

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 7 January 1568 and proved 17 October 1570, of William Blackwell, father of Anne (nee Blackwell) Bacon, wife of the 16th Earl's bailiff of Lavenham, Thomas Bacon (d.1577), who held leases from Oxford.

For the testator, see also Chambers, E.K., *William Shakespeare: A Study of Facts and Problems*, Vol. II, (Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1930), pp. 165-6 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/in.ernet.dli.2015.182554/2015.182554.William-Shakespeare-Voll-Ii#page/n177>

The testator was Town Clerk of London, and a member of the Company of Scriveners.

TESTATOR'S CONNECTION TO SHAKESPEARE

The testator, his daughter, Anne (nee Blackwell) Bacon, and his grandson, Mathy or Matthew Bacon of Gray's Inn, are all mentioned in the indenture by which William Shakespeare (1564-1616) of Stratford upon Avon purchased a dwelling-house or tenement and plot of ground in the precinct of the Blackfriars on 10 March 1613 (see Folger MS Z.c.22(45) and London Metropolitan Archives CLC/522/MS03738 on this website for the purchasers' and vendor's copies of the indenture, respectively).

From London Metropolitan Archives CLC/522/MS03738 on the Shakespeare Documented website at:

<http://www.shakespearedocumented.org/exhibition/document/shakespeare-purchases-blackfriars-gatehouse-copy-bargain-and-sale-signed-buyers>

. . . part of which said tenement is erected over a great gate leading to a capital messuage which sometime was in the tenure of William Blackwell, esquire, deceased, and since that in the tenure or occupation of the right honourable Henry, now Earl of Northumberland;

And also all that plot of ground on the west side of the same tenement which was lately enclosed with boards on two sides thereof by Anne Bacon, widow, so far and in such sort as the same was enclosed by the said Anne Bacon

Which said dwelling-house or tenement and other the premises above by these presents mentioned to be bargained and sold the said Henry Walker late purchased and had to him, his heirs and assigns forever of Mathie Bacon of Gray's Inn in the county of Middlesex, gentleman, bearing date the fifteenth day of October in the year of Our Lord God one thousand six hundred and four.

See also the Loseley manuscripts at:

<http://titania.folger.edu/findingaids/dfoloseley2002.xml>

L.b.391

Blackwell, William. d. ca. 1569. Letter, signed. To Sir Thomas Cawarden. London. June 21, 1554.

Blackwell says that the Bishop of Norwich (Thomas Thirlby, later Bishop of Ely) wishes to buy a piece of ground in the Blackfriars which adjoins his property, that he is sending a deed drawn up for Cawarden's signature, "together with his saide Originall draughte thereof in paper". Shakespeare later bought the house erected over the great gate leading to Mr. Blackwell's mansion house.

See also:

Reference: Z/407/Lb.395

Title: *Draft or copy of bargain and sale by Sir Thomas Cawarden to Thomas [Thirlby], Bishop of Norwich, of a piece of void ground in the Blackfriars, 39' by 37' 3", abutting on the Bishop's property, on property in the tenure of one Warren and on the 'great tennis play', for £6 13s 4d. William Blackwell and Edward Blackwell are appointed agents and attorneys for Cawarden. [Film Fo 321.110]*

Date: *nd [1554]*

Held by: *Surrey History Centre, not available at The National Archives*

For the documents in a lawsuit requiring the production of evidences concerning a capital message and other property in the Blackfriars brought in Chancery on 26 April 1615 against the testator's grandson, Mathy Bacon, by Sir Thomas Bendish (d.1636), Edward Newport, William Thursby, Robert Dormer and Mary, his wife, William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon, gentleman, and Richard Bacon, see TNA C 2/JasI/B11/9. See also the facsimile at the Shakespeare Documented website at:

<http://www.shakespearedocumented.org/exhibition/document/sir-thomas-bendish-william-shakespeare-et-al-v-matthew-bacon-relating-title>

It appears the lawsuit concerned evidences which related to the entire Blackfriars property once owned by the Blackwells, and not solely to evidences related to the gatehouse purchased by William Shakespeare. And in fact, although William Shakespeare was joined in the lawsuit, the testator may not have held any evidences related to the gatehouse in 1615.

For the Chancery decree dated 22 May 1615 ordering Mathy Bacon to deposit the evidences in his possession with the court, see TNA C 33/127, f. 1074r at:

<http://www.shakespearedocumented.org/exhibition/document/sir-thomas-bendish-william-shakespeare-et-al-v-matthew-bacon-relating-title-0>

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator states in the will below that he was born in Edgware, and leaves bequests to the poor of Hendon, Enfield, Sewardstone and Waltham Holy Cross, where he held property and perhaps had family connections.

The names of the testator's parents are unknown. In the will below he mentions his 'sister Ewer' and her children, his sister's son, John Arland [=Ireland?], his brother-in-law, Edward Warton, his cousin, Henry Spurling, and Henry Spurling's sister, 'now wife of Richard Nicoll of Rydewaye' [=Ridgeway?], his cousin Agnes Spurling, widow, and his cousin, Ursula Patrick.

For the will, dated 4 August 1563 and proved 10 February 1565, of Henry Spurling, yeoman, of Stanmore the Less [=Whitchurch], Middlesex, in which he mentions his wife, Agnes, his father-in-law, 'Mr Warton', his brother-in-law, Richard Nicoll, whom he appoints as executor, and his uncle, William Blackwell, esquire, of London, whom he appoints as overseer, see TNA PROB 11/48/50.

Richard Nicoll appears to have been a member of the Nicholls family of Copt Hall. See:

A P Baggs, Diane K Bolton, Eileen P Scarff and G C Tyack, 'Hendon: Other estates', in *A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 5, Hendon, Kingsbury, Great Stanmore, Little Stanmore, Edmonton Enfield, Monken Hadley, South Mimms, Tottenham*, ed. T F T Baker and R B Pugh (London, 1976), pp. 21-23. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/middx/vol5/pp21-23> [accessed 27 July 2018].

John Fortescue and others granted a house and 43 a. of meadow and pasture in Hendon to the hospital of St. Mary within Cripplegate, London, commonly called Elsyng Spital, (fn. 42) in 1457. (fn. 43) The estate was granted in 1543 to Hugh Losse and Thomas Boucher, (fn. 44) who alienated it in the same year to Thomas Nicholl of Highwood Hill. (fn. 45) Nicholl conveyed it in 1551 to William Copwood and John Snow, (fn. 46) and in 1617 it was held by Thomas Marsh; (fn. 47) the land later formed part of Stoneyfields farm, near the Hale, totalling 110 a., which was held in 1828 by Francis Dollman. (fn. 48)

Kilburn priory held a small amount of unspecified land in Hendon at the Dissolution, worth 2s. and leased to John Brent. (fn. 49) The later history of the estate is unknown. The estate of the Nicholls of Copt Hall originated in lands belonging in 1574 to Richard Nicholl of the Ridgeway, who held a tenement called Goodhews and 20 fields and crofts around Mill Hill, both freehold and copyhold. (fn. 50) In 1585 he surrendered six fields to his son Thomas (fn. 51).

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

First marriage?

Although the evidence is inconclusive, it appears the testator may have married firstly a wife surnamed Warton (in the will below he mentions his brother-in-law, Edward Warton, gentleman), and that Edward Blackwell may have been the son of his first marriage.

The testator leaves bequests to his son, Edward Blackwell, and to Edward's wife and children, but does not state that his current wife, Margaret Campion, is Edward Blackwell's mother (as he does with respect to his sons, Thomas Blackwell, George Blackwell and Richard Blackwell, and his daughter, Margaret Blackwell). Moreover in her own will, dated 14 and 15 May 1586 and proved 4 July 1586, TNA PROB 11/69/398, Margaret Campion Blackwell makes no mention of Edward Blackwell or his children, and bequeaths her lands and goods to her son, William Blackwell.

It is also perhaps significant that in his 1539 will Margaret Campion's father, Thomas Campion, leaves bequests of £5 to Thomas Blackwell and William Blackwell, referring to both as his 'nephews' [=grandsons], but leaves lesser bequests of £2 to Richard Blackwell and Edward Blackwell, whom he does not designate as his nephews. For the will of Thomas Campion, see TNA PROB 11/27/545.

Second marriage

At the time he made his will, the testator's wife was Margaret Campion (d.1586), the daughter of Thomas Campion (d.1539), merchant taylor of London. Thomas Campion's sister, Joan Campion (d.1557), was the mother of Bishop Thomas Thirlby, for whom see the *ODNB* entry:

Thirlby, Thomas (c. 1500–1570), bishop of Westminster and of Ely, was born in Cambridge where his father, John (d. 1539), was town clerk. His mother, Joan (d. 1557), was the daughter of William Campion of London. Thomas was the first of their three children, probably born a few years earlier than 1506 as claimed in his memorial at Lambeth, since by 1521 he had graduated BCL from Trinity Hall, Cambridge. . . .

For the Campion pedigree, see Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex, Part II*, (London: Harleian Society, 1879), Vol. XIV, p. 556 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=8vsUAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA556>

For the will of the testator's brother-in-law, William Campion (d.1576), see TNA PROB 11/58/432.

According to the will below testator had five sons and four daughters:

* **Edward Blackwell.** He was bequeathed £2 in the 1539 will of Thomas Campion, TNA PROB 11/27/545. His wife and children are mentioned in the will below. He may have died in 1572. See TNA C 142/164/79.

* **Thomas Blackwell** (d.1573), esquire, of Michelham Park, Petworth, Sussex. In the will below the testator refers to him as his second son. In the will of Thomas Campion, TNA PROB 11/27/545, he is referred to as ‘my nephew’ [=grandson]. He married Alice Avenon, the widow of John Farrington (d.1569), and the daughter of Sir Alexander Avenon (d.1580?), Lord Mayor of London in 1569-70 and eight times Master of the Ironmongers. See Nicholl, John, comp., *Some Account of the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers*, (London: John Bowyer Nichols and Son, 1851), pp. 544-5 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/cu31924028067449#page/n563>

See also Nicholl, *supra*, 2nd ed., (London, 1866), pp. 518-19 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/someaccountofwo00nich#page/518>

See also the pedigree of Avenon in Howard, Joseph Jackson and George John Armytage, eds., *The Visitation of London in the Year 1568*, (London: Harleian Society, 1869), p. 3 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationoflond00cook#page/2>

For the will of John Farrington (d.1569), citizen and cloth-worker of London, see TNA PROB 11/52/101.

In his will, dated 26 January 1573 and proved 31 January 1573, TNA PROB 11/55/47, Thomas Blackwell states that was heir to his brothers, George and Richard:

. . . all other my messuages, lands, tenements . . . in the counties of Middlesex and Hertford which came and descended unto me as brother and next heir by, from and after the deceases of my two brethren, George Blackwell and Richard Blackwell, gentlemen, deceased

* **William Blackwell.** In the will of Thomas Campion, TNA PROB 11/27/545, he is referred to as ‘my nephew’ [=grandson]. He is mentioned in the 1573 will of his elder brother, Thomas Blackwell, as ‘my well-beloved brother, William Blackwell, gentleman’, and in the will of his mother, Margaret Campion Blackwell, TNA 11/69/398.

* **George Blackwell**, gentleman. In the will below the testator refers to him as his fourth son. Henry Machyn recorded that ‘young Master George Blackwell’ was godfather at the christening of his nephew, George Bacon, in February 1563. See Nichols, John Gough, ed., *The Diary of Henry Machyn*, (London: Camden Society, 1848), pp. 300-1 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=5nZAAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA300>

The (blank) day of February was christened at Saint Andrews in the Wardrobe George Bacon, the son of Master Bacon, squire, sometime Serjeant of the Acatry by Queen Mary's days. His godfathers were young Master George Blackwell and Master Walpole, godmother, Mistress Sens Draper of Camberwell beyond Newington, and after, great cheer. . . .

The same day [=8 March 1563] Mistress Bacon was churched at Saint Andrew's in Wardrobe, the wife of Master Bacon, Serjeant of the Acatry unto Queen Mary, and after she went home unto her father's house, Master Blackwell, and so she and a great company of gentlewomen had a great dinner as could be had as for Lent as for fish.

George Blackwell is referred to as deceased in the 1573 will of his elder brother, Thomas Blackwell.

* **Richard Blackwell**, gentleman. In the will below the testator refers to him as 'my youngest son'. He is mentioned in the will of Thomas Campion, TNA PROB 11/27/545, and is referred to as deceased in the 1573 will of his elder brother, Thomas Blackwell.

* **Anne Blackwell**, who married Thomas Bacon (d.1577), by whom she was the mother of Mathy or Matthew Bacon (d.1639). For the will of Thomas Bacon, see TNA PROB 11/59/473. For the will of the testator's grandson, Mathy or Matthew Bacon (d.1639), see TNA PROB 11/180/622.

* **Saintes or Sence or Sens Blackwell** (buried 24 August 1571). She married Matthew Draper (d.1577) on 13 June 1559. For his will see TNA PROB 11/59/439. For the Draper family see *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica*, Vol. III, (London: John Bowyer Nichols, 1836), pp. 150-1 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/collectaneatopog03londuoft#page/150>

See also the Draper pedigree in Nicholl, John, comp., *Some Account of the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers*, 2nd ed., (London, 1866), p. 520 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/someaccountofwo00nich#page/520>

* **Margaret Blackwell**, unmarried when the testator made his will. In the will of her mother, Margaret Campion Blackwell (d.1586), TNA PROB 11/69/398, she is referred to as 'Margaret Galleye, wife of Richard Gallye, one other of my daughters'.

* **Mary Blackwell**, said to have been the testator's youngest daughter. In 1565 she married William Walpole (8 August 1544 - 1587), son of John Walpole of Harpley (d. 1 November 1557), by whom she had no issue. See Jessopp, Augustus, *One Generation of a Norfolk House*, 2nd ed., (London: Burns and Oates, 1879), pp. 116-29 at:

<http://books.google.com/books?oe=UTF-8&id=fjI2AAAAMAAJ&q=blackwell#v=snippet&q=blackwell&f=false>

For the will of William Walpole, see TNA PROB 11/71/442.

For the testator's family, see also Questier, Michael C., *Catholicism and Community in Early Modern England*, (Cambridge University Press, 2006), pp. 319-320. Questier states that the Blackwells were retainers of the Earls of Northumberland, and that the testator's son, Thomas Blackwell, was the 7th Earl's steward and receiver. Questier mistakenly states that the Archpriest George Blackwell (1547-1613) 'was one of the sons of Margaret Blackwell'. However as indicated in the will of Thomas Blackwell (see above), Margaret Blackwell's son, George Blackwell, was dead by 1573.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

For the Marsh family of Hendon, see Cokayne, George Edward, *Some Notice of Various Families of the Name of Marsh*, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1900), pp. 1-3 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/somenoticeofvari00gecg#page/n9/>

See also the Marsh pedigree in Howard, Joseph Jackson and Joseph Lemuel Chester, eds., *The Visitation of London, Vol. I*, (London: Harleian Society, 1880), Vol. XV, p. 81 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationoflond1517stge#page/80>

TESTATOR'S MANORS

Manor of Campions

'Epping: Introduction and manors', in *A History of the County of Essex: Volume 5*, ed. W R Powell (London, 1966), pp. 114-127. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/essex/vol5/pp114-127> [accessed 27 July 2018]

The manor of EPPING or CAMPIONS lay in the north-west corner of the parish, near the Waltham boundary. The manor house, which was demolished more than a century ago, stood south of Parvills Farm. (fn. 100) The Campion family, from which the manor derived its name, was associated with Epping and Waltham from the 14th century. (fn. 101) Their estate may originally have been connected with Chambers (see below). In 1490 and 1529 John Campion was holding a manor court for Campions. (fn. 102) He was succeeded by Edward Campion, who held his first court in 1539. (fn. 103) In 1544 Edward and his wife Helena conveyed the manor to William Blackwell, (fn. 104) who in 1565 also acquired Chambers. Blackwell still held Campions in 1569. (fn. 105)

Manor of Charlton

Edward Hasted, 'Parishes: Charlton', in *The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent: Volume 1* (Canterbury, 1797), pp. 420-441. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/survey-kent/vol1/pp420-441> [accessed 27 July 2018]

Queen Mary, in her 5th year, granted this manor, with its appurtenances, to Thomas White, Roger Martyn, and William Blackwell, to hold with other premises, in capite, by the service of a fortieth part of one knight's see. (fn. 3) It was granted by queen Elizabeth in her 5th year, to lady Anne Parre.

Manor of Fridinghurst

'Parishes: Chiddingfold', in *A History of the County of Surrey: Volume 3*, ed. H E Malden (London, 1911), pp. 10-16. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/surrey/vol3/pp10-16> [accessed 23 July 2018]

The manor of Ashurst and Fridinghurst came later into the possession of the Forde family. Edmund Forde, who acquired it from Henry Windsor and Eleanor his wife in 1549, (fn. 34) held the first court of which record remains in 1550, and in 1560 Thomas Rythe and Constance his wife and John Hussey further confirmed to Forde. (fn. 35) It passed from Forde to Blackwell. In 1567 Thomas Blackwell held his first court, in 1583 Margaret Blackwell his widow, in 1586 William Blackwell, in 1608 Henry Blackwell. In 1610 Henry and William Blackwell, brothers, sold the manor to John Middleton of Horsham and Thomas Burdett of Abinger for £1,100. (fn. 36)

For Henry Windsor and his wife, Eleanor Burbage, see the will of Sir Anthony Windsor (d. July 1548), TNA PROB 11/32/517.

RM: Will{el}mi Blackwell

In the name of God, Amen. The 7th day of January in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred threescore and 7th, I, William Blackwell of London, gentleman, being in good and perfect health of my body and also of good and safe mind and memory, thanked be Almighty God, do make and ordain this my testament and last will in manner and form following, that is to say:

First and principally I bequeath and recommend my soul unto the infinite mercy of Almighty God, my Creator, Saviour and Redeemer, and to the most Blessed and Immaculate Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Our Lady Saint Mary the Virgin, and to all the holy company of heaven, and my body I bequeath to his natural resting place, the

earth, to be buried where it shall seem to mine executrice hereafter named meet and convenient;

And for my tithes and oblations negligently or otherwise forgotten or withholden, I give and bequeath to the parson of the parish church of Saint Andrews in the ward of Castle Baynard whereof I am a parishioner 3s 4d;

Item, I give to every poor godchild that [+I] shall have living at the day of my death, 12d;

Item, I give to my brother-in-law, Edward Warton, gentleman, a black coat, and to his wife a black gown;

Item, I will that my said executrice shall give and bestow for me 12 black gowns with hoods, that is to say, 6 of them to 6 men, whereof I will my son, Edward Blackwell, my son [=son-in-law] Bacon, my son [=son-in-law] Draper, my son [=son-in-law] Walpole and my brother [=brother-in-law] Campion to be five, if it shall please them to use the same at my burial as mourners, the other 6 to the 6 women hereunder named that shall then likewise mourn for me after the accustomed manner, that is to say, my said son Edward's wife, my daughter Bacon, my daughter Draper, my daughter Walpole, my cousin, Ursula Patrick, and my sister [=sister-in-law] Campion, if they shall be living and be contented so to mourn, and to every of my children and servants that I shall have at the time of my decease that shall not be accounted any of the said 12 mourners I give and bequeath a black gown or a black coat at and by the discretion of my said executrice;

Item, I will that my said executrice at the time of my burial or very shortly after shall distribute and give or cause to be given to the poor people of the places hereafter mentioned five pounds, that is to say, to those that shall resort to the place where I shall depart this present life at the time of my burial or before, 40s by penny dole or otherwise by her discretion, to the prisoners of either of the Counters in London 5s in bread, to the prisoners in Ludgate 5s in bread, and to the prisoners in Newgate 5s in bread, to the poor people of Edgware in the county of Middlesex where I was born, 20s in ready money, to be given to the poor householders there by eight pence apiece or more or less by the discretion of my said executrix, to the poor people of Hendon in the said county of Middlesex, 6s 8d, to the poor people of Enfield in the same county, 6s 8d, and to the poor people of Syverdestone [=Sewardstone?] and Waltham Holy Cross in the county of Essex, 6s 8d;

Item, I give and bequeath to the Right Reverend Father in God and my most singular good Lord, Thomas Thirlby, late Bishop of Ely, for a poor token or remembrance of good heart and will towards his Lordship, one ring of gold of the value of five marks, and to my cousin, Henry Thirlby, son of my cousin Thomas Thirlby, his Lordship's brother, I give and bequeath 40s, and to every other child of my said cousin Thomas I give 10s, and to James Parkyns and Alexander Graunt [=Grant], my said Lord's servants, I give and bequeath 20s, viz., to either of them ten shillings;

Item, I give to John Arland [=Ireland?], my sister's son, twenty shillings;

Item, I give to every of my said son Edward Blackwell's children twenty shillings, and to my sister Ewer [=Eure?] I give twenty shillings, [f. 214v] and to every of her children 20s, to every of the children of my cousin Henry Spurling, deceased, and of his sister, now wife of Richard Nicoll of Rydewaye [=Ridgeway?], 10s, and to every of my said son Bacon's children born of the body of Anne, my daughter, his wife, 20s, and to every of his other children 10s, and to my cousin Agnes Spurling, widow, 10s;

The residue of all my part of my movable goods, chattels and money, the same my whole goods, chattels and money, after my debts paid and mine ordinary funeral charges borne and allowed, divided according to the laudable custom of the said City of London into three equal parts, I wholly give and bequeath in manner and form following, that is to say:

To my wife, one hundred pounds;

To every of my sons, Thomas, William, George and Richard, such portion and so much of my said part as shall make up every of their parts and portions of my said goods one hundred pounds;

And to my daughter, Margaret, I do also give and bequeath of my said part and portion so much as shall make up her part and portion of my said goods [*interlined word illegible*] to her comfort and advancement in marriage, so always that she do use and behave herself honestly and obediently towards her mother and do not marry or contract matrimony with any person without the consent and goodwill of her said mother;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my Company of the Scriveners, 26s 8d;

Item, where my said son, Edward, standeth and is bound to me by his obligation bearing date the 7th day of April in the 5th year [=7 April 1563] of the reign of our said Sovereign Lady the Queen's Majesty that now is in the sum of one hundred and forty pounds for the sure payment of one hundred twenty-seven pounds and ten shillings by ten pounds by year, to be paid at the four usual feasts of payment of the year by even portions, as by the condition of the said obligation more plainly it doth appear, I do clearly remit, release and forgive to him, the said Edward, his executors and administrators, by this my last will and testament the moiety or one-half of all that and as much of the said sum of £127 10s as shall fortune to remain and be due unto me at the day of my death;

And as for and concerning the disposition, ordering and bestowing of such poor lands and tenements as it hath pleased the goodness of God to send me which I have not already or shall not otherwise give, dispose and bestow, I will and bequeath to the above-named Margaret, my wife, my two parcels of land or meadow with their appurtenances commonly called Dooles lying and being in the common field within the parish of Hendon in the county of Middlesex called Sheveshill, to have, hold and enjoy the same to her and her assigns during her natural life;

Item, I give and bequeath to Thomas Blackwell, my second son, after the decease of my said wife, all that my manor, lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances in Epping in the county of Essex called or known by the name of Campions, and also all mine own mansion house with all the meses or tenements thereunto adjoining, with all and singular their appurtenances set, lying or being either within the parish of Saint Andrew in the ward of Castle Baynard in the said City of London or else within any other parish or ward of the same City, to have and to hold the said manor and other the premises with their appurtenances in Epping and London aforesaid immediately after the decease of his said mother to him, the said Thomas Blackwell, his heirs and assigns, forever;

Item, I give and wholly bequeath after the decease of my said wife, to George Blackwell, my fourth son, and to his heirs and assigns forever all that my farmhouse or messuage, with all and singular the lands, tenements and hereditaments thereunto belonging now in the several holdings or occupations of Robert Mershe [=Marsh?] the younger, William Rolf [=Rolfe?] and John Mersh the younger of Hendon in the county of Middlesex, yeomen, or of their assigns, set, lying and being in the same parish of Hendon, and also those two parcels of land or meadow of mine with their appurtenances lying and being in the said parish of Hendon in the common field there called Sheveshill which I before by this my present last will and testament have given and bequeathed to Margaret, my wife, for term of her life, to have and to hold all the same lands, tenements and hereditaments with all and singular their appurtenances immediately after the decease of his said mother to him, the said George Blackwell, and to his heirs and assigns forever;

Item, I give and wholly bequeath to Richard Blackwell, my youngest son, after the decease of my said wife, his mother, all my lands and tenements with their appurtenances set, lying and being within the parish of Hendon aforesaid which now are in the several holdings and occupations of John Gibbes, Robert Mershe th' elder and Robert Rippen, yeomen, or of their assigns, to have and to hold all the same lands and tenements with their appurtenances immediately after the decease of his said mother to him, the said Richard, and his heirs and assigns forever;

And of this my present testament and last will I make and ordain my said well-beloved wife, Margaret, my sole executrice, to whom I wholly give and bequeath all the residue of my goods and chattels, whatsoever they be, not before by this my last will and testament given or bequeathed, not doubting but that she of her good conscience and for the love she beareth towards me will bestow some portion thereof in charitable deeds for the comfort of my soul, my friends' souls, and hers, and all Christian souls;

And of the same my said last will and testament I do make and ordain my said son, Thomas Blackwell, mine overseer, to whom I give and bequeath for and in consideration of such pains as my faithful trust is that he will take in helping forward my said wife for the due and quiet execution of this my last will and testament, five marks;

In witness whereof I have sealed and subscribed these presents with mine own hand the day and year first above-written in the presence of the persons hereunder named.

Matthew Draper, Thomas Wente, Richard Burne, Richard Pyckering, Robert Hartford, Richard Blake.

Probatum fuit h{uius}mo{d}i Testamentu{m} cora{m} Domino Cant{uariensis} Archie{piscop}o apud London xvij die mens{is} Octobris Anno d{omi}ni mill{esi}mo qui{n}gen{tesim}o lxxo Iurament{o} ffrancisci Clerke Notarij p{ubli}ci p{ro}cur{ator}is Margaret{e} Rel{ic}te et ex{ecutricis} in h{uius}mo{d}i testament{o} no{m}i{n}at{e} Cui com{m}issa fuit administrac{i}o om{n}i{um} bonor{um} d{i}c{t}i defunct{i} de bene &c Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{i}

[=The same testament was proved before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury at London on the 17th day of the month of October in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 70th by the oath of Francis Clerke, notary public, proctor of Margaret, relict and executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all the goods of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well, etc.]