

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 21 April 1639 and proved 6 July 1639, of Mathy or Mathias Bacon of the parish of St Stephen in Colman Street, London, who on 15 October 1604 sold to Henry Walker the property in the Blackfriars later purchased in 1613 by William Shakespeare (1564-1616) of Stratford upon Avon. For the will of Henry Walker (d.1616), see TNA PROB 11/128/230.

The testator was admitted to Gray's Inn on 1 March 1597. See Brown, Basil, *Law Sports at Gray's Inn (1594)*, (New York, 1921), p. 28 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/lawsportsgraysinn00brow#page/n133>

A Mathias Bacon of Holborn, London, was admitted to Grays Inn March 1, 1596-7 sine fine

See also p. 29:

It is ordered that 3s 4d be paid to Matthew Bacon for writing of a letter to my Lord Keeper.

CONNECTION TO WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

In her will, the testator's maternal grandmother, Margaret Campion Blackwell (d.1586), left her property in the Blackfriars to the testator's mother, Anne Blackwell Bacon, for three years after her death, after which the property was to be sold, and the proceeds divided between Anne Blackwell Bacon and her brother, William Blackwell. See the will of Margaret Campion Blackwell, TNA PROB 11/69/398:

Item, I give and bequeath to Anne Bacon, my daughter, my now mansion and dwelling-house with all the meses and tenements thereunto adjoining together with all the gardens and yards thereunto belonging now in th' occupation of several persons, situate and being in the parish of Saint Andrew in the ward of Castle Baynard or in any other parish or ward within the said City of London, which said mansion house with th' appurtenances aforesaid the said William Blackwell, my late husband, bought of the Reverend Father in God, Thomas Thirlby, late Bishop of Ely, in as large and ample manner as I, the said Margaret Blackwell, did hold the same at the day of my death or at any time before during my life, to have and to hold the said mansion house with all and singular th' appurtenances aforesaid to the said Anne Bacon, her executors and administrators, for and during the term of three whole years next and immediately following after my decease, she and they to make her and their best commodity thereof during the said term, at th' end of which said term of three years my will and meaning is that the said mansion house with all th' appurtenances aforesaid shall be sold by the said Anne Bacon, her executors and administrators, to the best advantage that may be, and the money received for the same to be divided in two equal parts, whereof thone part I

will and bequeath to William Blackwell, my son, towards the bringing up of his children, and thother part thereof I give and bequeath to my said daughter, Anne Bacon, for and towards the bringing up of her children, and for the help and succour which my will is she shall be to her sister, Mary Walpole, one other of my daughters, if occasion shall so require, viz., to allow her yearly £20 during the time of any breach between her and her husband, William Walpole.

For the history of the Blackfriars property, see Chambers, E.K., *William Shakespeare: A Study of Facts and Problems*, Vol. II, (Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1930), pp. 165-6 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/in.ernet.dli.2015.182554/2015.182554.William-Shakespeare-Voll-Ii#page/n177>

Details of the sale of the capital messuage and other parts of the Blackfriars property by Anne Blackwell Bacon pursuant to her mother's will have not been discovered. However on 15 October 1604, her son, the testator, Mathy Bacon, sold the Blackfriars gatehouse to Henry Walker, who in 1613 sold it to William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon. The testator, his mother, Anne Blackwell Bacon, and his maternal grandfather, William Blackwell (d.1570?), are all mentioned in the indenture by which Shakespeare purchased from Henry Walker 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.

For the documents in a lawsuit requiring the production of evidences concerning a capital messuage and other property in the Blackfriars brought in Chancery on 26 April 1615

against the testator by Sir Thomas Bendish (d.1636), Edward Newport, William Thursby, Robert Dormer and Mary, his wife, William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon, gentleman, and the testator's brother, Richard Bacon, see TNA C 2/JasI/B11/9. See also the facsimile at the Shakespeare Documented website at:

<http://www.shakespearedocumented.org/exhibition/document/sir-thomas-bendish-william-shakespeare-et-al-v-matthew-bacon-relating-title>

It appears the lawsuit concerned evidences which related to the entire Blackfriars property once owned by the Blackwells, and not solely to evidences related to the gatehouse purchased by William Shakespeare. And in fact, although William Shakespeare was joined in the lawsuit, the testator may not have held any evidences related to the gatehouse in 1615.

For the decree of the Court of Chancery dated 22 May 1615 ordering the testator to deposit the evidences in his possession with the court, see TNA C 33/127, f. 1074r at:

<http://www.shakespearedocumented.org/exhibition/document/sir-thomas-bendish-william-shakespeare-et-al-v-matthew-bacon-relating-title-0>

FAMILY BACKGROUND

Testator's father

The testator was the son of Thomas Bacon (d.1577), Serjeant of the Acatry to Queen Mary, and bailiff of the 16th Earl of Oxford's manor of Lavenham. For the will of Thomas Bacon (d.1577), which mentions lands, leases and offices granted to him both by Oxford and by Oxford's father, John de Vere (1516 – 3 August 1562), 16th Earl of Oxford, see TNA PROB 11/59/473. See also the inquisition taken after the death of the 16th Earl which states that the Earl granted the office of bailiff of the manor of Lavenham to Thomas Bacon on 30 October 1561. See TNA WARD 8/13, Part 23:

And the foresaid late Earl by a certain deed of his sealed by his seal at arms & subscribed by his own hand bearing date the penultimate day of October in the 3rd year [=30 October 1561] of the reign of the Lady Elizabeth now Queen for divers good and reasonable causes & considerations himself especially moving gave & granted to Thomas Bacon, gentleman, the office of bailiff or bailiwick of his manor of Lavenham in the county of Suffolk and of all & singular his lands, tenements, hereditaments, & possessions whatsoever within the foresaid manor & to the same manor in whatever manner belonging or appertaining, and made, ordained, & appointed him, Thomas Bacon, bailiff of the foresaid manor, to have, hold, enjoy, & exercise the foresaid office to the forenamed Thomas Bacon by himself or by his sufficient deputy or his sufficient deputies for & during the whole term of the natural life of him, Thomas, together with all & singular profits, commodities, advantages, & emoluments whatsoever to the same office in whatever manner belonging or appertaining and in so

ample manner & form as Edward Glascock or any other or others for himself formerly has had, held, or enjoyed [+or] have had, held, or enjoyed, and the foresaid late Earl by his foresaid deed in consideration aforesaid gave & granted to the same Thomas Bacon for the exercise of the foresaid office a certain annuity or yearly rent of £4 of lawful money of England issuing & to issue of the foresaid manor at two terms of the year, viz., at the feasts of the Annunciation of Blessed Mary the Virgin & Saint Michael the Archangel by equal portions, and also the second crop of the meadow of Lavenham aforesaid called the Lord's Meadow during the whole term of the natural life of himself, Thomas Bacon, and the foresaid late Earl by the foresaid deed granted that for non-payment of the said annuity or yearly rent it would be well allowed to the forenamed Thomas Bacon & his assigns to distrain in the foresaid manor of Lavenham, as by the same deed specified in the foresaid inquisition more plainly appears.

For the office of bailiff of Lavenham, see also the will of Sir Edward Waldegrave (d. 1 September 1561) of Borley, Essex, TNA PROB 11/44/318, and the will of Sir Robert Rochester (d. 28 November 1557), TNA PROB 11/42A/105.

Testator's mother

The testator's mother, Anne Blackwell, was the daughter of William Blackwell (d.1570?), esquire, Town Clerk of London, and Margaret Campion.

For the Blackwell family, see Jessopp, Augustus, *One Generation of a Norfolk House*, 2nd ed., (London: Burns and Oates, 1879), pp. 118-29 at:

<http://books.google.com/books?oe=UTF-8&id=fjI2AAAAMAAJ&q=blackwell#v=snippet&q=blackwell&f=false>

See also Questier, Michael C., *Catholicism and Community in Early Modern England*, (Cambridge University Press, 2006), pp. 319-320. Questier states that the Blackwells were retainers of the Earls of Northumberland, and that the testator's uncle, Thomas Blackwell (d.1573), was the 7th Earl's steward and receiver. For the will of Thomas Blackwell, see TNA PROB 11/55/47. Note that Questier mistakenly states that the Archpriest George Blackwell (1547-1613) 'was one of the sons of Margaret Blackwell'. However Margaret Blackwell's son, George Blackwell, is referred to as deceased in the 1573 will of Thomas Blackwell.

For the testator's mother, Anne Blackwell, see also the Bacon pedigree in Howard, Joseph Jackson and Joseph Lemuel Chester, eds., *The Visitation of London Anno Domini 1633, 1634 and 1635*, (London: Harleian Society, 1880), p. 38 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationoflond01stge#page/38>

For also the will of the testator's maternal grandfather, William Blackwell d.1570?), TNA PROB 11/52/400, and the will of the testator's maternal grandmother, Margaret Blackwell, TNA PROB 11/69/398.

See also the Campion pedigree in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex, Part II*, (London: Harleian Society, 1879), Vol. XIV, p. 556 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=8vsUAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA556>

See also the Campion pedigree in Howard, Joseph Jackson and Joseph Lemuel Chester, eds., *The Visitation of London Anno Domini 1633, 1634 and 1635*, (London: Harleian Society, 1880), p. 134 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationoflond01stge#page/134>

Testator's siblings

In his will, the testator's father, Thomas Bacon (d.1577), mentions two sons of his first marriage to Anne Tomlinson:

* **Thomas Bacon**, 'referred to as 'my eldest son'.

* **Robert Bacon** (d. before 1639), gentleman, of Lavenham, Suffolk. In the will of his father, he was bequeathed a lease held of the Earl of Oxford:

Item, I give unto my said son, Robert Bacon, all my lease and whole term of years that I have in reversion of all the lands, meadows, pastures, feedings, and commonly called and known by the names of Baylie Brooke and Nether Hall, which lease and term of years I hold of the grant of the right honourable th' Earl of Oxenford, to be begun after the expiration and determination of the term of years that one Robert Symond of Lanam [=Lavenham] now hath in the same lands by virtue of a former lease in possession.

It was perhaps in connection with this lease that Robert Bacon was a defendant, together with his stepmother, Anne Bacon Blackwell, and the Lavenham clothier, George Ruggle, in a bill of complaint dated 9 February 1602 filed in the Court of Chancery by Thomas Skinner, the second son of Thomas Skinner (d.1596), Lord Mayor of London, concerning leases which, according to Skinner, pertained to Oxford's former manors of Overhall and Netherhall in Lavenham. See TNA C 3/290/19.

According to the testator's will below, he married a wife named Faith, by whom he had three daughters, Faith Bacon, Margaret Bacon and Bridget Bacon, as well as two grandsons, Robert Preston and (blank) Preston.

The Bacon pedigree, *supra*, the bequests in the testator's will below, and the challenge to the will after the testator's death indicate that Thomas Bacon (d.1577) had four sons and two daughters by his second wife, Anne Blackwell:

-William Bacon. He is the only child of Anne Blackwell mentioned by the testator's father, Thomas Bacon (d.1577) in his will.

-Mathy Bacon, the testator.

-George Bacon, who died without issue. Henry Machyn recorded that 'young Master George Blackwell' was godfather at the christening of his nephew, George Bacon, in February 1563. See Nichols, John Gough, ed., *The Diary of Henry Machyn*, (London: Camden Society, 1848), pp. 300-1 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=5nZAAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA300>

The (blank) day of February was christened at Saint Andrews in the Wardrobe George Bacon, the son of Master Bacon, squire, sometime Serjeant of the Acatry by Queen Mary's days. His godfathers were young Master George Blackwell and Master Walpole, godmother, Mistress Sens Draper of Camberwell beyond Newington, and after, great cheer. . . .

The same day [=8 March 1563] Mistress Bacon was churched at Saint Andrew's in Wardrobe, the wife of Master Bacon, Serjeant of the Acatry unto Queen Mary, and after she went home unto her father's house, Master Blackwell, and so she and a great company of gentlewomen had a great dinner as could be had as for Lent as for fish.

-Richard Bacon, citizen and apothecary of London, for whose brief will, dated 12 June 1627 and proved 25 February 1628, see TNA PROB 11/153/263. In his will, Richard Bacon mentions a deed of trust 'unto my good friends Robert Blackwell, esquire, and Thomas Hawarde [=Hayward?], gentleman', whom he makes his executors. In the will below the testator leaves bequests to three sons and two daughters of his brother, Richard Bacon:

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.

The bequest to Marie Walker perhaps indicates a marriage into the family of Henry Walker (d.1616), to whom in 1604 the testator had sold the Blackfriars gatehouse.

-**Anne Bacon**, who married a husband surnamed Whitbred. For the Whitbred pedigrees, see Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex, Part I*, (London: Harleian Society, 1878), Vol. XIII, pp. 17, 126, 320 and 520 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsofess1314metc#page/16/mode/2up>

-**Susan Bacon**.

MARRIAGE

According to the Bacon pedigree, *supra*, and the will below, the testator married Elizabeth Raven, the daughter of John Raven of Elworth in the parish of Sandbach, Chester.

According to another source, Elizabeth Raven was the daughter of John Raven (d.1616) of Elworth, gentleman, by his wife Jane Parker, the sister of Roger Parker (d.1628), Gentleman of the Chamber to Queen Elizabeth. In his will, the testator mentions his brother-in-law, William Raven (c.1578-1668) of Elworth. For the pedigree of Raven showing the marriage of the testator and Elizabeth Raven, see Earwaker, J.P., *The History of the Ancient Parish of Sandbach, co. Chester*, (London: Hansard Publishing, 1890), p. 91 at:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=1_PfAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA91

It appears from the will below that the testator had no issue, his residuary legatee being his kinswoman, Elizabeth Hickes.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

As noted above, the testator's bequest to his niece, Marie Walker, perhaps indicates a marriage into the family of Henry Walker (d.1616), to whom in 1604 the testator sold the Blackfriars gatehouse.

This suggestion is reinforced by the testator's bequests to John and Elizabeth Hickes:

And I do will and bequeath to my cousin, John Hickes, and Elizabeth, his wife, my wife's kinswoman, twenty pounds of lawful money of England, viz., to either of them ten pounds, and to Elizabeth Hickes, their daughter, twenty pounds.

Hotson has noticed connections between Henry Walker (d.1616) and members of the Hickes family:

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 Hickes, and took Hickes'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. . . .

See Hotson, Leslie, *Shakespeare's Sonnets Dated*, (London: Rupert Hart-Davis, 1949), p. 215.

For the will of William Hickes, citizen and scrivener of London, dated 25 September 1622 and proved 30 September 1622, see TNA PROB 11/140/270, and the transcript at:

https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Space:Will_of_William_Hicks_or_Hickes%2C_Scrivener_of_London_1622

The testator bequeaths £100 to 'my worshipful friend, Sir Gilbert Gerard, baronet, eldest son of my late master, William Gerard, esquire, deceased'. William Gerard (d.1609) of Flamberds in Harrow on the Hill, Middlesex, was the nephew of Sir Gilbert Gerard (d. 4 February 1593), Attorney General and Master of the Rolls. See the will of William Gerard, esquire, dated 7 June 1609 and proved 3 November 1609, TNA PROB 11/114/439. See also the will of William Gerard's father, also named William Gerard, dated 17 January 1582 and 20 September 1584 and proved 24 October 1584, TNA PROB 11/67/376, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/gerard-william-ii-1520-84>

For the testator's friend, Sir Gilbert Gerard (23 October 1587 - 6 January 1670), see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1660-1690/member/gerard-sir-gilbert-1587-1670>

'Elizabeth White of Shenfield in the county of Essex' may have been a family connection of Edward White of Essex, who married the testator's sister-in-law, Mary Raven.

The testator's cousin and overseer, Edward Campion of London, gentleman, may have been Edward Campion, son of Thomas Campion of Witham, Essex, and grandson of William Campion (d.1576) of Hertford by his second wife, Dionyse. See the will of William Campion (d.1576), TNA PROB 11/58/432, and the Campion pedigrees, *supra*.

CHALLENGE TO THE TESTATOR'S WILL

As indicated in the probatum clause and the definitive sentence, the will was contested by the testator's sisters of the whole blood, Anne Whitbread and Susan Bacon; the testator's nephews and nieces, Matthew Bacon, Francis Bacon, Edward Bacon, Mary Walker and Elizabeth Marriott, all of whom were the children of the testator's brother of the whole blood, Richard Bacon; William Bacon, grandson of the testator's brother; Faith Bacon, Margaret Bacon and Bridget Bacon, daughters of the testator's half brother, Robert Bacon; and Robert Preston and (blank) Preston, grandchildren of the testator's half brother, Robert Bacon.

RM: T{estamentum} Mathie Bacon

In the name of God, Amen. The one and twentieth day of April one thousand six hundred thirty-nine, and in the fifteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Charles, I, Mathie Bacon of the parish of Saint Stephen in Coleman Street in London, now being at this present sick and weak in body but of sound and perfect mind and memory, thanks be given unto Almighty God therefore, and calling to mind that nothing in this world is to man so certain as death, and nothing more uncertain than the hour and time thereof, and therefore purposing to dispose of that substance wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me that I may the more readily prepare myself to him-wards whensoever it shall be his holy will to visit me with sickness and to call me out of this transitory life to his mercy, do write, set down, make and ordain this my present testament, declaring therein my last will in manner and form following:

First and principally I bequeath and recommend my soul into the merciful hands of Almighty God, steadfastly and assuredly believing by and through the merits of the death and bitter passion of his beloved son, Christ Jesus, my Saviour, to obtain and have full and free remission and forgiveness of all my sins, and my will is that my body shall be buried in the church of that parish wherein I shall inhabit and dwell at the time of my death, in such place and sort as to my executors and overseers hereinafter named shall be thought meet and convenient;

And my will and mind is that the sum of five marks shall be given and distributed to and amongst the poor people inhabiting in that parish where my body shall be buried, and that the sum of five pounds shall be bestowed and given upon and to poor people inhabiting in other parishes adjoining, and to poor prisoners abiding and being at the time of my decease in the prisons in and about the city of London, which said sum[s] of five marks and five pounds I will shall be distributed and given upon and to such poor people as are or have been painful and laborious, and not to idle, drunken and lewd persons, whereof I wish my executors and overseers to have a special care;

Item, my will and mind is that my said executors shall speedily pay and discharge all my debts which I shall owe at the [-the] time of my death to any person or persons either in law or conscience;

And that there shall be a sermon preached at my funeral for which I will that the preacher thereof shall have twenty shillings given to him;

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;

And to my cousin, William Bacon, late of London, stationer, and now dwelling at Dublin in Ireland, the sum of twenty marks of like money;

Item, I do will and bequeath unto my brother-in-law, William Raven of Elworth in the parish of Sandbach in the county of Chester, gentleman, the sum of forty pounds of lawful money of England, and my rapier and buckler, which things I require him to keep for my sake, and to leave at his death to his son, my godson, Mathie Raven, to whom I do give and bequeath the sum of twenty pounds of lawful money of England;

And I do will and bequeath to my cousin, John Hicke, and Elizabeth, his wife, my wife's kinswoman, twenty pounds of lawful money of England, viz., to either of them ten pounds, and to Elizabeth Hicke, their daughter, twenty pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath to William Makyn, who was my servant a long time, the sum of five pounds, and a suit of my apparel which my executors shall think fittest and best for his wearing;

Item, I do give and bequeath to every of my servants which shall be dwelling with me at the time of my death twenty shillings apiece over and above their wages which shall be then due unto them;

Item, I do will and bequeath to every of my godchildren to whom I have not hereinbefore given some legacy the sum of forty shillings apiece of lawful money of England, provided always that every of them do come to my executors in their own proper person and demand the same, and make, seal and deliver to them a sufficient acquittance for the receipt thereof, otherwise to have nothing by this my will;

Item, I do give and bequeath to my sister, Anne Whitbred, widow, the sum of twenty pounds of lawful money of England, to whom I would have given a much greater legacy if she were not averse from me in religion;

Item, I do will, give and bequeath to my worshipful friend, Sir Gilbert Gerard, baronet, eldest son of my late master, William Gerard, esquire, deceased, the sum of one hundred pounds, and my express will is, and I do desire and pray the said Sir Gilbert Gerard within [sic?] as much convenient speed as may be after my decease, to deliver and pay over, as of my gift, out of my estate the sum of fifty pounds of lawful money of England to and amongst all his brothers and sisters, the children of my said late master, which shall be living at the time of my decease, to every of them alike, as a token of the hearty love and affection which I did bear to my said master, their father, and I do give & bequeath to the said Sir Gilbert Gerard my seal ring wherewith this my last will is sealed;

Item, I do give and bequeath to Faith Bacon, Margaret Bacon and Bridget Bacon, the daughters of Robert Bacon, late of Lavingham [=Lavenham] in the county of Suffolk, gentleman, and of Faith Bacon, his late wife, deceased, the sum of six pounds of lawful money of England, to wit, to every of them forty shillings apiece if they and every of them shall be living at the time of my decease, and in case any of them shall depart this life before me, then my will is that the survivor or survivors of them shall have and receive the said sum of six pounds equally divided;

Item, I do give and bequeath unto my kinsmen Robert Preston and (blank) Preston, his brother, the grandchildren of my brother, Robert Bacon, gentleman, deceased, the sum of five pounds apiece;

Item, I do will and bequeath to Elizabeth White of Shenfield in the county of Essex, widow, in respect that I now conceive and think that she had a harder bargain at my hands in buying of me the lease of the house in Shenfield aforesaid wherein she now dwelleth with the lands thereunto belonging and divers of my goods, chattels and implements of household and husbandry there than I did think then that she had had when I sold the same unto her, the sum of twenty marks of lawful money of England which is, I hope, as much (and more) than she did overbuy them for, and my mind and will is that the sum of four nobles of lawful money of England shall be given speedily after my death to the poor people inhabiting in the parish of Shenfield aforesaid where I did lately dwell, which said sum of four nobles my will and desire is shall be distributed at the discretion of the said Elizabeth White to such poor people as she shall think most meet to give the same unto;

Item, I do will and bequeath unto my loving cousin, Edward Campion of London, gentleman, the sum of five pounds, desiring him to take upon him the care and pains to be an overseer of this my last will, and to help and assist my said executors in and about the execution thereof, as my trust and confidence [+is] he will do;

Item, I do forgive and remit unto the said John Hicke all such sum and sums of money and debts whatsoever as he oweth to me, either by bond, bill, note or otherwise;

Item, I do give, devise and bequeath unto ten poor scholars of the University of Oxon the sum of one hundred pounds of lawful money of England, that is to say, to every of them ten pounds apiece, the same scholars to be all of good life and conversation and which

shall be in most need thereof according to the good discretion of the said Sir Gilbert Gerard, and my will is that those poor scholars of Hart Hall shall be first preferred and have the same gift;

And my will is that all and every the legacies and sums of money in and by this my last will mentioned to be given and bequeathed to any person or persons shall be paid, performed and discharged with as much convenient speed as may be after my death, and at the furthest within one year next and immediately following after the day of my decease;

All the rest and residue of my goods, chattels, money, leases, plate, household stuff, debts to me owing and other estate whatsoever not hereinbefore bequeathed, my debts, legacies and funeral charges being paid and discharged, I do will, give and bequeath unto my said loving kinswoman Elizabeth Hicke, the now wife of the said John Hicke;

And I do make, ordain, constitute and appoint the said Sir Gilbert Gerard and my said brother-in-law, Mr William Raven, to be the sole and alone executors of this my last will and testament, desiring and earnestly entreating them to see and cause this my will to be executed and performed according to my true and plain meaning;

And I do also entreat my said cousins, Mr Edward Campion and Mr John Hicke, to be the supervisors or overseers of my said will, and to advise, help and assist my said executors the best they can in the due performance thereof;

And lastly I do hereby revoke, disannul and call back all former wills, legacies and executors, and do publish, pronounce and declare these presents only to stand in full force for and as my last will and testament;

In witness whereof I have hereunto put my hand and seal, containing seven sheets of paper with this sheet, given the day and years first above-written. Mat. Bacon.

Sealed, delivered, declared and published by the said Mathie Bacon for and as his last will the day and years first above-written in the presence of Thomas Arthington, Francis Woodhouse, John Grant, John Henth, scrivener, Robert Harle, servant to the said scrivener.

Probatum ac per Sententiam diffinitivam approbatum et insinuatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram venerabili viro D^{omi}no Henrico Marten milite legum doctore Curie Prerogative Cantuariensis magistrato Custode sive Comissario legitime constituto sexto die mensis Iulij Anno d^{omi}ni millesimo sexcentesimo tricesimo nono Iuramentis Domini Gilberti Gerard et Will^{el}imi Raven Executorum in huiusmodi testamento nominatorum Quibus Comissa fuit administratio omnium et singulorum bonorum iurium et creditorum dicti

defunct{i} de bene et fideliter administrand{o} eadem ad sancta dei Evangelia
Iurat{orum}

[=The above-written testament was proved and by definitive sentence probated and entered at London before the worshipful Sir Henry Marten, knight, Doctor of the Laws, lawfully constituted Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the sixth day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand six hundred thirty-ninth by the oaths of Sir Gilbert Gerard and William Raven, 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.]