

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 8 November 1559 and proved 29 November 1559, of Thomas Newport of Rushock, whose father, George Newport, was a first cousin of Sir Richard Newport (d. 12 September 1570), owner of a copy of Hall's *Chronicle* containing annotations thought to have been made by Shakespeare. The volume was formerly Loan 61 in the British Library, and is now in the hands of a trustee, Lord Hesketh. See Keen, Alan and Roger Lubbock, *The Annotator*, (London: Putnam, 1954).

For the will, dated 23 March 1559 and proved 8 September 1559, of the testator's grandfather, William Newport, who held a lease of Rushock from the Company of Merchant Taylors, see TNA PROB 11/42B/459.

For the will of the testator's father, George Newport, see TNA PROB 11/43/258.

It appears that Thomas Newport's father predeceased him, and that he was his grandfather's heir, but survived his grandfather by less than a year, and perhaps by only a month.

The testator married Mary Purslow, the daughter of Robert Purslow of Sidbury, Shropshire. The testator's grandfather had bequeathed his lease of Rushock, held of the Company of Merchant Taylors, to the testator, and after the testator's death the lease was granted to the testator's widow, Mary Purslow, and her second husband, Francis Brace (d.1599). The lease of Rushock was later acquired by Thomas Russell (1570-1634), the overseer of the will of William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon. For further details concerning the marriage of Mary Purslow and Francis Brace (d.1599) and the lease of Rushock and its acquisition by Thomas Russell, see the will of Thomas Russell, TNA PROB 11/165/424.

For the lease of Rushock see also Clode, Charles M., *The Early History of the Guild of Merchant Taylors, Part II*, (London: Harrisons and Sons, 1883), p. 35 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=WBYSQAAMAAMAJ&pg=PA35&lpg=PA35&dq=%22merchant+Taylors%22+%22Rushock%22&source=bl&ots=bguJ-UB2Ei&sig=gsqUEHJzeeh3mv0QibMQTb--HcE&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj8nvTAifPJAhUOxGMKHTuJBZcQ6AEIITAB#v=onepage&q=%22merchant%20Taylors%22%20%22Rushock%22&f=false>

RM: T{estamentum} Thome Newporte

[f. 475] In Dei Nomine Amen. Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo quinquagesimo nono die vero mensis nouembris octauo, I, Thomas Newport of Rushock, being of perfect mind and memory, make my last will and testament in this manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul to God, my Maker and Redeemer, and my body to be buried in holy ground where it shall please God and my friends to bury me;

Item, I bequeath all my goods to Mary, my wife, and to my children;

These being witnesses: Sir John Hygyns, parson there, and Robert Coke, with other.

vicesimo nono die mensis nouembris Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingentesimo quinquagesimo nono emanauit com{m}issio Marie Newporte Rel{ic}t{e} d{ic}t{i} defuncti ad administrand{o} bona Iura et credita eiusdem iuxta tenorem vltime voluntatis pred{ic}t{i} defuncti de bene &c Ac de pleno et fideli Inventario necnon de vero et plano compot{o} Reddend{o} &c In p{er}sona Georgij Goulston procuratoris sui &c Iurat{o}

[=On the twenty-ninth day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-ninth a grant issued to Mary Newport, relict of the said deceased, to administer the goods, rights and credits of the same according to the tenor of the last will of the foresaid deceased, and [+to prepare?] a full and faithful inventory and also to render a plain and true account etc., sworn in the person of George Goulston, her proctor etc.]