

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 27 November 1528 and proved 11 February 1534, of Sir William Butler, Lord Mayor of London in 1515, whose first wife, Elizabeth Bodley, was a member of the Bodley family which had ties to the Globe theatre (see below).

The testator's niece, Margaret Butler, was the second wife of Edward North (c.1504-1564), 1st Baron North. For her will, see TNA PROB 11/25/123. For the will of Edward North, 1st Baron North, see TNA PROB 11/48/64.

Jane Wilkinson (d.1571), niece of Edward North (c.1504-1564), 1st Baron North, married, as his first wife, Michael Lok (c.1532–1620x22), who persuaded Oxford to invest heavily in Martin Frobisher's 1577 expedition in search of a route to Cathay.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the pedigree of Boteler of Biddenham, see Blaydes, Frederic Augustus, ed., *The Visitations of Bedfordshire, Annis Domini 1566, 1582, and 1634*, (London: Harleian Society, 1884), Vol. XIX, pp. vii, 6 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=HbwKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA6>

For a list of manuscript pedigrees of the family of Butler of Biddenham, see also Sims, R., *An Index to the Pedigrees and Arms Contained in the Herald's Visitation, and Other Genealogical Manuscripts in the British Museum*, (London: John Russell Smith, 1846), p. 2 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=hT5FAAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA2>

For the testator's arms, see Blaydes, *supra*, p. 210 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=HbwKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA210>

Testator's father

According to the pedigree in Blaydes, *supra*, the testator was the eldest son and heir of Richard Butler of Biddenham.

Testator's mother

The identity of the testator's mother is unknown. She is said to have been connected to the descendants of Alan de Kirton. However the statements regarding that connection are confusing and contradictory. The pedigree in Blaydes, *supra*, p. 8, has a note stating that

Grace Kirton, the daughter of Alan Kirton of Biddenham, heir to her brother, Walter Kirton, was the wife of Thomas Butler, and by him the mother of Richard Butler:

Be it remembered that Alan Kyrton of Biddenham in the county of Bedford had issue Walter Kyrton that died sans issue, and a daughter called Grace that was married to Thomas Butler, which Grace was sister and heir to Walter, her brother, and by the said Thomas Butler, her husband, had issue Richard Butler, father to this Richard here first mentioned.

Page agrees that Grace Kirton married Thomas Butler, dating the marriage to ‘the end of the 14th century’:

'Parishes: Biddenham', in *A History of the County of Bedford: Volume 3*, ed. William Page (London, 1912), pp. 36-40. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/beds/vol3/pp36-40> [accessed 3 April 2018]

. . . towards the end of the 14th century Thomas Boteler of Biddenham, a branch of the same family, acquired, by his marriage with Grace daughter and heir of Alan de Kirton, Kirtons, a 'capital messuage' in Biddenham, which became the residence of the family for several generations. (fn. 31)

However these claims are contradicted by a fine, CP 25/1/6/81, No. 13, dated 1 July 1452, in which the querents were Thomas Kirton, Richard Butler, and Grace, his wife. See:

http://www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk/fines/abstracts/CP_25_1_6_81.shtml

See also:

http://aalt.law.uh.edu/AALT2/CP25no1/CP25_1_6/IMG_1233.htm

For the testator’s involvement in the construction of a new aisle in Biddenham church in 1522, see Saul, Nigel, *Lordship and Faith: The English Gentry and the Parish Church in the Middle Ages*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017), p. 227 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=RcHxDQAAQBAJ&pg=PA227>

One last contract should be considered in this context, and it is one to which Dr Byng has recently drawn attention, an agreement for the construction of a new aisle at Biddenham church (Beds) in 1522. The patron in this case was the wealthy London merchant, Sir William Butler, a Biddenham man by birth who had interests in the village.

Testator’s siblings

The pedigree in Blaydes, *supra*, states that the testator had four unnamed brothers, of whom the youngest was the father of Margaret Butler, wife of Edward North (c.1504-1564), 1st Baron North. In the will below, Margaret's father is identified as Richard Butler:

Item, I bequeath to Margaret, my brother Richard's daughter, 10 marks to her to be delivered within 2 years after my decease. [f. 63v]

This identification is supported by a further bequest in the testator's will below to Margaret Butler's first husband, the London clothworker, Andrew Fraunces (1495 – March 1543):

Item, I bequeath to Andrew Fraunces a ring or [sic for 'of?'] 40s and a black gown.

For Andrew Fraunces, see his will, dated 22 January 1542 and proved 9 March 1543, TNA PROB 11/29/301.

Another of the testator's brothers is identified in the will as Edward Butler, deceased, who married a wife named Joan, by whom he had three daughters, Elizabeth Butler, Helen Butler and Alice Butler.

According to the Halton pedigree, the testator's niece, Elizabeth Butler, married John Drayner of Hoxton, Middlesex, by whom she had a daughter, Jane Drayner, who married Robert Halton of Clee. See the Halton pedigree in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitation of the County of Lincoln in 1562-4*, (London: George Bell & Sons, 1881), p. 37 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofcoun00cook#page/n393/mode/2up/search>

In her will, TNA PROB 11/57/602, Lady North (see above) appoints as executor 'my well-beloved Robert Halton, gentleman'. On 13 September 1582, administration of Lady North's will was granted to Robert Halton's widow, Jane, described in the grant as Lady North's next of kin. It thus appears that Elizabeth Butler in the Halton pedigree, *supra*, mother of Jane Drayner Halton, was the testator's niece, and Lady North's first cousin.

MARRIAGES

According to the will below, the testator had three wives.

First marriage

The testator's first wife was Isabel Bodley. It appears likely that she was the mother of the testator's children, William Butler and Mary Butler. For the will of the testator's son, William Butler, see TNA PROB 11/37/155.

The Bodley family had ties to the Globe theatre. See the will of Isabel Bodley's brother, William Bodley, TNA PROB 11/28/311, whose grandson, Sir John Bodley of Streatham, was landlord of the Globe playhouse from 1601-1622, and whose daughter-in-law, Mercy (nee Collett), became the stepmother of Nicholas Brend (d. 12 October 1601), who leased the ground on which the Globe was built by lease dated 21 February 1599 to Richard Burbage (1568-1619), Cuthbert Burbage (1564/5-1636), William Kempe, Augustine Phillips (d.1605), Thomas Pope (d.1603), John Heminges (1566-1630), and William Shakespeare (1564-1616) of Stratford upon Avon (see TNA REQ 4/1/2).

The testator's first wife, Isabel Bodley, was a first cousin of Dionyse Bodley Leveson (d.1560). In the will below the testator bequeaths black gowns to Nicholas Leveson and 'my cousin, his wife', and appoints Nicholas Leveson as an overseer of his will. For the wills of Nicholas Leveson (d. 20 August 1539) and his wife, Dionyse Bodley (d.1560), see TNA PROB 11/27/552 and TNA PROB 11/43/645.

Nicholas Leveson was the grandfather 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.

See also the will, TNA PROB 11/32/83, dated 2 September 1547 and proved 17 April 1548, of Ellis Bodley, parson of St Stephen's, Walbrook, in which he bequeaths gold rings to 'my cousin, Dionyse Leveson', and 'my cousin Butler' (likely the testator's son and heir, William Butler):

Item, I bequeath to my cousin, Dionyse Leveson in Lime Street, and to my cousin Butler by the stocks and to each of them a gold ring of 13s 4d apiece.

See also the will, dated 27 November 1491 and proved 1 August [1492?], TNA PROB 11/9/374, of Dionyse Bodley's father, Thomas Bodley.

For the testator's relationship to Dionyse Bodley, see also Sutton, Anne F., 'Lady Joan Bradbury (d.1530)' in Barron, Caroline M. and Anne F. Sutton, *Medieval London Widows 1300-1500*, (London: The Hambleton Press, 1994), pp. 208-38 at:

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

For the testator's son-in-law, the mercer and Merchant of the Staple, John Fayrey (or Fayre), husband of the testator's daughter, Mary Butler, see his will, proved 14 October 1541, TNA PROB 11/28/603, and Sutton, Anne F., *The Mercery of London: Trade, Goods and People, 1130-1578*, (Aldershot, Hampshire: Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2005), p. 194 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=epyoDQAAQBAJ&pg=PT191>

John Fayrey's widow appears to have carried on the wool business after John Fayrey's death. See TNA SP 46/5/Part1fo23-24d and other documents in the National Archives catalogue referring to Mistress Fayrey's wool transactions. See also Winchester, Barbara, *Tudor Family Portrait*, (London: Jonathan Cape, 1955), p. 84. According to Winchester, however, this Mistress Fayrey's Christian name was Elizabeth, and it appears that the testator's daughter, Mary Butler, had died, and that John Fayrey had remarried.

Second marriage

Nothing is known of the testator's second wife, apart from the fact that the testator states in the will below that her name was Elizabeth. It is possible that she, and not the testator's first wife, was the mother of one or both of the testator's children.

Third marriage

The testator married thirdly a wife named Agnes (d.1536), widow of Roger Basford (d. May 1520) of Ashbourne, Derbyshire, and London. For the testator's third wife, see her will, TNA PROB 11/26/36, and the will of her first husband, Roger Basford, TNA PROB 11/20/15.

Testator's son, John Butler

The testator's son, John Butler, is not included in the entails in the testator's will, and may have been illegitimate. The testator bequeaths him 20 marks a year for life, to be paid quarterly:

Item, I will that mine executors quarterly deliver and pay unto John Butler, my son, 5 marks in money toward his living which is after the rate of 20 mark by year, and so to continue every quarter of the year during his natural life, that is to say, at the feasts of the Nativity of Our Lord, th' Annunciation of Our Lady, the Nativity of Saint John Baptist, and Saint Michael th' Archangel, the first quarter of payment thereof to begin at that feast of the said 4 feasts that shall next follow after my decease.

It appears the testator's son, John Butler, had died by 27 April 1536, the date on which the testatrix' widow made her will, containing this provision:

Item, I bequeath to the wife late of John Butler a black gown.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

For Sir John Brydges, Lord Mayor of London, witness to the testator's will, see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/brydges-%28brugges%29-john-1470-1530>

See also Brydges, Egerton, *Collins's Peerage of England*, Vol. VI, (London: F.C. & J. Rivington, 1812), p. 710 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=IuRlIAAAcAAJ&pg=PA710>

According to the Butler pedigree in Blaydes, *supra*, p. 7, the testator's son and heir, William Butler, married, as his first wife, Bridget Brydges, the daughter of Sir John Brydges, Lord Mayor of London. See:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=HbwKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA7>

TESTATOR'S LANDS

For Legs Alley, also known as Nag's Head Court, see Freshfield, Edwin, ed., *The Vestry Minute Books of the Parish of St. Bartholomew Exchange*, (London: Rixon and Arnold, 1890), p. xxxviii at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=aGAJAAAIAAJ&pg=PR38>

TESTATOR'S 1529 WILL (OR DEED?)

For bequests said to have been made by the testator in a will dated 6 August 1529, see *The Endowed Charities of the City of London*, (London: M. Sherwood, 1829), p. 231 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=Y-IHAAAQAQAJ&pg=PA231&lpg=PA231>

Some of the bequests in the 1529 will are similar to the bequests in the will below, and it appears that the will of 6 August 1529 was indeed made by the testator. However there appears to be no record of probate of the 1529 will.

RM: T{estamentum} Will{el}mi Buttel{e}r milit{is}

In the name of God, Amen. The 27th day of the month of November the year of Our Lord God [+the?] thousand five hundred 28th and the 20th year of the reign of King Henry the Eight, I, William Butler, knight, citizen and alderman of London, being of whole mind

and in good and perfect remembrance, laud and praising be to God, make and ordain this my present testament and last will in manner and form ensuing, that is to say:

First and principally I bequeath and recommend my soul unto Almighty God, my Creator and Redeemer, to his glorious Mother, Our Lady Saint Mary, and to all the holy company of heaven, and my body to be buried within the Collegiate Church of Saint Thomas Acon where Elizabeth, late my wife, lieth buried;

Item, I bequeath unto the high altar of the parish church of Saint Mildred in the Poultry of London where I am parishes for my tithes and offerings forgotten or negligently withholden, if any such be, in discharge of my soul 20s;

Item, I bequeath to like intent unto the high altar of Our Lady at the Bow in London where sometime I was a parishes 20s;

Item, I bequeath unto the high altar of Our Lady of Colechurch in London where I was late a parishes to like intent 20s;

Item, I will that first and principally above all things as speedily and as conveniently may be done all and singular my debts which I owe of right or conscience be fully satisfied, contented and paid;

Item, I bequeath toward the supportation and maintenance of the place of Grey Friars in London 20s;

Item, I bequeath to the warden and convent of the same place to pray for my soul as a brother of their chapter-house 20s;

Item, I bequeath to every of the houses of the Black Friars, White Friars and Augustine Friars of London to pray for my soul 13s 4d, summa 40s;

Item, I bequeath to the house of the Crossed Friars of London to pray for my soul 20s;

Item, I bequeath to every of the 2 houses of Observants at Greenwich and Richmond to pray for my soul 20s, summa 40s;

Item, I bequeath toward the relief and comfort of the poor prisoners of Newgate 30s to be bestowed in bread and other victual by the discretion of mine executors;

Item, I bequeath unto the prisoners of the prisons of Ludgate and the Fleet, that is to say, to either of the said prisons 13s 4d, summa 26s 8d, to be delivered amongst them in like manner and form as is afore rehearsed;

Item, I bequeath unto the poor prisoners of the King's Bench and Marshalsea, that is to say, to the prisoners of either of the same 2 houses 30s, summa 60s, to be distributed amongst them in like manner;

Item, I bequeath unto the poor sick people being within the place of Our Lady of Bethlehem of London to be bestowed amongst them in like wise 20s;

Item, I bequeath to every of the 6 lazar-houses ensuing, that is to say, the house beyond Mile End, the Loke(?) beyond Southwark, Knightsbridge, Saint Giles, the house at Highgate and the house of Kingsland 20s, summa £6, to and amongst the poor people of the said 6 houses by the discretion of mine executors at sundry time to be distributed;

Item, I bequeath to the anchor of All Hallows in the Wall of London to pray for my soul 10s;

Item, I bequeath to the anchor without Bishopsgate 6s 8d;

Item, I will that mine executors shall provide and ordain as much linen cloth as shall amount to the sum of 60s, and the same shall do to be made into sheets and shirts and other necessaries for the relief and comfort of the poor people at Saint Bartholomew's Spital;

Item, I bequeath for three trentals to be sung for my soul in three several churches immediately after my decease, that is to [f. 62v] say, Saint Thomas of Acon, Our Lady of Colechurch and Saint Mildred in the Poultry, 33s;

Item, I will that mine executors within a month next after my decease distribute to and amongst poor householders and dwellers within my ward of Cheap by their discretions in ready money £5;

Item, I bequeath to the marriages of 20 poor maidens in London £20, that is to say, to every of them 20s, of the which maidens I will that 6 shall be of them that dwell in the said ward in Cheap, and the 14 maidens residue I will shall be of such parishes and wards in London as shall seem best to mine executors by their good discretions;

Item, I bequeath to the said parish church of Saint Mildred in the Poultry two candlesticks of silver parcel gilt weighing together 96 ounces, there to serve to th' honour of God, Our Blessed Lady and Saint Mildred;

Item, I will that one of the brethren being a priest of Saint Thomas of Acon shall daily and weekly say Mass for my soul, the souls of Dame Elizabeth and Elizabeth, late my wives, the souls of my father and mother and all Christian souls at the altar in the new chapel by my tomb in Master Shaw's [=Shaa's] chapel or at Saint Thomas' altar at or nigh the hour of 8 of the clock, and so to continue by the space of three whole years, and the said priest to say before the first lavatory in every of his said Masses for the souls aforesaid *De profundis* etc. with the collect accustomed, and this Mass to be kept by a whole week by one of the said brethren, and so to continue, one brother after another, weekly unto the full accomplishment of the said three years, and I bequeath to the same brother for every week 20d, summa £13;

Item, I will that mine executors weekly every Sunday by the space of 3 years next and immediately ensuing after my decease deal and distribute unto 7 poor honest persons 7d in money, whereof the first year I will shall be distributed and dealt in the said parish of Saint Mildred, the second year in the parish of Biddenham in the county of Bedford, and the third and last year in the foresaid parish of Colechurch, summa £4 11s;

Item, I will that yearly during the space of 7 years next after my decease mine executors shall distribute and deal to and amongst the poor dwellers within the ward of Cheap and specially in the said parish of Saint Mildred 6 loads of coals accounting 24 quarters to the load, whereof 3 loads I will shall be dealt yearly against the feast of All-Hallows and the other 3 loads yearly against the feast of Christmas, summa by estimation £21;

Item, I will that one of the monks of th' abbey of Warden besides Bedford shall daily and weekly say Mass for my soul and other the souls aforesaid at the altar in the said abbey nigh unto the burying-place of my father and mother by the space of two years complete next after my decease, and I will that the same priest afore the first lavatory at every of the said Masses shall say the psalm of *De profundis* etc. with the collect accustomed for my soul and other the souls aforesaid, and I bequeath to the said monk so doing for his wages and salary every week to be paid every Saturday upon the altar 20d;

Also I will that one of the novices of the said place weekly by course shall help and serve the said priest at Mass during the said 2 years, and I bequeath to the said novice for his labour weekly 4d, summa £10 8s;

Item, I bequeath to th' abbot of the same monastery for his good and toward mind to be had in that behalf 13s 4d, which abbot I desire to assign and command a monk of the same place to pay weekly as well to the said monk so saying Mass his 20d as also to the said novice his 4d in manner and form abovesaid, and I charge and command mine executors that within half a year next after my decease they deliver unto the said abbot money for the same intent, taking of him sufficient bond by writing ensealed for the sure performance of the said Masses;

Item, I bequeath to the house of the Grey Friars of Bedford to pray for my soul and to sing a solemn dirge and Mass of Requiem for my soul and other the souls aforesaid and for all Christian souls 20s;

Item, I will that mine executors within a year after my decease distribute and deal to and amongst the poor dwellers within the foresaid parish of Biddenham, specially to such persons as have most charge of children and most need, by their discretions with th' advice of such discreet persons of the same parish as my said executors shall call unto them £6 13s 4d;

Item, I bequeath to the chapel at the bridge of Biddenham an ornament that shall be thought most expedient for the same chapel to the value of 20s;

Item, I bequeath unto the ornation of the chapel and altar where my chantry priest shall sing within the said parish church of Biddenham as shall be thought best and most expedient by the discretion of mine executors £6 8s 4d;

Item, I bequeath toward the repairing and supportation of Biddenham bridge £10, and I will that mine executors call unto them good counsel with th' advice of 6 of the most substantial men of that town to see and ordain that the said £10 be bestowed in the best manner for the maintaining of the said long bridge, and this to be done within the space of 4 years next after my decease;

Item, I bequeath to every of my servants as well menservants as women servants being in service with me the time of my decease 40s without fraud or covin;

Item, I will that my hearse, torches and other lights and the manner of my burial be ordered after the manner, fashion and proportion of the hearse, lights and burial of Sir James Yarford, knight and alderman, late deceased;

The residue of the order, manner and charges of my funerals and burial I remit and reserve to the good discretions of mine executors and overseers, and as they therein do, I hold and affirm it(?) for my full will in that behalf, saving I will that my dinner shall be kept at Grocers' Hall;

Item, I will that mine executors keep an obit for my soul and other the souls aforesaid yearly upon the day that it shall happen me to die, if that day be thought convenient, or within 8 days before or after the same day yearly during the term of 7 years within the said parish church of Saint Mildred with placebo and dirge overnight and Mass of Requiem on the morrow following solemnly by note, and that the Warden and other of the livery of the Grocers be yearly desired to come to the same, and I will that at every of the said obits mine executors shall pay and deliver to the Wardens of [f. 63r] the said company 20s to th' intent that they shall provide some convenient drinking for the said company at Grocers' Hall by the good discretions of the said Wardens, summa in 7 years, £7;

And I will that mine executors shall bestow yearly at the said obit to priests and clerks being at my said obit wax burning at my hearse;

And for a convenient repast to be ordained against the Requiem Mass be done for my kinsfolks and friends, calling to them some of Colechurch parish, and for alms to be given to poor folks of the parish of Saint Mildred at the said obit by the discretion of my said executors 53s 4d, summa in 7 years £18 13s 4d;

Item, I bequeath to Nicholas Leveson and my cousin, his wife, either of them a black gown, praying them to be good counsellors and lovers to mine executors and children;

Item, I bequeath to Joan, the late wife of my brother, Edward Butler, a black gown to pray for my soul;

Item, I bequeath to Elizabeth, her daughter, 10 marks to her to be delivered at her marriage or lawful age;

Item, I bequeath to every of the other two daughters of the said Joan, that is to say, Helen and Alice, 10 marks to them to be delivered in like manner;

And I will that if any of the same 3 daughters decease before her marriage or lawful age, I will that then the survivor or survivors of them shall have the said bequest and part of her so deceasing;

Item, I will that all my wool now being in Calais or at my decease shall happen there to be shall be kept to the most increase and advantage that can be, and to be sold as the rates(?) grow, and that such part and portion of my said wools as may be reasonably tarried, and no hindrance or breach of this my testament and last will, I will shall be tarried and respited unto the time that the same wools be grown to their full rates and prices;

Item, I bequeath to John Clerke, draper, and to his wife, either of them a black gown and 5 marks between them both;

Item, I will that all my debts to me of right belonging be called in as speedy time as may be after my decease, and all such debtors as in conscience mine executor shall think not able to pay their debts at one time, I will that they by the discretions of my said executors shall have days limited unto them for payment so that they find sufficient sureties to perform their payments at the days to them appointed;

Item, I bequeath to Dame Agnes, my wife, for her reasonable part and full portion to her belonging of all my goods, chattels and debts after the custom of the city of London one thousand six hundred threescore six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence sterling;

Also I will that the same Dame Agnes shall have and hold to her for term of her life the place with th' appurtenances wherein I now dwell and inhabit if she so long keep her sole and unmarried, so that she by all [-by all] the said time well and truly pay the yearly rent due and going out of and for the same, and also keep and sustain the same in and by all things in good and competent reparations;

And I will that it shall be leeful to mine executors to have the lawful occupation of all the said place with th' appurtenances for the stowage of my goods and chattels within the same and for the safeguard of the same by the space of 4 months next after my decease, my said wife nevertheless to have her necessary and convenient dwelling in the same by all the same time;

And I will that mine executors once every quarter of the year during the time and years that she shall so hold the said place with th' appurtenances shall lawfully enter into the same in good and peaceable manner and every house of the same to survey and oversee,

and of such defaults of reparations needful and necessary to be amended as they then and there shall happen to find to give knowledge and warning to the said Dame Agnes that the same defaults within a quarter of a year then next ensuing be amended;

And if the said Dame Agnes within a quarter of a year after such said warning to her so given do not amend the said faults, or if she pay not the yearly rents of the said place within 28 days after it be lawfully asked, or if she fortune to marry and take another husband, or if she hold her not content with the said bequest of £1666 13s 4d and refuse to take the same for her said reasonable portion and will stand to her adventure in that behalf and claim her portion by the said custom, I will that then as well my said bequest to her made of the said £1666 13s 4d as also my said gift, grant and legacy to her before made of my said place with th' appurtenances shall be utterly void and of none effect, and that then, that is to say, in any of the said 4 causes, and also after the decease of the said Dame Agnes if she enjoy my said place with th' appurtenances during her life according to th' effect of my said bequest and legacy thereof to her afore made, I will then and bequeath my said place with th' appurtenances and all th' estate and term of years which I shall have then to come of and in the said place with th' appurtenances unto William Butler, my son;

To have and to hold to the same William, my son, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten unto the full end and plain accomplishment of the said term of years which I shall have to come of and in the same;

And if it happen the said William Butler, my son, without heir of his body lawfully begotten to decease or such his heirs to decease before the said term of years which I now have to come of and in the said place with th' appurtenances be fully expired and ended, I will and bequeath then the said place with th' appurtenances and all the term of years which I shall have then to come of and in the same unto (blank);

Item, I bequeath to William Brothers a black gown and a gold ring in value of 40s;

Item, to his wife a black gown;

Item, I will that mine executors yearly during the space of 5 years to begin within the years [sic for 'year'?] next after my decease buy or cause to be bought 100 ells of good Normandy canvas after 40s the 100, and the same to do make in shirts and smocks, and the same so made to distribute and give unto poor honest dwellers as well within my said ward of Cheap as within the said town of Biddenham or in some other places after the discretion of my said executors at two terms of the year, that is to say, at the feasts of Christmas and Easter yearly during the said term of 5 years complete, summa £10;

Item, I will that mine executors shall distribute [f. 63v] and dispose unto the prisons of Newgate, the Marshalsea and the King's Bench by the space of 2 years after my decease certain alms in the form following, that is to say, in every of the said 2 years at the feasts of All-Hallows, Christmas, Easter and th' Ascension of Our Lord or 2 days before every of the said feasts to every prison a side of an ox to be cut in pieces, and every poor person

being prisoner within any of the said prisons to have a piece of beef and a penny in wheaten bread, summa in flesh by estimation £8, summa in bread by estimation £8;

Item, I will that mine executors distribute and dispose to and amongst the sick persons in Our Lady of Bethlehem by the space of 2 years next after my decease either year at every of the said 4 feasts a quarter of beef to be stricken in pieces and sodden and delivered to every of the said sick persons a piece of beef and a penny in wheaten bread, summa in beef 26s 8d, summa in bread by estimation 14s;

And I will that mine executors shall cause a good honest parson to see the said alms truly to be divided and done in manner aforesaid, and the same man to have for his labour going to the said prisons about the premises at every time for visiting of Newgate 6d, for the Marshalsea 8d, for the King's Bench 8d, and for Bethlehem 4d, summa 12s;

Item, I will there be given to the house of the nuns of Minories without Aldgate of London yearly during the space of 5 years next after my decease after the feast of Purification of Our Lady toward the refreshing of the convent there a barrel of good white herring and 2 cades of good red herring, summa by estimation £5;

Item, I bequeath in like manner to the poor house of Crossed Friars in London like herring for like 5 years, summa by estimation £5;

Item, I will that every parson preaching at Paul's Cross every Sunday when sermon is Good Friday, Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday at Saint Mary Spital in Easter week shall have at every time 4d during the term of 7 years next after my decease to pray for my soul, my wives' souls and the souls of my father and mother and all Christian souls, summa by estimation £6;

Item, I will that immediately after my decease there be delivered by mine executors unto every alderman of the city of London 20s, and that it may please [+them?] to assign in their several wards an honest parson to distribute and dispose the same money to and amongst the poor householders within their several wards, and this to be done instead of alms used to be given to common beggars, summa £24;

Item, I will that mine executors quarterly deliver and pay unto John Butler, my son, 5 marks in money toward his living which is after the rate of 20 mark by year, and so to continue every quarter of the year during his natural life, that is to say, at the feasts of the Nativity of Our Lord, th' Annunciation of Our Lady, the Nativity of Saint John Baptist, and Saint Michael th' Archangel, the first quarter of payment thereof to begin at that feast of the said 4 feasts that shall next follow after my decease;

Item, I bequeath to Andrew Fraunces a ring or [sic for 'of?'] 40s and a black gown;

Item, I will that all such hangings as been now hanged about my said house and place which I dwell in, and all such bedsteads, standards, chests, presses, portals and all other necessities there fastened, and also all manner glass, windows and lattices thereunto

belonging shall in no wise be removed nor taken away, but safely to remain and abide still within the said house as implements and heirlooms pertaining and belonging to the same house;

And I will that if mine executors misuse and discord themselves contrary to this my present testament and true meaning of the same in any part thereof, that then mine overseers hereafter named from thenceforth to join with my said executors and with them to minister duly & truly as though I had named them executors indeed in performance of this my testament;

Item, I bequeath to Margaret, my brother Richard's daughter, 10 mark to her to be delivered within 2 years after my decease;

The residue of all and singular my goods, debts and chattels, merchandises, ready money, plate and jewels, whatsoever they be, after my debts paid, my funeral charges borne and paid and this my present testament fulfilled, I will shall be divided into 4 egal parts, whereof two equal parts I bequeath unto my foresaid son, William Butler, to his own proper use;

And one whole part of the said 4 parts I give and bequeath unto my son-in-law, John Fayrey, and Mary, my daughter, his wife;

And another and last whole part of the said 4 parts I will shall be distribute[d], dealt and disposed by my said executors by the oversight and counsel of mine overseers in charitable deeds and works of pity and charity for the health and comfort of my soul as shall be thought best by their good discretions;

And of this my present testament and last will I make and ordain the said William Butler, my son, and my said son-in-law, John Fayrey, mine executors;

And their overseers of the same I make and ordain my trusty friends, Nicholas Leveson and Nicholas Rutland, and I bequeath to either of them for his labour and business and good counsel herein to be had £6 13s 4d, summa £13 6s 8d;

These being witness: Sir John Brugge [=Brydges], knight and alderman of London, Giles Brugge, and Nicholas Rutland before-named;

Written the day and year first above specified.

LM: Vltima Voluntas eiusdem Will{el}mi

This is the last will of me, William Butler, knight, citizen and alderman of the city of [f. 64r] London made the 27th day of November in the year of Our Lord God 1528 and in the

20th year of the reign of King Henry the 8th as touching and concerning all my lands and tenements, rents, reversions and services as hereafter followeth, that is to say:

First I will that William Butler, my son, have all those my messuages, lands and tenements, rents, reversions and services, meadows, feedings and pastures, woods, underwoods, with all and singular their appurtenances set, lying and being as well in the town, parish and fields of Biddenham in the county of Bedford as also within the fields of the town of Bedford in the county of Bedford or elsewhere within the said county;

To have and to hold all the said messuages, lands and tenements, rents, reversions and services, meadows, feedings and pastures, woods, underwoods, with all and singular their appurtenances to the same William Butler, my son, and to th' heirs of his body lawfully begotten and their heirs forever;

And if the same William Butler, my son, decease without heirs of his body lawfully begotten, then I will that all those my said messuages, lands and tenements, rents, reversions and services, meadows, feedings and pastures, with all and singular their appurtenances shall remain wholly to John Fayrey, my son-in-law, and Mary, my daughter, his wife;

To have and to hold all the same messuages, lands and tenements and all other the premises with their appurtenances to the same John Fayrey and Mary and to th' heirs of their two bodies lawfully begotten and to their heirs forever;

And also I will that the said William Butler, my son, have as well all that my message or tenement with the appurtenances set, lying and being in Paternoster Row wherein Thomas Crophe now dwelleth in the parish of Saint Michael at Querne nigh West Cheap of London;

As(?) also all that my alley called Leges [=Legs] Alley with all and singular lands and tenements, rents and services with their appurtenances set and being of either part of the said alley in the parish of Saint Bartholomew the Little in London;

To have and to hold all that my said message or tenement with th' appurtenances set lying and being in Paternoster Row as is aforesaid, and also all that my said alley called Legges Alley with all and singular lands and tenements, rents and services and their appurtenances to the foresaid William Butler, my son, and to th' heirs of his body lawfully begotten and to their heirs for evermore;

And if the said William Butler, my son, decease without heirs of his body lawfully begotten, then I will that all my said message or tenement in Paternoster Row with th' appurtenances and all that my said alley with all and singular lands and tenements, rents, reversions and services with their appurtenances in the said parish of Saint Bartholomew shall remain to the foresaid John Fayrey, my son-in-law, and Mary, my daughter, his wife;

To have and to hold all the same messuage or tenement in Paternoster Row with th' appurtenances and all that my said alley with all and singular lands and tenements, rents, reversions and services with their appurtenances in the said parish of Saint Bartholomew to the same John Fayrey and Mary, his wife, and to th' heirs of their two bodies lawfully begotten and to their heirs for evermore;

In witness whereof to this my present last will I have put to my seal the day and year above-written. Sigillat{um} et pro facto siue delib{er}at{um} in p{rese}ntia me Will{el}mi Wyat notarij pu{bli}ci D{omi}ni Henrici Cock{es} cl{er}ici Curat{i} eccl{es}ie sancte Mildrede in pulletria London Edwardi Lightfoote generos{i} Ric{hard}i Blake, tallow-chandler, et georgij Golde groc{er}(?) et alior{um} testiu{m} tunc et ib{ide}m p{rese}ntium Ego Henricus Cock{es} hec predict{a}(?) affirmo et testifico.

[=Sealed and taken for the deed of(?) or delivered in the presence of me, William Wyat, notary public; Sir Henry Cockes, clerk, curate of the church of Saint Mildred in the Poultry, London; Edward Lightfoote, gentleman; Richard Blake, tallow-chandler; and George Golde, grocer, and other witnesses then and there present. I, Henry Cockes, affirm and testify these [+things?] aforesaid.]

Probatum fuit suprascriptu{m} testamentu{m} coram d{omi}no Apud Lamethith Vndecimo die mens{is} ffebruarij Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo Quingentesimo xxxiijo Iuramento Will{el}mi Bouttler et Joh{ann}is ffayre Executor{um} in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}at{orum} Ac approbat{um} et insinuatu{m} Et com{m}issa fuit admi{n}istrac{i}o o{mn}i{u}m et singulor{um} bonor{um} iuriu{m} et creditor{um} dict{i} defunct{i} p{re}fat{is} executoribus De bene et fideliter administrand{o} ead{em} ac de pleno et fideli Inuentario o{mn}i{u}m et singulor{um} bonor{um} iurium et creditor{um} h{uius}mo{d}i exhibend{o} Necnon de plano et vero compoto reddend{o} Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{is}

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord at Lambeth on the eleventh day of the month of February in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 33rd by the oath of William Butler and John Fayrey, executors named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased to the forenamed executors, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same and to exhibit a full and faithful inventory of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the same, and also to render a plain and true account.]