

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 2 March 1530 and proved 26 April 1530, of Joan (nee Leche) Bodley Bradbury (c.1450-1530), whose great-grandson, William Leveson (d.1621), acted as trustee to the Lord Chamberlain's Men, including William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon, in the allocation of shares in the ground lease of the Globe Theatre in 1599.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the testatrix' family background, see Sutton, Anne F., 'Lady Joan Bradbury (d.1530)', in Barron, Caroline M. and Anne F. Sutton, eds., *Medieval London Widows 1300-1500*, (London: The Hambledon Press, 1994), pp. 208-38 at p. 211:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=uc3RLXFANoMC&pg=PA211>

See also the Wikipedia article created by the author of this website at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joan_Leche

Testatrix' parents

The testatrix was the daughter of Denis Leche of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, and his wife, Elizabeth.

Testatrix' siblings

The testatrix is known to have had three brothers:

-Henry Leche.

-Thomas Leche.

-John Leche, vicar of Saffron Walden, Essex, from 1489 until his death on 8 November 1521.

MARRIAGES AND ISSUE

Testatrix' first marriage

The testatrix married firstly Thomas Bodley (d.1492), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/9/374. Thomas Bodley's brother, Richard Bodley (d.1491), was the great-grandfather of Sir John Bodley of Streatham, landlord of the Globe playhouse from 1601-1622. For

Sir John Bodley's role as landlord of the Globe, see TNA C 54/1682, mm. 10-11. See also the Bodley pedigree in Sutton, *supra*, p. 211.

By Thomas Bodley, the testatrix had two sons and two daughters:

* **John Bodley** (d. by 1522), a monk at St Alban's.

* **James Bodley** (d.1514), who married Joan Strachey, the daughter of Thomas Strachey of Saffron Walden, Essex. For the will, dated 27 October 1514, of James Bodley, see ERO D/ACR 2/22, ff. 22-22v. For the Strachey family, see 'Strachey of Sutton Court', *The William and Mary Quarterly*, Vol. 5, No. 1 (July, 1896), pp. 6-10 at:

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1921226>

James Bodley and Joan Strachey were the parents of the testatrix' granddaughter, Joan Bodley (d.1584), who married Guy Crafford (d.1553). For the will of Joan (nee Bodley) Crafford, see TNA PROB 11/67/367. For the will of Guy Crafford, see TNA PROB 11/36/76.

* **Dionyse (nee Bodley) Leveson** (d.1560), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/43/645. Dionyse Leveson was the grandmother of William Leveson (d.1621), who acted as trustee to the Lord Chamberlain's Men, including William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon, in the allocation of shares in the ground lease of the Globe Theatre in 1599. For the will of William Leveson (d.1621), see TNA PROB 11/137/600.

* **Elizabeth Bodley** (d.1526x30), who married William Tyrrell (d.1534) of South Ockendon, Essex, a half-brother of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk. For the will of William Tyrrell, see Guildhall Library MS 9531/11, ff. 123-4.

By William Tyrrell, Elizabeth Bodley was the mother of Humphrey Tyrrell (d.1549), esquire, whose wife, Jane Ingleton, was the ward of John de Vere, 13th Earl of Oxford. For the will of Humphrey Tyrrell, see TNA PROB 11/32/613.

Testatrix' second marriage

The testatrix married secondly Sir Thomas Bradbury (d.1510), Lord Mayor of London in 1509, by whom she had no issue. For the will of Sir Thomas Bradbury, see TNA PROB 11/16/90.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

Elizabeth Rede (d. 23 December 1532) was the widow of the London goldsmith, Sir Bartholomew Rede (d.1505), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/14/789. For the inquisition post mortem taken after her death, see TNA C 142/55/55, and:

'Inquisitions: Henry VIII (part 3 of 3)', in *Abstracts of Inquisitiones Post Mortem For the City of London: Part 1*, ed. G S Fry (London, 1896), pp. 60-78. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/inquis-post-mortem/abstract/no1/pp60-78> [accessed 31 August 2020].

Sir William Butler, Lord Mayor of London in 1515, was the husband of the testatrix' niece, Isabel Bodley, the daughter of Richard Bodley (d.1491). See Sutton, *supra*, p. 234, and the will of Sir William Butler, proved 11 February 1534, TNA PROB 11/25/123.

For Sir John Aleyn or Allen (c.1470-1544), Lord Mayor of London in 1525 and 1535, see his will, TNA PROB 11/31/16.

The testatrix' god-daughter, Mary Neville, appears to have been the daughter of George Neville (c.1469 – 1535), 5th Baron Bergavenny, and his third wife, Mary Stafford. See the Wikipedia article at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Fiennes,_Baroness_Dacre

For the testatrix' overseer, Sir Robert Norwich (d.1535), see his will, TNA PROB 11/25/317. He married, as her second husband, Julyan Tyrrell (d.1556), the daughter of Humphrey Tyrrell (d. 2 June 1507), esquire, by his second wife, Elizabeth Walwyn (d.1524). For the will of Julyan Tyrrell, see TNA PROB 11/38/70.

LM: Testament of Iohanne Bradbury

In the name of Almighty God, the Holy Trinity, in whom I steadfastly believe and by whom and by the merit of the dolorous and most bitter and painful passion and death of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer, and by our Mother Holy Church, I, Dame Joan Bradbury of London, widow, late wife and executrice of the testament of Thomas Bradbury, late Mayor of the City of London, deceased, trusting to be saved and to be partaker of the joys of heaven;

And I being of whole mind, thanked be Jesus, in the second day of March in the year of our Lord God 1529 and in the 21 year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Henry the 8th by the grace of God King of England and of France, Defender of the Faith and Lord of Ireland, lauds and praising thereof be to Almighty God, and I [f. 130r] considering that there is nothing so certain in this world to man as death and that the time thereof is most uncertain, wherefore I, for the health of my soul and the profits of my consanguinity and friends, make and ordain this my present testament and last will in manner and form following, that is to say:

First I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God, Our Blessed Lady Saint Mary, and to all the holy company of heaven;

And my body to be buried in the tomb whereas my said late husband, Thomas Bradbury, lieth, that is to say, in the chapel of Our Lady within the church of Saint Stephen's in Colman Street of London;

Item, I will that mine executors under-named in the day that it shall please God to take me out of this transitory life or on the morrow shall cause to be sung and said at every of the 5 orders of friars within the city of London a trigintal of Masses, and I require the same orders of friars that they come to my burial and there to pray for my soul and all Christian souls, and I will that every of the priors or wardens of the same five orders shall have for the same 20s;

Item, I will and bequeath to him that shall be vicar of the church of Saint Stephen in Colman Street at the time of my decease for my offerings negligently forgotten 20s;

And I bequeath to the parish priest there being the time of my decease a black gown-cloth to pray for my soul and all Christian souls;

Item, I will that in the same day that I shall decease, or on the morrow following, mine executors shall cause to be sung and said in the said church of Saint Stephen in Coleman Street a trigintal of Masses for my soul and all Christian souls by secular priests that be void and destitute of services as near as they can be gotten, and being of honest life and conversation;

Item, I bequeath to the seven gaols or prisons in and about London, that is to say, the two Counters, Ludgate, Newgate, the Fleet, the King's Bench and the Marshalsea £4 amongst them to be distributed in bread and other victual within a month next after my decease by the discretion of my executors;

Item, I will that all debts which I shall owe to any person or persons at the time of my death shall be to them paid by my executors in as short time after as conveniently may be;

Also I will that if I have done any injury or wrong to any person or persons and have not therefore made satisfaction or amends to the party, and that proved before my executors and overseer, then I will that mine executors shall make due recompense therefore to the parties grieved;

Item, I will that mine executors fulfil and perform the testament and last will of my said late husband, Thomas Bradbury, in everything thereof not executed, performed nor done;

Item, I bequeath to my Lady Rede a black gown-cloth and a ring of mine of gold of the value of 40s;

Item, I bequeath to my cousin, Sir William Butler, and to my Lady, his wife, each of them a black gown-cloth;

Item, I bequeath to Sir John Aleyn, alderman, and to my Lady, his wife, either of them a convenient black gown;

Item, I bequeath to my cousin, Guy Crafford, and my cousin [=granddaughter], Joan, his wife, each of them a black gown-cloth;

Item, I bequeath to the prior of Christchurch in London a black gown-cloth and 20s of money, and to the convent of the same place 20s to pray for my soul and all Christian souls;

Item, I bequeath to th' abbot of Stratford to buy him a black cope 20s;

Item, I bequeath to and amongst the convent of the same place for a dirge and Mass to be songen in the convent church for my soul immediately after my decease 20s;

Item, I [f. 130v] bequeath to Berellis' [=Burrell's?] widow a black gown-cloth;

Item, I bequeath to every of my household servants, as well men as women, being with [-in] me in service at my decease a black gown-cloth and 40s of money;

Item, I bequeath to my Lord Bishop of Saint Asse [Asaph?] 40s to buy therewith such apparel as shall please him and to wear it for my sake;

Item, I bequeath egally to be divided amongst the 12 sisters of Elsing spital 12s to pray for my soul;

Item, I bequeath to my son-in-law, Nicholas Leveson, the lease and term of years which I have in my house at Stratford and my household stuff in that house being;

Also I bequeath to the same Nicholas Leveson the featherbed whereupon I commonly use to lie and my best coverlet, a pair of fustian blankets and the chest that my plate is in and all the apparel of the chamber wherein I commonly used to lodge;

Item, I bequeath to the said Nicholas Leveson and Dionyse, his wife, my daughter, my two pottle pots of silver all gilt and my 6 bowls of silver with the cover all gilt which he hath already;

Also I bequeath to the said Guy Crafford and Joan, his wife, the featherbed, bolster, coverlet, hangings and all other stuff lying and being in the chamber where the same Guy and Joan now use to lie, with celures, tester, chairs and all other goods and stuff there being;

Item, I bequeath to the same Guy Crafford and Joan, his wife, a dozen of silver spoons with slips at th' end, and my salt-cellar with cover parcel gilt that is used daily to be set upon my table, and my goblet with the cover all gilt called the Maudlin goblet;

Item, I bequeath to the children of the same Guy Crafford and Joan, his wife, and to the child that she goeth with, amongst them egally to be divided and delivered at their full age or marriages £300 in ready money;

Item, I bequeath to Mary, their daughter, £10 over and above her part of the said £300;

And if any of them decease before their full age or marriage the survivor or survivors of them to have the said whole £40 [sic?];

Also I bequeath to Joan Herrat(?), my little maid, 20 nobles to be paid to her at her marriage if she live thereunto, and in the mean season dwell with my said son, Nicholas Leveson, and be ruled by him, and to use herself honestly as a good maid ought to do till she be able to be married;

Item, I will that mine executors or the executors of the survivor of them shall make Stephen, my lad, free of his bondage if I do it not in my lifetime, so that he continently after my decease dwell with my said son, Nicholas Leveson, or by [sic] otherwise ruled by my executors or their executors till that he shall be at man's estate, and then I will to be paid unto him of my bequest 40s;

Item, I bequeath to (blank) Bradbury, son and heir apparent of William Bradbury, £20 to him to be paid in 4 years next ensuing after my decease, that is to say, quarterly 25s toward his exhibition and learning;

Item, I bequeath to either of Mawde Hille of Pecham and Isabel Parker of Stratford, late my servants, a black gown-cloth and to either of them toward making of her gown 6s 8d;

Also I will that all my pewter vessel shall be equally divided by weight and given, that is to say, the one half to my daughter Leveson and the other half to be distributed and given by the good discretions of mine executors;

Also I bequeath to my daughter Leveson these parcels ensuing, that is to say, my great kettle wherein I have used to seethe my brawn, my new great brass pot and 2 of my brass pots being next in value to other two being the best pots, my best gown furred with foins and purfled with martens, my beads gold [f. 131r]. my demiceint of gold garnished with pearl and a little ruby in the middle thereof, and also six pair of sheets lying in my chest standing next the window in my maid's chamber, and 2 my best carpets;

And I bequeath all my diaper towels, diaper tablecloths, sheets and all other my napery afore nor hereafter [+not?] bequeathed unto my said daughter Leveson, saving I will that she shall distribute and deliver to every of my servants dwelling with me the time of my decease 2 pair of sheets by her discretion, also to certain of the poor people of the said parish of Saint Stephen part of mine old and coarse linen by her like discretion;

Also I bequeath to Joan Crafford 6 pair of sheets lying in the chest standing next unto the chest aforesaid, also two plain tablecloths, 2 plain towels, 2 pillows of down, also the featherbed which lieth in my mother's chamber with the sparver being over it, also a pair of new blankets lying upon the same bed, a pair of new woollen blankets with broad lists, the best coverlid that I have except two, and two my best lined gowns;

Also I bequeath to Humphrey Tyrrell the featherbed and bolster being in the sparver silk chamber with the sparver of silk, the coverlid with the park, and the pair of blankets belonging to the same bed;

Also I bequeath to the same Humphrey my gilt cup with the pomegranates and my coffer which standeth in my dry larder-house beneath;

Also I bequeath to Mrs Roper a black gown-cloth;

Also I bequeath to (blank), the widow of John Smyth, fishmonger, a black gown-cloth;

And to her daughter, being wife of James Beke, another gown-cloth of black;

Item, I bequeath to her that was Pemberton's wife to pray for my soul a black gown lined of my own wearing and 20s in money;

Item, I bequeath to Philip Ballis' widow 6s 8d to pray for my soul;

Item, I bequeath to Milis' wife, the founder, a black gown-cloth of 5s the yard;

Item, I bequeath to the schoolmaster teaching grammar in Walden a gown-cloth of black;

Item, I bequeath to John Warde, colour-maker, and John Smyth, draper of Walden, each of them a convenient black gown-cloth;

Also I will that mine executors cause to be expended between the days of my burying and month mind in the church of Wellingborough in the county of Northampton for an obit there to be done and alms to be given for the souls of me, my husbands, and of my father and mother £3;

And in like wise in the church of Braughing in Hertfordshire 40s;

And in like wise in the church of Manuden in Essex 20s;

And in like wise in the church of Black Notley 20s;

And in like wise in the church of Walden in Essex 40s, whereof I will that every of the poor folks in th' almshouse there shall have 12d [illegible interlined word/s];

And where the said Nicholas Leveson, my son, hath in his possession and keeping of my money two hundred and fifteen pounds sterling which I have preserved to th' intent it shall be expended to the honour of Almighty God for the health of my soul, I will and ordain that the same £215 shall be expended and bestowed in the days and upon the necessaries of my burial and funerals and of my month's mind;

And thereof I will that they shall distribute to every poor householder dwelling in the parish of Saint Stephen in Coleman Street by their discretion 2s, that is to say, to every of them in the day of my burying 12d, and to every of them in the day of my month's mind 12d;

Item, I bequeath £10 to be bestowed by mine executors in all goodly haste after my decease for and about the repairing of the ferry at West Thurrock in Essex for the ease and comfort of the people passing the same ferry;

Item, I bequeath to every of my daughter Leveson's children being alive at the time of my decease except John Leveson £20, and if any of them die before they come to lawful age or marriage, I will that then the survivor or survivor of them [-that] shall have the part and purpart of him or her so deceasing;

Item, I bequeath to every of the poor beadsmen and beads-women to whom I give every Sunday 1d a black gown of the same cloth wherewith my torch-bearers shall be clothed;

Item, I will that 20 poor men of the said parish of Saint Stephen [f. 131v] in Coleman Street shall hold 16 torches and 4 tapers to be provided for my burial, and I bequeath to every of them a gown and a hood of such black cloth as is convenient for such poor men to wear, and to them to be delivered ready made, and to wear them at my burial and month's mind, and every of them to have after my burial Mass 6d, and as much at my month day, summa 20s;

And as touching the residue of all my funerals, I remit the doing and ordering thereof to the good discretion of mine executors and overseer under-named, and as they shall do therein I hold and accept it for my full will in that behalf;

Item, I bequeath to Anne Tyrrell, daughter to my daughter, Elizabeth Tyrrell, a hundred pound sterling to her to be delivered in plate the day of her marriage if she marry by the counsel of mine executors and overseer, and during the time that she is sole and unmarried, I will that the same hundred pound in plate shall continually remain in the custody of mine executors;

And after the decease of the same Anne if she die sole and unmarried, I will the same hundred pound in plate shall be sold by mine executors, and all the money coming of the sale thereof I will they shall bestow immediately after her decease upon reparations of the waterwork and amending of the highways most needful to be amended in the parish of West Thurrock in Essex;

Item, I bequeath to John Kebill, my old servant, a black gown;

Item, I bequeath to Nicholas Rudland and Clemence, his wife, either of them a convenient black gown;

Item, I bequeath to John Blakisley and Richard Lane, either of them a convenient black gown;

The residue of all my goods, debts, chattels, ready money and jewels afore nor hereafter [+not?] bequeathed, after my debts paid, my funeral charges borne and paid and this my present testament fulfilled, I bequeath to mine executors under-named, they to dispose the same in deeds of charity for the health and comfort of my soul by their good discretions;

And of this my present testament and last will above-written and underwritten I make, ordain and constitute my said son, Nicholas Leveson, and my said daughter, Dionyse, his wife, to be executors;

And Master Robert Norwich, one of the King's serjeants at the law, to be supervisor;

And I give and bequeath to either of the said Nicholas Leveson and Dionyse for their labours and pains to be sustained in th' execution of my said testament and will ten pounds of money;

Also I give and bequeath to the said Robert Norwich for his advice and counsel towards th' execution aforesaid from time to time as shall be requisite or expedient ten pounds of sterling money and a black gown;

And I bequeath to Mrs Norwich, his wife, a black gown;

Item, I bequeath to Mary, daughter of my Lord Bergavenny, my god-daughter, my device or colour [=collar?] of gold weighing 7 ounces or thereabouts, and God's blessing and mynde [sic];

Item, I bequeath to Mr Doctor Bartlet(?) a black gown;

Item, I bequeath to the wife of Edward Reste, grocer, a black gown;

These being witnesses: Nicholas Rutland, Richard Lany, notaries public, Guy Crafford, gentleman, John Blakesley, draper, William Middleton, mercer, William Veer, leather-seller, citizens of London, and Richard Maunsell. Written the day and year abovesaid. Per me Nich{olaiu}m Rutland notarium pu{bli}cu{m} Guie Clifford [sic], John Blakesley. By me Will{ia}m Middleton. Per me Will{el}mum Veer. Per me Ricardum Maunsell

[Note: Will of lands not yet transcribed]