

SUMMARY: The document below is an extract from the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 3 August 1545 and proved 15 January 1546, of Sir John Aleyn or Allen (c.1470-1544), Lord Mayor of London in 1525 and 1535 and a counsellor to Henry VIII. The testator was the uncle of Giles Alleyn (d. 27 March 1608), who leased the former priory of Holywell to James Burbage, who in 1576 built the first London theatre on the premises.

The testator was one of the three sons of Richard Aleyn (d. 23 June 1527) of Thaxted, Essex. The testator had two brothers, both mentioned in the will below: John Aleyn (d.1558), ancestor of the Aleyns of Hatfield Peverell, and Christopher Aleyn (died c.1555) of London and Hazeleigh, Essex, father of Giles Alleyn (d. 27 March 1608), who leased the Holywell property to James Burbage, as noted above. For Christopher Aleyn, see TNA C 142/105/40 and TNA E 150/329/3. For Giles Alleyn (who married Sara Scory, the daughter of John Scory (d.1585), Bishop of Hereford), see the inquisition post mortem taken after his death, TNA C 142/309/163, and 'Giles and Christopher Alleyn of Holywell', *Notes and Queries* (1909) s10-XII (305): 341-343 at:

<http://nq.oxfordjournals.org/content/s10-XII/305/341.full.pdf+html>.

See also:

[http://nq.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/issue\\_pdf/frontmatter\\_pdf/s10-XII/305.pdf](http://nq.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/issue_pdf/frontmatter_pdf/s10-XII/305.pdf).

The testator's brothers, John and Christopher, married, respectively, Margaret Leigh and Agnes Leigh, the two daughters and co-heirs of Giles Leigh (d.1538) of Walton-on-Thames. For Giles Leigh (d.1538) see TNA E 305/1/A6; TNA 142/61/135; and TNA E 150/493/1. Henry VIII purchased the manor of Leigh Court from Giles Leigh, and annexed it to Hampton Court. See 'Parishes: Walton on Thames', in *A History of the County of Surrey: Volume 3*, ed. H E Malden (London, 1911), pp. 467-475 at:

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/surrey/vol3/pp467-475>.

For Giles Leigh, see also Essex Record Office D/DBs T1.

The testator also had a sister, Elizabeth. He refers to her in the will below as 'Elizabeth, Lady Askew', and mentions her son, John Askew, and her daughter, Elizabeth Fuller, the wife of Hugh Fuller.

The testator died unmarried, leaving two illegitimate sons, Sir Christopher Aleyn (d.1586) and Lazarus Aleyn (d. before 1583), and an illegitimate daughter, Joan Alleyn. According to the *ODNB*, Sir William Paget (1505/6–1563), 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Paget, had the wardship and marriage of the testator's two sons, and Sir Christopher Aleyn (d.1586) married Paget's eldest daughter, Audrey Paget (c.1535-1587), while Lazarus Aleyn married Paget's daughter Agnes. However according to TNA C 78/68/28, Lazarus Aleyn left a widow named Margaret, and according to the website below she was Margaret

Compagni, the illegitimate daughter of the Florentine merchant, Bartholomeo Compagni (23 April 1503 – 27 April 1561) of Broad Street in London. See:

<http://pigott-gorrie.blogspot.ca/2008/05/captain-john-pigott-of-stradbally.html>.

*About 1535, [Compagni] sired, by an unknown woman, probably English, & perhaps one of his servants, an illegitimate daughter, Margaret Compagni; named in her father's will, 1561, as his "...dear natural daughter" and wife of John Baptist Castillion, whom he made overseer of his will.*

*In April 1558, Margaret Compagni, by then the widow of Lazarus ALLEN, illegitimate son of Sir John ALLEN, P.C., Lord Mayor of London, married 2ndly, Giovanni Battista Castiglione, Master of the Italian Tongue to the Lady Elizabeth Tudor, & Groom of her Privy Chamber when she became Queen.*

John Baptist Castillion (d. 12 February 1598) and his wife, Margaret, were the parents of Sir Francis Castillion, who was living in Oxford's Great Garden property in 1607. See *English Reports*, Vol. 77, pp. 1235-1252, on this website.

See also the entry for Audrey Paget at:

<http://www.kateemersonhistoricals.com/TudorWomenP.htm>.

For Sir Christopher and Lazarus Alleyn, see also TNA C 78/68/28.

For the foregoing see also the pedigrees of Aleyn in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex*, (London: Harleian Society, 1878), Vol. XIII, p. 333 at:

[http://books.google.ca/books?id=hqwKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA333&redir\\_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false](http://books.google.ca/books?id=hqwKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA333&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false).

See also Wright, Thomas, *The History and Topography of the County of Essex*, (London: George Virtue, 1836), pp. 244-5 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=SgQVAAAQAAJ&pg=PA244&lpg=PA244&dq=%22Giles+Leigh%22+%22Hatfield%22&source=bl&ots=pNRKcW5v9O&sig=zzZEDUR9zfUDAq1kXgOWSSGzEjg&hl=en&sa=X&ei=2OYSVaLeC47voAS8qYDwDQ&ved=0CC8Q6AEwAw#v=onepage&q=%22Giles%20Leigh%22%20%22Hatfield%22&f=false>.

See also the pedigree of Alleyne of Hatfield in Burke, John and John Bernard Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies of England, Ireland and Scotland*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., (London: Scott, Webster and Geary, 1841), pp. 3-4 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=DqkTAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA4&lpg=PA4&dq=%22Gyles+Leigh%22+%22Walton%22&source=bl&ots=waktxomIZq&sig=N4SXPP8nfbrYCV>

PoBBJgS\_Ql\_VM&hl=en&sa=X&ei=1uQSVcSWK8a0ogTlp4KADg&ved=0CDAQ6AEwAg#v=onepage&q=%22Gyles%20Leigh%22%20%22Walton%22&f=false.

See also Berry, Herbert, *Shakespeare's Playhouses*, (New York: AMS Press, 1987), pp. 28-9.

See also 'Alleyn of Hatfield Peverel and Little Leighs, baronets' at:

<http://landedfamilies.blogspot.ca/2014/01/105-alleyn-of-hatfield-peverel-and.html>.

RM: Testamentum Domini Ioh{ann}is Alen milit{is} def{uncti}

In the name of God, Amen. I, John Alen, knight, citizen and alderman of the city of London, being in good health and memory . . . .

. . . .

The residue of my goods, chattels, ready money and debts, my funerals and debts paid and discharged and this my testament fulfilled in all things, I will, devise and bequeath to be equally divided, thone moiety between Christopher, Lazar and Joan, their sister, and my children, and thother moiety to mine executors part like;

And the executors of this my present testament and last will I ordain and make my well-beloved friends Thomas Pyke, Christopher A[ll]en, my brother, and John Askowghe, my cousin and servant, and I give to every of them for their labours and pains in this behalf as is beforesaid;

Overseers of the same I constitute and make my friends Robert Iartsoy(?), John Allen, my brother, John Hasilwode, my cousin, and Sir John Puisaunte, clerk, and every of them to have for his labour and pains herein £20;

In witness whereof to this my present testament containing my last will I have set my seal, given the third day of August in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred forty and five and in the 37<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Henry the 8<sup>th</sup> by the grace of God King of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith and in earth Supreme Head of the Church of England and of Ireland. Per me Iohannem Allen Alderman{um}{?}. . . .