

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 28 May 1524 and proved 14 October 1524, of Richard Sackville (d. 28 July 1524), esquire, whose great-grandson, Sir Thomas Browne (d. 9 February 1597), signed Lady Russell's 1596 petition against James Burbage's Blackfriars theatre.

The testator was the father of Mildred Sackville (d. before 1529?), who married, as his second wife, Lady Russell's grandfather, Sir William Fitzwilliam (d. 9 August 1534). See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 236, Vol. II, pp. 109-10. For Lady Russell and the testator's great-grandson, Sir Thomas Browne, see Laoutaris, Chris, *Shakespeare and the Countess*, (London: Fig Tree, 2014), pp. 121, 123, 130, 176-7, 277-8, 324:

The Blackfriars tutelary lord William More had been seeking a patent to establish his own legal court and appoint Justices of the Peace to enforce law in the district. [Lady Russell's] brother-in-law Sir Nicholas Bacon was drawn into the scheme and was sent a list of gentlemen who could be appointed as 'commissioners for the peace within the precinct'. A further list included . . . one Thomas Browne. . . . Sir Thomas Browne, who was not merely [Lady Russell's] neighbour in the Blackfriars but her kinsman, related to both the Cooke and Fitzwilliam families. He must have been the very same who would feature as a signatory on her petition. This is made all the more likely by the fact that he was a resident of St Anne's, where [Lady Russell] worshipped in the church just south of her own house. This was the same parish that many of her other co-signatories called home. A few years later Sir Thomas would be involved with Elizabeth's close friend and kinsman Sir Henry Neville in the equipping of the 'trained shot' in Berkshire, the troops pressed into the service of the Crown during the attack of the Spanish Armada in 1588. . . . As well as his property in the Blackfriars, Browne also owned an estate in Surrey, Betchworth Castle, making him a neighbour of William More twice over.

Thomas Browne gave further ratification to the 1580 list of commissioners by appending his name for a second time to the base of the document, where it appears alongside those of William More and Lord Cobham. . . .

When [Sir Thomas Browne] put his name to [Lady Russell's] petition he had less than a year to live. When he died, in 1597, his Blackfriars property passed to his second wife, Helen Harding. The 1599 Subsidy Rolls confirm that the man who was present in the Blackfriars in 1596 and signed [Lady Russell's] petition must be this same Thomas Browne, for his name is replaced on the list of tax assessments by that of "Lady Browne". The intriguing document suggests some telling neighbourly associations, for next to her own name, and placing them as the Brownes' immediate neighbours in the parish of St Anne's, are those of 'Doctor Paddy' and 'Cuthbert Burbage'. . . .

The land on which the Globe would be built was leased from Nicholas Brend, who would later pass it on to [Lady Russell's] kinsman Sir Matthew Browne, son of the Sir Thomas Browne whose signing of [Lady Russell's] petition had helped bring them to this shift.

The testator's great-great-grandson, Sir Matthew Browne (died c.1603), was one of the trustees of Nicholas Brend (d. 12 October 1601), who leased the ground on which the Globe theatre 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.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the Sackville family, see Collins, Arthur, *The Peerage of England*, Vol. II, (London: H. Woodfall, 1768), p. 272 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=yMECXuXJf_AC&pg=PA272

See also Nichols, Francis, *The British Compendium*, Part I, (London: A Bettesworth, n.d.) p. 234 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=tw1ZAAAACAAJ&pg=PA234>

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testator married Isabel Digges, the daughter of John Digges (d. 29 December 1502), esquire, and Joan Clifton, the daughter and co-heiress of Sir Gervase Clifton (beheaded after the Battle of Tewkesbury 6 May 1471). See *Plantagenet Ancestry, supra*, Vol. I, pp. 655-6. Isabel Digges' brother, James Digges (c.1473-1540?), esquire, was the father of Leonard Digges (c.1515-c.1559), who was in turn the father of the mathematician Thomas Digges (c.1546-1595). See the *ODNB* entries for Leonard Digges and Thomas Digges. See also the will of James Digges, TNA PROB 11/28/308.

Thomas Digges married Anne St Leger (c.1555-1636), who after his death married Thomas Russell, the overseer of the will of William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon. See the will of Thomas Digges, TNA PROB 11/86/204. See also the will of Thomas Russell, TNA PROB 11/165/424.

According to Collins, *supra*, by Isabel Digges the testator had four sons and six daughters:

* **John Sackville** (by 1484-1557), who married firstly Margaret Boleyn (died c.1533), sister of Thomas Boleyn (c.1477 – 12 March 1539), 1st Earl of Wiltshire. For John Sackville, see his will, TNA PROB 11/42B/539, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/sackville-john-i-1484-1557>

b. by 17 Mar. 1484, 1st s. of Richard Sackville of Withyham by Isabel, da. of John Digges of Barham Kent, bro. of Richard Sackville I. m. (1) by 1507, Margaret, da. of Sir William Boleyn of Blickling, Norf., 3s. Christopher, John II and Richard Sackville II 3da.; (2) by 1534, Anne, da. of Humphrey Torrell of Willingale Doe; Essex, s.p. suc. fa. 28 July 1524.1

See also the Wikipedia entry for John Sackville edited by the author of this website at:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Sackville_\(died_1557\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Sackville_(died_1557))

* **Richard Sackville**, who married a daughter of Thomas Thatcher, esquire, of Sussex, by whom he had an only daughter, Anne Sackville, who married Henry Shelley of Warminghurst, Sussex.

* **John Sackville**, a priest.

* **Edward Sackville**.

* **Joan Sackville**, who married John Parker, esquire, of Willington, Sussex.

* **Mildred Sackville**, who, as noted above, married, as his second wife, Sir William Fitzwilliam (d. 9 August 1534), grandfather of Lady Burghley, Lady Bacon, and Lady Russell. See *Plantagenet Ancestry, supra*, Vol. II, pp. 109-10.

* **Mary Sackville**, who married John Roberts, by whom she was the mother of Jane Roberts (d.1575?), who married Sir William Fitzwilliam (c.1506 – 3 October 1559). See the wills of Sir William Fitzwilliam, TNA PROB 11/42B/624, and Jane Roberts, TNA PROB 11/57/533. By Jane Roberts, Sir William Fitzwilliam had four daughters, including:

(1) Mabel Fitzwilliam (d.1564?), who married Sir Thomas Browne (d. 9 February 1597), only son of Henry Browne (d.1545?), esquire, by his first wife, Katherine Shelley, the daughter of Sir William Shelley (d. 4 January 1549) of Michelgrove (in Clapham), Sussex, and Alice Belknap, the daughter of Henry Belknap (d. 3 July 1488), esquire. For the will of Henry Browne, see TNA PROB 11/32/421. For the will of Henry Belknap, proved 2 December 1488, see TNA PROB 11/8/280. Alice Belknap's sister, Elizabeth Belknap, married Sir Philip Cooke (c.1454 - 7 December 1503) of Gidea Hall (in Havering), Essex, by whom she was the grandmother of Sir Anthony Cooke (d. 11 June 1576), and the great-grandmother of Sir Anthony Cooke's five daughters, including Lady Burghley, Lady Bacon and Lady Russell. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, pp. 232-7.

By Sir Thomas Browne, Mabel Fitzwilliam was the mother of a son:

-**Sir Matthew Browne** (died c.1603), the trustee of Nicholas Brend, owner of the land on which the Globe Theatre was built. See *Plantagenet Ancestry, supra*, Vol. I, p. 414.

* **Katherine Sackville** (d. before 1530), who married, as his first wife, Sir John Baker (c.1489-1558), Speaker of the House of Commons, eldest son of Richard Baker (d.1504) of Cranbrooke, Kent, by whom she had no issue. See the *ODNB* entry for Sir John Baker.

* **Margaret Sackville**, who married Sir Thomas Palmer.

* **Isabel Sackville** (d. 21 October 1570), the last prioress of St Mary's Clerkenwell. For her will, see TNA PROB 11/52/408.

Collins, *supra*, does not mention the testator's seventh daughter:

* **Constance Sackville** (d. 29 March 1554), who married firstly William Heneage (d. 10 June 1523), son of William Heneage (d. February 1518?). For the will of Constance Sackville's father-in-law, William Heneage (d. February 1518?) of Alfriston, proved 18 June 1518, see TNA PROB 11/19/110. For the inquisition post mortem taken in July 1518 after the death of Constance Sackville's father-in-law, William Heneage (d. February 1518?) see TNA C 142/33/23. For the inquisition taken 1 July 1553, thirty years after the death of Constance Sackville's husband, William Heneage (d. 10 June 1523), see TNA C 142/98/60. For the marriage of Constance Sackville and William Heneage (d. 10 June 1523), see also Attree, F.W.T., *Notes of Post Mortem Inquisitions Taken in Sussex*, Sussex Record Society, Vol. XIV, (London: Mitchell Hughes and Clarke, 1912), pp. 120-1 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/notesofpostmorte00greauoft#page/120/mode/2up>

The testator's daughter, Constance Sackville, witnessed the will below as 'Constance Heneage'.

Constance Sackville married secondly, by 1535, Sir Christopher More (c.1483 - 16 August 1549), who by his first wife, Margaret Mugge, was the father of Sir William More (1520-1600) of Loseley, Surrey, and the Blackfriars, London. Constance Sackville's son by her first marriage, William Heneage (d. January 1555), married firstly Sir Christopher More's daughter, Eleanor More, and secondly Jane Standish. See Attree, *supra*, p. 120, and the Heneage pedigree in Maddison, A.R., ed., *Lincolnshire Pedigrees*, (London: Harleian Society, 1903), Vol. II, p. 481.

For the will of Constance Sackville, see TNA PROB 11/37/63. For the will of her second husband, Sir Christopher More, see TNA PROB 11/33/178. For the will of Constance Sackville's son by her first marriage, William Heneage (d. January 1555) of Milton in Arlington, Sussex, see TNA PROB 11/37/340. For the inquisition taken after the death of William Heneage (d. January 1555), see TNA C 142/106/57.

For the inquisition post mortem taken after the testator's death see Attree, *supra*, p. 196 at:

<https://archive.org/details/notesofpostmorte00greauoft/page/196>

LM: Test{amentu}m Ric{hard}i Sakevile

In the name of God, Amen. This is the last will and testament of me, Richard Sackville, esquire, made the 28th day of May in the year of Our Lord God 1500 and 24;

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, and to his Mother, Saint Mary, and Saint Michael, and to all the holy company of heaven;

And my body to be buried in Our Lady aisle whereas I am wont to sit;

Item, I give and bequeath to Saint Richard's shrine in Chichester 3s 4d;

Item, to the altar of Withyham for my tithes forgotten, 20s;

Item, to every light within the said church 20d;

Item, I will that 20 priests sing for my soul the day of my burial, every priest to have 12d;

And at my month's day 30 priests, every of them to have 12d;

Item, I will that there be given in alms the day of my burial to every poor man and woman within Withyham and Hartfield or from whence soever that they come 4d;

Item, I will that there sing a priest for my soul and my friends' souls within the parish church of Withyham by the space of 10 years, the said priest to have yearly for his salary £6 13s 4d;

Item, I bequeath to Isabel, my wife, 20 kine and a bull, 8 oxen, two garnish of vessel, 6 featherbeds with all things to them belonging, also the one half of all my other stuff of household;

Item, a basin and an ewer and three of my best gilt goblets with a cover and three white goblets with a cover;

Item, I bequeath to my daughter Fitzwilliam one of my best gilt goblets with a cover to the same;

Item, to every of my other daughters one gilt goblet;

Item, to Thomas Parker a gilt goblet;

The residue of all my goods, my debts paid, I give to the disposition of mine executors, whom I make and ordain Isabel, my wife, John, my son, Richard, my son, and John Baker, my son-in-law, whom(?) I do desire and every of them that shall take on them the administration and the executing of the last will and testament of Robert Morley, esquire, that they diligently receive and pay and do all things that I am bounden to do, and they or one of them that shall take on him make every year account before the Prior of Lewes and the Dean of Malling, and he to have for his labour and for his so accounting and his pain 13s 4d at every such account to be made according to the last will of the said Robert Morley;

Also I give to Blanche, my maiden, 2 kine;

Also I will that Isabel, my wife, shall have, hold, possede and enjoy for term of her life my manors of Chiddingly, Chalvington, Claverham and Bowghley [=Beaulieu?] with all the lands, tenements, rents and services to the same and every of them appertaining and belonging with [+all?] and singular their commodities and appurtenances without interruption, let or impediment of any of mine heirs;

Also I will that my son, Richard, shall have and perceive for term of his life one annuity or annual rent of 20 marks yearly to be going out of my manor of Emmington in the county of Oxford to be paid at the two several feasts of the year usual with a clause of distress for non-payment thereof, and that a sufficient grant shall be thereof to him made for term of his life as is abovesaid by my feoffees as reasonably as it may be devised;

These men underwritten being witness of this my last will: Edward Sackville, gentleman, Richard Geffrey, clerk, parson of Withyham, Margaret Sackville and Constance Heneage.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascript{i} defuncti Coram pefat{is} Com{m}issarijs in Eccl{es}ia Cath{edra}li Diui Pauli London xiiijo die mensis Octobris Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingentesimo xxiiijo Iuramento Iohannis Sakvile executoris in h{uius}mo{d}i test{ament}o no{m}i{n}at{i} Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et com{m}issa fuit admi{n}istrac{io} auct{oritat}e pefatorum R{euerendissi}mor{um} patrium o{mn}i{u}m et singulorum bonorum Iuriu{m} et creditorum dicti defuncti pefat{o} execut{ori} De bene et fidel{ite}r admi{n}istrand{o} Ac de pleno et fideli Inuen{ta}rio citra festum O{mn}i{u}m Sanctorum prox{imum} futur{um} exhibend{o} Necnon de plano et vero compoto reddend{o} Ad s{an}c{t}a dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{o} reseruat{a} p{otes}tate alijs execut{oribus} cu{m} ven{er}int &c

[=The testament of the above-written deceased was proved before the forenamed Commissioners in the Cathedral Church of Saint Paul in London on the 14th day of the month of October in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 24th by the oath of John Sackville, executor named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted by the authority of the forenamed Most Reverend Fathers of

all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased to the forenamed executor, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full and faithful inventory before the feast of All Saints next to come, and also to render a plain and true account, with power reserved to the other executors when they shall have come etc.]