton, have 5 marks in money, and I will that her son, Thomas, have other 5 marks;

Item, I will that my sister, Margaret, have £6 in money;

Item, I will that her daughter, Elizabeth, have £5, and her daughter, Margaret, £5, [f. 130v] and if one decease, to remain to the other living at the time of her marriage, and if both decease etc., then to remain unto my wife and to Ralph Blake;

Item, I will that the said Margaret Danyell, my sister, have the forgifte(?) of £8 after my decease;

Item, I will that Henry Danyell have 20 marks;

Item, I will that my place in Walsoken be sold by mine executors etc., and the money thereof coming to be reserved to buy as mickle land in this country to the use of my wife during her life, and the reversion to Ralph Blake beforesaid;

Item, I will that Alan Loveden have £20 in money and other £20 in corn and cattle;

Item, I will that the said Alan Loveden have 40s yearly term of his life with this condition, that he will wait and attend unto my wife;

Item, I will that all mine other servants & shepherds being in my service at the time of my death have each of them their wages and 40s in money;

Item, I will that Margaret Bokking of Longham [=Langham?] have 5 marks;

Item, I will that Mistress Townshend, the wife of Roger Townshend, have 20 ewes, and Sir Thomas Woodhouse 10 wethers, and my Lady, his wife, 10 ewes;

Item, I will Mistress Cressymer [=Cressner?] th' elder have 10 ewes;

Item, I will that Sir Robert Lovell have 40 ewes without lambs;

Item, I will that Elizabeth Lovell, my wife's god-daughter, have 6 ewes without lambs;

Item, to Sir Robert Southwell 40 hogs, and to my Lady, his wife, 10 ewes without lambs;

Item, I will that the church of Holme Hale have to the reparation 10s;

Item, to the church of Pickenham 6s 8d;

Item, to the church of Same [=Saham?] 6s 8d;

Item, to the church of Ashill 6s 8d;

Item, to the church of Sporle 6s 8d;

Item, to the church of Howton [=Houghton?] 6s 8d;

Item to the church of South Pickenham, Shingham & to the church Om{n}i s{an}c{t}or{um} in Beachamwell, each of them 6s 8d to the reparations of the churches before-said;

Item I will that each order of friars of Norwich and Lynn have each of them 10s, to be distributed amongst them;

Item, to the nuns of Marham and Shouldham, each of them 10s, and to the houses of Blackborough and Crabhouse, each of them 6s 8d distributed amongst them;

Item, I will have a trental immediately after my decease at Lynn etc.;

Item, to the Black Friars of Thetford and to the nuns of the same town, each of them 6s 8d in like wise;

Item, I will that the Prior [+of?] Pentney have 60 ewes, they to be sold and the Prior to have of the price of the said sheep 40d, and the residue to be distributed to him and to his brethren for a dirge and Mass of Requiem, and in like wise of all places of religion before-named;

Item, I will that the Prior of Westacre and the convent have 40 hogs for a dirge etc.;

Item, to the Prior of Castle Acre and to his convent 40 hogs, and I will that the Priors of both the places before-rehearsed have 2 mennys [=men's?] parts of the said cattle;

Item, I will that every priest being at my dirge have 4d, every man singing in choir 1d, and every child that can help a priest to sing ob [=1/2d];

Item, I will that £10 be distributed at my burying-day and at my 30th day among poor folk;

Item, I will that Thomas Styward and his wife have 13s 4d;

Item, to Master John Serjeant & to his wife 10s;

Item, to Thomas Blake 6s 8d;

Item, to the wife of Robert Wynrefe(?) 3s 4d;

Item, I will that Sir John Blake have 5 marks etc.;

Item, I will that Simon Coo and his wife have 6s 8d;

Item, to Robert Sadler and his wife 6s 8d;

Item, to Alice Sadler th' elder 20d, and to Mawde Turpyn and to each of the women being in those alms-houses 20d;

Item, to Margaret Danyell 6s 8d;

Item, to Davy Moone 6s 8d;

Item, to Thebald Briett [=Bryett?] 20d;

Item, to Walter Payn 20d;

Item, to William 40d;

Item, to Mistress Anne Buttys 6 wethers, hogs etc.;

Item, to John Oxborow my tawny gown lined with russet frieze, and his wife 20d;

Item, to Elizabeth Powlye, servant of my wife, 5 marks;

Item, I will that £10 be expended in the exhibition of Thomas Blome to make him a priest etc.;

The residue of my goods not bequeathed I give and bequeath to Elizabeth, my wife, to Roger Townshend, esquire, and to William Eyre, gentleman, whom I ordain mine executors to dispose for my soul as they think most expedient etc.;

These witnesses, Master John Carter, vicar of Swaffham, Master John Serjeant, notary, Thomas Blake, John Blake, clerk.

Probatum fuit supracriptum testamentum coram domino apud Lamehith xxijdo die mensis Decembris Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo sexto Iuramento Magistri Ioannis Long notarij publici procuratoris in hac parte Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et comissa fuit administratio omnium bonorum et debitorum dicti defuncti Elizabethe Relicte Rogero Townesend et Willielmo Eyre executoribus in huiusmodi testamento nominatorum in persona dicti procuratoris De bene et fideliter ac sub vnicuique consensu et assensu administratorum Ac de pleno et fidei Inuentario citra festum purificationis beate Marie Virginis proximum futurum exhibendo Necnon de plano et vero comperto reddendo ad sancta dei eangelia in debita iuris forma Iurati

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord at Lambeth on the 22nd day of the month of December in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixth by the oath of Master John Long, notary public, proctor in that behalf, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all the goods and debts of the said deceased to Elizabeth, relict, Roger Townshend and William Eyre, executors named in the same testament, sworn on the Holy Gospels in due form of law in the person of the said proctor to well and faithfully and with unanimous consent and assent administer [+the same], and to exhibit a full and faithful inventory before the Feast of the Purification of Blessed Mary the Virgin next to come, and also to render a plain and true account.]