

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 26 September 1561 and proved 12 November 1561, of Reginald (or Reynold) Newport of Sibdon Carwood, Shropshire, brother 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 Loan 61 in the British Library until 2007, was subsequently on loan to Lancaster University Library until 2010, and is now in the hands of a trustee, Lady Hesketh. According to the Wikipedia entry for Sir Richard Newport, the annotated Hall's *Chronicle* is now at Eton College, Windsor. See:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Newport_\(died_1570\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Newport_(died_1570))

Newport's copy of his chronicle, containing annotations sometimes attributed to William Shakespeare, is now in the Library at Eton College, Windsor.

For the annotated Hall's *Chronicle*, see also the will of Sir Richard Newport (d. 12 September 1570), TNA PROB 11/53/456; Keen, Alan and Roger Lubbock, *The Annotator*, (London: Putnam, 1954); and the Annotator page on this website:

<http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/annotator.html>

The testator was the nephew of Roger Corbet (1501/2 – 20 December 1538), a ward of John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford. For the will of Roger Corbet, see TNA PROB 11/27/408.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For early generations of the Newport family, see Bridgeman, Ernest R.O. and Charles G.O. Bridgeman, 'History of the Manor and Parish of Weston-under-Lizard, in the County of Stafford', William Salt Archaeological Society, ed., *Collections for a History of Staffordshire*, Vol. XX, Vol. II, New Series, (London: Harrison and Sons, 1899), p. 146 at:

<https://archive.org/details/collectionsfora14socigoog/page/n189>

See also the Newport pedigree in Grazebrook, George, and John Paul Rylands, eds., *The Visitation of Shropshire Taken in the Year 1623*, Part II, (London: Harleian Society, 1889), Vol. XXIX, pp. 372-4 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationshrop01grazgoog#page/n100/mode/2up>

Testator's parents

The testator was the son of Thomas Newport and Anne Corbet. For the will of Thomas Newport, dated 24 July 1548 and proved 11 June 1551, see TNA PROB 11/34/176.

The testator's mother, Anne Corbet, was the daughter of Sir Robert Corbet (c.1477 – 11 April 1513) by Elizabeth Vernon, the daughter of Sir Henry Vernon (c.1441 – 13 April 1515) of Haddon, Derbyshire. For the will of Sir Henry Vernon, see TNA PROB 11/18/121. For the will of Sir Robert Corbet, see TNA PROB 11/17/471.

See also the pedigree of Corbet of Morton in Grazebrook, George, and John Paul Rylands, eds., *The Visitation of Shropshire Taken in the Year 1623, Part I*, (London: Harleian Society, 1889), Vol. XXVIII, pp. 136-7 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationshrop00britgoog#page/n190/mode/2up>

Sir Robert Corbet's sister, Elizabeth Corbet, and her husband Thomas Trentham (d.1518/9) of Shrewsbury, were the great-grandparents of Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham (d.1612). For the will of Thomas Trentham (d.1518/9), see TNA PROB 11/19/252.

Testator's siblings

As noted above, the testator's brother, Sir Richard Newport, was the owner of a copy of Hall's *Chronicle* containing annotations thought to have been made by Shakespeare.

The testator's sister, Elizabeth Newport, married John Pakington (1530-1578), and was the aunt of Humphrey Martyn (d.1587?), the addressee of the *Langham Letter* describing Leicester's entertainment of Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth in the summer of 1575. See the Langham page on this website.

For the testator's brothers Thomas Newport, Edmund Newport, Andrew Newport and Hugh Newport mentioned in the will below, and the testator's other siblings, see the will of his father, Thomas Newport, TNA PROB 11/34/176.

MARRIAGE

The testator married Elizabeth Banastre, daughter of Edward Banastre, and widow of a husband surnamed Perott, by whom he had no issue. In his will the testator refers to his wife as deceased, and leaves bequests to Edward Perott, Mary Perott, Dorothy Perott, Thomas Perott, Jane Perott and William Perott, her children by her first husband.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

For Francis Broke of Church Stretton, Shropshire, see his will, proved 16 October 1582, TNA PROB 11/64/439, and the pedigree of Brooke of Madeley, which states that he married Elizabeth Banastre, the daughter of Robert Banastre of Lacon, Shropshire, by whom he had two sons and a daughter:

-Edward Brooke of Church Stretton, Shropshire, who married Frances Leighton, the daughter of Richard Leighton of Cotes, Shropshire.

-Robert Broke.

-Joyce Broke, who married Edward Acton of Acton Scott, Shropshire.

See Grazebrook, George and John Paul Rylands, *The Visitation of Shropshire Taken in the Year 1623*, Part I, (London: Harleian Society, 1889), Vol. XXVIII, p. 79 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=RV17Y0xUv5kC&pg=PA79>

See also Drinkwater, C.H., ‘Stretton Court Rolls of 1566-7 (A Fragment)’, *Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Natural History Society*, 3rd Series, Vol. IV, (Shrewsbury: Adnitt and Naunton, 1904), pp. 115-28 at p. 118:

<https://archive.org/details/transactionsofsh34shro/page/n263>

Francis Broke was probably indetical [sic] with “one Brooke, a lawyer,” whom Mr Leland (c. 1540] reported to have built a “pretty house, near by the Church” at Stretton. Joyce, d. of Frances Brooke, married before 1598 Ed. Acton of Acton Scott.

For a Chancery suit brought by Richard Acton against Francis Broke, his daughter, Joyce Broke, and her husband, Edward Acton, see TNA C 78/52/15.

For Francis Broke’s wife, Elizabeth (nee Banastre) Broke, aunt of the testator’s wife, see:

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk › [hiddenarchives](#) › [images](#)

Outlawry of Richard Colburne of More on an action of detinue by Elizabeth Broke, widow, executrix of Francis Broke 26 Eliza [=1583/4]

RM: T{estamentum} Reginaldi Newporte

In dei nomine amen. The 26th day of September Anno Domini 1561, I, Reginald Newport, whole in mind and sick in body, do make this my last will and testament:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God etc.;

Item, I bequeath all my goods and chattels at my houses and grounds called the Lord's Marsh and the Broke House in the county of Carmarthen unto my late wife's children, that is to wit, to Edward Perott, Mary Perott, Dorothy Perott, Thomas Perott, Jane Perott and William Perott equally to be divided amongst them except one grey ambling mare at my said house in the said county of Carmarthen, which mare I give and bequeath unto my brother, Thomas Newport;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my brother, Edmund Newport, my lease of my farm of Sibdon;

Item, I give unto Matthew (blank), my servant, one yoke of oxen, which yoke of oxen were brought out of Pembrokeshire;

Item, I give & bequeath unto Eleanor Childe, my servant, one cow which she will choose amongst my kine at Sibdon;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Stephen Rice, my servant-boy, one weanling calf coloured red;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Hugh Newport, my brother, 20 French crowns being in the hands of Edward Bannester, my father-in-law, to be paid by my said father-in-law unto my said brother, Hugh, at such times as my said father-in-law may conveniently pay them;

Item, I give & bequeath unto my brother, Andrew Newport, my signet of gold;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Joyce Broke, daughter of Francis Broke, one ring of gold with a ruby stone;

Item, I do ordain and make my executors Edward Bannaster, esquire, my father-in-law, and Edmund Newport, my brother, my lawful executor;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Rice ap Howell my white salt;

Item, I give unto William Painter my dagger;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth Broke, my late wife's aunt, my purse and the money in the same being in her custody towards her charges & pains;

Item, I give to John Corbet of Sibdon my black frizado coat. Reginald Newport. Witness at the making of this will, Francis Broke, John Burges, William Painter, Rice ap Howell.

Debts that I owe: to John Shery 4 marks; to the parson of Hopton 20s.

Probatum fuit h{uius}mo{d}i Testamentum coram mag{ist}ro Waltero Haddon Legum Doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cant{uariensis} Comissario apud London duodecimo die mensis Nouembris Anno Domini mill{es}imo quingentesimo sexagesimo primo Iuramento Edwardi Banester executoris in h{uius}mo{d}i test{ament}o nominat{i} Cui comissa fuit administraci{i}o etc de bene etc Ac de pleno Inuentario Necnon de vero et plano computo Reddend{o} Ad sancta Dei evangelia Iurat{i} Res{er}uata potestate simile{m} commiss{ionem} faciend{i} Edwardo Newporte execut{ori} etiam in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento nominat{o} cum venerit &c Admissur{o}

[=The same testament was proved before Master Walter Haddon, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at London on the twelfth day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixty-first by the oath of Edward Banastre, executor named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc., and [+to exhibit?] a full inventory and also to render a true and plain account, with power reserved for a similar grant to be made to Edward Newport, executor also named in the same testament, when he shall have come etc. to be admitted.]