

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 22 April 1573 and proved 2 October 1573, of James Bacon (d. 5 June 1573), brother-in-law of Sir Roger Martyn, and uncle of Humphrey Martyn, the addressee of the *Langham Letter* which describes Leicester's entertainment of Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth in the summer of 1575. For the will of Sir Roger Martyn, see TNA PROB 11/56/48.

The testator's brother, Sir Nicholas Bacon, was Lord Burghley's brother-in-law.

For an earlier transcript of the testator's will, see Lea, J. Henry, *The Ancestry of Bartholomew Gosnold: A Collection*, (Boston: David Clapp & Son, 1904), pp. 24-6 at:

<https://archive.org/details/gosnoldbaconance00leaj/page/24>

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the testator's family background, see the Bacon pedigree in Howard, Joseph Jackson and George John Armytage, eds., *The Visitation of London in the Year 1568*, (London: Harleian Society, 1869), Vol. I, p. 9 at:

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=hvd.32044081107856&view=1up&seq=23>

For the Bacon family, see also Cooke, William, 'Materials for a History of Hesselton, Part II', *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and Natural History*, Vol. V, (Bury St Edmunds: Catling & Ranson, 1886), pp. 1-103 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=aJsGAAAQAAJ&pg=PA1>

See also *Miscellaneous Records of Sir Francis Bacon and Allied Families*, at:

<https://archive.org/details/miscellaneousrec00unse/page/n279>

See also *Analytical Index to the Series of Records Known as the Remembrancia*, (London: E.J. Francis & Co., 1878), p. 21 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=0IxnAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA21>

James Bacon, Fishmonger, was elected Alderman of Aldersgate, April 24th, 1567; Sheriff, 1568. He was the third son of Robert Bacon, of Drinkston, Suffolk, and younger brother of Sir Nicholas Bacon, Lord Keeper, the father of Sir Francis Bacon. He was thrice married: his first wife was Mary, daughter of John [sic] Gardner, of Grove Place, in the county of Bucks; his second was Margaret, daughter of William Rawlins, of London, Grocer, widow of Richard Goldston, Alderman and Salter, to whom he was married at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East, August 14th, 1565; his third was Anne, widow of Alderman

Jackman, and daughter of Humphrey Pakington, Esq., second brother of Sir John Pakington, of Hampton Lovett, Worcestershire, the ancestor of Lord Hampton. Alderman Bacon died before arriving at his Mayoralty, on the 5th June, 1573, and was buried at St. Dunstan's-in-the-East. His epitaph is given in Stow, edition 1633, p. 139; see also Murray's 'History of St. Dunstan's-in-the-East,' p. 24; Machyn's 'Diary,' pp. 280 and 389; 'Heralds' Visitation of London,' 1568, p. 9.

See also 'An Electronic Edition of John Strype's A Survey of the Cities of London and Westminster' at:

<https://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~sfreer/scotfrer.html>

Here lyeth buried James Bacon, late of London Alderman and Sheriff, who departed this mortal life the 5th day of June, Anno Dom. 1573. Having Issue by Mary his first Wife, one Son and three Daughters. And by Margaret his second Wife, three Sons and one Daughter. And by Anne his third Wife, no Child, &c.

This Gentleman was third Son of Robert Bacon, late of Drinkston in Suffolk, and younger Brother to Sir Nicholas Bacon, Lord Keeper. He deceased at his House in London, June 1. 1573. His first Wife Mary was Daughter of John [sic] Gardiner of Grove Place, Bucks; and by her had Issue Anne his Daughter, Wife to John Rivet of Brampton in Suffolk Gent. The same James married to his second Wife Margaret, Daughter to William Rawlins of London, Grocer, Widow of Richard Goldston of London, Salter. By whom he had Issue James Bacon, and William, second Son. The said James's third Wife was a Daughter of Humfrey Pakington of London, Gent. Widow of Edmund Jackman, late Alderman.]

See also *The New-England Historical and Genealogical Register*, Vol. XXXVII, (Boston: David Clapp & Son, 1883), p. 191 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=KKAR2MEwKR0C&pg=PA191>

Testator's paternal great-grandparents

The testator was the great-grandson of Edmund Bacon of Drinkstone, Suffolk, and Elizabeth Crofts. See *Miscellaneous Records, supra*.

Testator's paternal grandparents

The testator was the grandson of John Bacon (d.1500) of Drinkstone and Hessett, Suffolk, and his wife, Agnes Cokefield, the daughter of Thomas Cokefield. See *Miscellaneous Records, supra*, and *The New-England Historical and Genealogical Register*, Vol. XXXVII, (Boston: David Clapp & Son, 1883), p. 191 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=KKAR2MEwKR0C&pg=PA191>

For the will of John Bacon (d.1500) in which he mentions his wife, Agnes, and his children, Robert Bacon, John Bacon, Margery (nee Bacon) Bence, and Joan Bacon, as well as 'Joan, daughter of my son, William', see *Miscellaneous Records, supra*, at

<https://archive.org/details/miscellaneousrec00unse/page/n297>

Testator's parents

The testator was the son of Robert Bacon (d.1548), of Hessel, yeoman and sheep-reeve to the abbot of Bury St Edmunds, and Isabel Cage (d. after 1548), the daughter of John Cage, yeoman, of Pakenham, Suffolk. See the will of Robert Bacon, proved 10 December 1548, TNA PROB 11/32/385:

Item, I will that James Bacon, my son, shall pay to his mother, Isabel, my wife, three pounds yearly during her natural life for the yearly farm of the tenement lying in Drinkstone that one William James dwelleth in at the day of making hereof, to be paid to her at Easter and Michaelmas be [=by] even portions.

The terms of Robert Bacon's will focus almost exclusively on Isabel and the testator, suggesting that she may not have been Robert Bacon's only wife, and that perhaps Robert Bacon's only child by her was the testator.

Testator's siblings

The testator is said to have had two brothers and two sisters:

-**Thomas Bacon** (c.1505 - 1573 or later), who married firstly, by dispensation dated 26 February 1536, Jane Mery (d.1563), and secondly Elizabeth Mery. See the History of Parliament entry at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/bacon-thomas-1505-73-or-later>

b. c.1505, 1st s. of Robert Bacon of Drinkstone and Hessel, Suff., and bro. of Nicholas. m. (1) disp. 26 Feb. 1536, Jane (d.1563), da. of one Mery, at least 1s. 1da.; (2) Elizabeth, da. and h. of Thomas Mery of Hatfield, Herts. suc. fa. Aug./Dec. 1548.1

It should be noted that the Mery pedigree shows only one wife for Thomas Bacon, Elizabeth Mery, who is said to have been the daughter of John Mery (d.1544?), Clerk of the Spicery to Henry VIII. See Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Hertfordshire*, (London: Harleian Society, 1886), Vol. XXII, p. 152 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=uFE_AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA152

For the Mery family, see the will of Thomas Mery (d.1495?), TNA PROB 11/10/417, and the will, TNA PROB 11/31/559, of his youngest son, the London grocer, William Mery (d.1547), in which he bequeaths 100 marks to 'my cousin, Jane, wife of Thomas Bacon', and appoints Thomas Bacon as overseer. William Mery's widow, Joan (d.1558), also bequeathed gold rings to Thomas Bacon and his wife. See her will, TNA PROB 11/41/18.

Through his marriages, Thomas Bacon was related to Sir Richard Morison (c.1510-1556), whose mother is said to have been a daughter of Thomas Mery of Hatfield. See the *ODNB* entry for Sir Richard Morison:

Morison, Sir Richard (c. 1510–1556), humanist and diplomat, was the second son of Thomas Morison of Sandon, Hertfordshire, and his wife, a daughter of Thomas Merry of Hatfield, Hertfordshire.

Sir Richard Morison's, wife, Bridget (nee Hussey) Morison Manners Russell, Countess of Bedford, had the care of Oxford's daughters, Bridget Vere (1584-1631) and Susan Vere (1587-1629) after the death of Lord Burghley on 4 August 1598, and as noted above, the testator's brother, Sir Nicholas Bacon, was Lord Burghley's brother-in-law. For the will of Sir Richard Morison, see TNA PROB 11/39/330. For the will of Bridget (nee Hussey) Morison Manners Russell, Countess of Bedford, see TNA PROB 11/97/10.

For a fine in 1567 involving Thomas Bacon, see Hardy, W.J. and W. Page, *A Calendar of the Feet of Fines for London & Middlesex*, (London: Hardy & Page, 1893), Vol. II, p. 144 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=VjYfAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA144>

Thomas Bacon, esquire, and Levinus Bovekyn, otherwise Bufkyn, and John Roper, esquire, and Elizabeth, his wife. The manor of Maylemanes, otherwise Stoke, and lands in the county of Kent; and premises in Shordyche, Popler, Stepney, and in the parish of St. Botolph, without Bishopsgate, London. D.C. Easter Anno 9.

The testator's brother appears to have been the 'Thomas Bacon, citizen and salter of London' who was appointed overseer of the will of Thomas Langton (d.1551?), TNA PROB 11/34/79, and who traded for a time in partnership with the London grocer, Thomas Wolley. See the will, TNA PROB 11/99/135, of Mary (nee Matthew) Wolley Langton Judde Altham, who appears to have been the first wife of Thomas Wolley.

Although Thomas Bacon is briefly mentioned in his father's will, his father does not specifically refer to him as his son, and the bequest of an annuity is atypical for an eldest son and heir:

Item, I give and bequeath to Thomas Bacon twenty marks a year yearly to be taken out of the manor of Ingham in the county of Suffolk according to the covenants of certain

indentures made betwixt Robert Bacon and Nicholas Bacon, his son, as therein more plainly appeareth.

It thus seems likely that Thomas Bacon received his inheritance under indentures and other documents apart from his father's will.

For Thomas Bacon, see also *The English Baronets*, (London: Thomas Wotton, 1727), p. 2 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=fwRbAAAACAAJ&pg=PR22-IA3>

-Sir Nicholas Bacon (1510-1579), Lord Keeper, for whom see the *ODNB* entry:

Bacon, Sir Nicholas (1510–1579), lawyer and administrator, was born on Childermas day (28 December) 1510, the second son and one of the five children of Robert Bacon (d. 1548), yeoman and sheep-reeve to the abbot of Bury St Edmunds, and his wife, Isabel (d. after 1548), daughter of John Cage, yeoman, of Pakenham, Suffolk. He seems most likely to have been born at his parents' home in Drinkstone, Suffolk. Both his brothers, Thomas (d. 1573 or later) and James (d. 1573), became prominent members of London livery companies, the Salters' and the Fishmongers' respectively. His sisters, Anne and Barbara, married within the lesser gentry of Suffolk, where the family had deep roots.

Bacon married Jane Ferneley (d. 1552), daughter of a Suffolk yeoman, on 5 April 1540 and with her had six surviving children, of whom only the second son, Nathaniel Bacon, enjoyed a career of any note; the others were Elizabeth, Sir Nicholas Bacon [see under Bacon, Nathaniel (1546?-1622)], Anne, Edward Bacon [see under Bacon, Nathaniel (1546?-1622)], and a second Elizabeth. Jane's sister Anne married the London merchant and future royal financial agent Thomas Gresham (c.1518–1579), making Bacon and Gresham brothers-in-law.

Nicholas Bacon is referred to as the son of Robert Bacon in the latter's will:

Item, I give to Nicholas Bacon, my son, all the sheep that I have going at the day of my decease upon the farm that he and I have in farm of the mayor & chamberlains of Our Lady Guild in Thetford.

In a grant of arms made to him on 22 February 1568, he is referred to in these terms:

Sir Nicholas Bacon, Knt., is the second son of Robert Bacon, late of of Drinkstone in the county of Suffolk, gentleman, which Robert was son and heir of John Bacon, son and heir of John Bacon, son and heir of Walter Bacon of Drinkstone aforesaid, son and heir of Robert Bacon who lived in the times of Henry IV and King Henry V and was High Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk in the first year of the reign of King Henry IV aforesaid, which Robert Bacon was son and heir of Henry Bacon, son and heir of Adam Bacon, son and heir of John Bacon, knight, second son of Sir Edmund Bacon, knight, and heir to Dame Margery, the wife of Sir Edmund Bacon, knight, daughter and heir of Robert Quapludde,

esquire, which Sir Edmund was son, the second, and heir of William Bacon, who lived in the time of the reign of Edward II, whereupon it was granted to him and his posterity to bear two several coats of arms quarterly, the first for Bacon, gules on a chief silver two mullets sable, the second for Quapludde, Barry of six pieces gold and azure a bend gules.

See Page, Augustine, *A Supplement to The Suffolk Traveller*, (Ipswich: Joshua Page, 1841), p. 712 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=TP8HAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA712>

-Anne Bacon. She is not mentioned in Robert Bacon's will. In some sources, she is said to have married Robert Sharpe of Bury St Edmunds.

-Barbara Bacon. She is not mentioned in Robert Bacon's will. In some sources, she is said to have married Robert Blackman of Bury St Edmunds.

However see also the pedigrees of Bacon of Redgrave in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Suffolk*, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1882), p. 2 at:

<https://archive.org/details/visitationsofsuf00harvuoft/page/2>

and p. 109 at:

<https://archive.org/details/visitationsofsuf00harvuoft/page/108>

In the first of these pedigrees, Robert Bacon's wife is said to have been *Eleanor* Cage, and the marriages of his daughters are reversed, i.e. *Barbara* Bacon is said to have married Robert Sharpe, and *Anne* Bacon is said to have married Robert Blackman.

In the second pedigree, Robert Bacon's wife is said to have been *Isabel*, and the marriages of his daughters are again reversed, i.e. *Barbara* Bacon is said to have married Robert Sharpe, and *Anne* Bacon is said to have married Robert Blackman.

The names in both pedigrees are in italics, however, indicating that they have been supplied by the modern editor.

See also *Miscellaneous Records*, *supra*, at:

<https://archive.org/details/miscellaneousrec00unse/page/n323>

MARRIAGES AND ISSUE

Testator's first marriage

The testator married firstly, on 18 December 1545, Mary Gardiner, the daughter of William Gardiner (d.1541), esquire. See Armytage, George J., ed., *Allegations For Marriage Licences*, (London: Harleian Society, 1886), Vol. XXIV, p. 6 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/allegationsforma00cant#page/6/mode/2up>

Mary Gardiner was the granddaughter of Roger Grove (d.1508), grocer and alderman of London, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/16/251. Roger Grove had three daughters and coheirs: Joan Grove, who married William Fermor (d.1552), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/35/365; Joyce Grove, who married Robert Tyrrell (d. 16 October 1555); and Elizabeth Grove, who married, as his first wife, William Gardiner (d.1541). See the will of Sir Robert Tyrrell (d.1508), TNA PROB 11/15/683, and:

'Parishes: Chalfont St. Giles', in *A History of the County of Buckingham: Volume 3*, ed. William Page (London, 1925), pp. 184-193. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/bucks/vol3/pp184-193> [accessed 17 November 2019].

In 1490 it was held by Roger Grove, grocer and alderman of London, and Joan his wife. (fn. 118) Roger died in 1508, leaving three daughters and co-heirs, Joan the wife of William Fermour, Joyce afterwards the wife of Robert Tyrell, and Elizabeth, who married William Gardiner. (fn. 119) The manor appears to have been divided between Joyce and Elizabeth, and William Gardiner obtained the Tyrells' moiety in 1518. (fn. 120) Elizabeth must have predeceased her husband, who at his death in 1541 left a widow Cecily and four daughters and four sons, the eldest of whom, William, inherited Grove Place. (fn. 121) On his death in 1558 . . .

For fines dated 25 June 1508 and 12 November 1508 between Roger Grove, citizen and alderman of London, and Joan, his wife, and William Fermor and Joan, his wife, concerning the manor of Grove, see TNA CP 25/1/22/129, number 113 and TNA CP 25/1/22/129, number 116 at:

http://www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk/fines/abstracts/CP_25_1_22_129.shtml

See also Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies D-RA/1/135, a deed of bargain and sale dated 26 April 1517 concerning the manor of Grove Place between Robert Tyrrell, esquire, and Joyce, his wife, one of the daughters of Roger Grove, late citizen and alderman of London, and Jane, his wife, of the one party, and William Gardiner, citizen and grocer of London, on the other party.

As noted above, the testator's first wife, Mary Gardiner, was the daughter of William Gardiner (d.1541), esquire. In his will, TNA PROB 11/29/83, William Gardiner refers to his wife, Cecily (nee Lynne), as the mother of his children. It thus appears that William Gardiner had no issue by his first wife, Elizabeth Grove, and that his four sons, William, John, Edmund and Edward, and four daughters, Mary, Christian, Alice and Elizabeth, were the children of his second wife, Cecily Lynne, the third daughter of William Lynne (d.1511) of Southwick, Northamptonshire, and Margaret Lexham (living 1537?). See the

will of William Lynne, TNA PROB 11/17/40, and the Lynne pedigree in Marshall, George, W., ed., *The Genealogist*, (London: Golding and Lawrence, 1877), Vol. I, pp. 345 at:

<https://archive.org/details/genealogist01mars/page/n723/mode/2up>

See also the will, TNA PROB 11/44/393, of Mary Gardiner's brother, William Gardiner (1522-1558), in which he appoints as executors his wife, Anne (nee Newdigate); his brother, John Gardiner, citizen and grocer of London; his brother-in-law, John Newdigate, esquire; his brother-in-law, Master William Godolphin; and his brother-in-law, James Bacon, citizen and fishmonger of London, and as overseer, his cousin, Richard Crafford, esquire. See also the History of Parliament entry for William Gardiner (1522-1558) at:

<http://www.histparl.ac.uk/volume/1509-1558/member/gardiner-william-1522-58>

'Mary, wife of James Bacon', was bequeathed 'one silver pot' in the will, TNA PROB 11/31/559, *supra*, of William Mery (d.1547), likely the William Mery, grocer, who was appointed overseer in the will of William Gardiner (d.1541).

Mary Gardiner was also a legatee in the will of Thomas Langton (d.1551?), TNA PROB 11/34/79:

Item, I give to the wife of James Bacon, fishmonger, forty shillings to make her a ring of gold.

'John Gardiner th' elder' and 'John Gardiner the younger' mentioned in the will below appear to have been relatives of the testator's first wife.

By Mary Gardiner, the testator is said to have had a son and two daughters who died young, as well as a daughter who survived him:

* **Anne Bacon** (d. 1616, aged 77), who married John Revett, gentleman, of Brandeston, Suffolk. See the History of Parliament entry for their eldest son, Nicholas Revett (1573-1643), at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/rivett-nicholas-1573-1643>

According to Murray, quoting from Machyn's *Diary*, the testator had a daughter, Thomasine, by his first marriage. See Murray, Thomas Boyles, *Chronicles of a City Church*, (London: Smith, Elder, and Col., 1859), p. 23 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ZNkHAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA23>

1562. *The 20th day of April was married in the parish of St. Dunstan's in the East, Master Bacon's daughter, the Salter, and brother unto my Lord Keeper of the Seal of England; and there was a great wedding; and after the marriage done, home to dinner. For there dined my Lord Keeper, and most of the Council, and many ladies, and many of the Queen's maids, gorgeously appalled; and great cheer; and Master Valentine Browne did marry her, the auditor of Berwick. There was as great cheer as has been seen in these days.*

A.D. 1562. Married, Aprill the 20, Valentyne Browne and Thomasin Bacon.

It appears Murray is in error. James Bacon was a member of the Company of Fishmongers. His brother, Thomas Bacon (see above), was a member of the Company of Salters, and it thus appears that it was Thomas Bacon's daughter, Thomasine, who married Sir Valentine Browne.

See Nichols, John Gough, ed., *The Diary of Henry Machyn*, (London: J.B. Nichols and Son, 1848), pp. 280, 389 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=_CxTAAAcAAJ&pg=PA280

For Sir Valentine Browne (d.1589) and his wife, mentioned in the will below, see also the History of Parliament entry which states, also apparently in error, that his second wife, Thomasine, was the daughter of Robert Bacon:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/browne-sir-valentine-1589>

s. of Sir Valentine Browne of Croft. m. (1) Alice or Elizabeth, da. of Robert Alexander of London, 1s.; (2) Thomasine, da. of Robert Bacon, 2s. 1da. suc. fa. 8 Feb. 1568.2 Kntd. 1570.

Testator's second marriage

According to the *Remembrancia, supra*, and Murray, *supra*, p. 24, the testator married, on 14 August 1565 at St Dunstan's in the East, Margaret Rawlins, daughter of the London grocer, William Rawlins, and widow of Richard Goldstone (d.1565) of London. By Richard Goldstone (d.1565), Margaret Rawlins had a son, Richard Goldstone, and four daughters, Mary, Ursula, Martha and Margaret Goldstone. For the will, dated 22 February 1565 and proved 18 July 1565, of Richard Goldstone in which the testator's brother, Thomas Bacon, is mentioned, and in which the testator is appointed overseer, see TNA PROB 11/75/245.

'My sister Amye Hill, widow', mentioned in the will below appears to have been the sister of the testator's second wife, Margaret Rawlins. See Garrett, Christina Hallowell, *The Marian Exiles*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1938), p. 268 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=mNZxec42AhEC&pg=PA268>

342. *Rawlins (Raulinges), William: Merchant. Of London. Wife. d. 1571(?)*.
Brother of Edward Rawlins, and perhaps the William Rawlins, grocer, whose daughter, Amye, married Rafe Hill, a London haberdasher (Harl. Soc. I, 29). According to the will, dated 11 January 1571, of a William Rawlins, citizen and gentleman of London, who may be the same man, the family came originally from Hereford, a fact which corresponds with private information in regard to the Rawlins family given by E.M.S. Parker in 1904, to Col. Rawlins of Great Houghton Hall, Northampton. The same informant adds . . .

William Rawlins arrived in Frankfort with his brother and like him is found among the merchants in the Standesliste

For William Rawlins' brother, Edward *alias* Erkenwald Rawlins (d. 29 April 1559), see Garrett, *supra*, p. 268.

For the marriage of the testator's sister-in-law, Amye Rawlins, and the London haberdasher, Ralph Hill, see the will, proved 26 November 1571, of Ralph Hill, TNA PROB 11/53/532, and *The Visitation of London, supra*, p. 29 at:

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=hvd.32044081107856&view=1up&seq=43>

'My brother Williamson and his wife' mentioned in the will below appear to have been John Williamson and his wife, Anne Goldstone, the sister of Margaret Rawlins's first husband, Richard Goldstone (d.1565). See the will of Richard Goldstone, TNA PROB. 11/48.

Michael Goldstone mentioned in the will below appears to have been the Michael Goldstone mentioned in the will of Richard Goldstone (d.1565).

By his second wife, Margaret (nee Rawlins) Goldstone, the testator had a son and daughter who died young, and two other sons:

* **Sir James Bacon** (d. 17 January 1618), of Friston Hall, Suffolk.

* **William Bacon**.

Testator's third marriage

The testator married thirdly, on 1 September 1571, Anne Pakington (d.1578), the daughter of Humphrey Pakington, widow successively of Edmund Style and Edward Jackman, by whom he had no issue. For the will of Edmund Style, see TNA PROB 11/47/122. For the will of Edward Jackman, see TNA PROB 11/52/55.

As noted above, the testator's sister-in-law, Lettice Pakington (d. 23 December 1552), married Sir Roger Martyn (d.1573), by whom she was the mother of Humphrey Martyn, addressee of the *Langham Letter*. See the will of Sir Roger Martyn, TNA PROB 11/56/48, and Hughes Clarke, A. W., ed., *The Registers of St Mary Magdalen Milk Street 1558-1666 and St Michael Bassishaw London 1538-1625*, Part I, (London: Harleian Society, 1942), Vol. LXXII, p. 137. See also the Oliph pedigree in *The Visitation of London, supra*, p. 2 at:

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=hvd.32044081107856&view=1up&seq=16>

Several other persons mentioned in the will below were the testator's relations by his third marriage, including members of the Martyn, Pakington, Duckett, Paston, Lambert, Colles, Hollyman, Jackman and Burbage families. For further details, see the will of the testator's father-in-law, Humphrey Pakington (d.1556), TNA PROB 11/38/212.

The testator is said to have died 5 June 1573. Shortly thereafter, his widow, Anne Pakington Style Jackman Bacon, married fourthly, Sir Edward Baynton (c.1520-1593), for whom see his will, TNA PROB 11/82/478, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/baynton-edward-1520-93>

The verses on Sir Edward Baynton's tomb in the Church of St Nicholas, Bromham, read:

*Here lieth Edward Bayntun, Knight, within this marble clad,
By Agnes Ryce, his first trew wyfe, that thyrtyne children had.
Where of she left alyve withe him at her departure thre,
Henry, Anne and Elizabeth, whose pictures now here see.
The XIXth days of Auguste she deceased, of Christ ye year, 1574.
These little figurs standing bie present the nomber here.
Then married to Anne Pakington, his second wyfe she was,
For whose remembrance here in tombe these lynes he left in brasse. Anno Dni 1578*

TESTATOR'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE BRETON FAMILY

The testator states in the will that he had recently purchased Dice Key from Richard Breton, brother of the poet, Nicholas Breton (1554/5-c.1626). The will of their father, William Breton (d.1559), states that he had purchased Dice Key from the testator's brother, Thomas Bacon. In his will, William Breton (d.1559), bequeathed a life estate in Dice Key to his wife Elizabeth, the daughter of John Bacon (d.1559), gentleman, of Bury St Edmonds, who appears to have been a first cousin of the testator. For the will of John Bacon (d.1559), see TNA PROB 11/42B/186. Within a few months of William Breton's death on 12 January 1559, his widow remarried, firstly to Edward Boyes of Nonnington, Kent, and secondly, to the poet George Gascoigne (1534/5?-1577), even though she was still legally Boyes' wife, which precipitated a public fray in Redcross Street noted by

Machyn in his *Diary*. Eventually Elizabeth was divorced from Boyes, and remarried Gascoigne, probably in late 1566. The task of looking after the interests of the Breton children then fell to the executors of John Bacon's will, his brother and son (both named George), and Thomas Andrews. Following an inquisition post mortem in 1567, wardship of Richard Breton was granted in 1569 to George Gascoigne. Gascoigne died on 7 October 1577. Elizabeth Gascoigne survived him for about eight years; her son, Richard Breton, received letters of administration of her estate in 1585. See the *ODNB* entries for Nicholas Breton and George Gascoigne.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

For Sir William Webbe (d. 4 July 1599), Lord Mayor of London, see his will, proved 6 July 1585, TNA PROB 11/68/446, and *Remembrancia, supra*, pp. 30-1 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=cO8HAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA30>

For William Sebright, whose first wife was a member of the Goldstone family, see *Remembrancia, supra*, p. 31 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=cO8HAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA31>

For John Broxholme of the Inner Temple, who married Elizabeth Rawlins, the daughter of William Rawlins, and was thus related to the testator through his first wife, see Maddison, A.R., *Lincolnshire Pedigrees*, (London: Harleian Society, 1902), Vol. L, p. 193 at:

<https://archive.org/details/lincolnshirepedi01madd/page/n417>

For the London alderman, John Olyff, esquire, see the Oliph pedigree in *The Visitation of London, supra*, p. 8 at:

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=hvd.32044081107856&view=1up&seq=22>

The testator leaves bequests to three members of the Golding family of Hornchurch, Essex:

[T]he Goodman Golding of Hornchurch in Essex, a black coat, and his wife a cassock.

Item, I bequeath unto the Goodman Golding of Hornchurch aforesaid and to his wife forty shillings apiece, and to Mary, their maiden, ten shillings.

For George Lording, see his will, proved 8 August 1578, TNA PROB 11/60/420, and the WikiTree entry at:

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Lording-15>

LM: T{estamentum} Iacobi Bacon alderman{i}(?) Ciuit{atis} London

In the name of God, Amen. The 22nd day of April in the year of Our Lord God 1573 and in the fifteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., I, James Bacon, citizen & alderman and fishmonger of London, sick in body but yet of perfect mind and remembrance, thanks be therefore to Almighty God, make, ordain and declare this my present testament containing herein my last will in manner and form following, that is to say:

First and principally I bequeath and recommend my soul into the hands of Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, three persons and one very true God, in whom I do unfeignedly believe, trusting through the merits, death and passion of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, that all my sins be forgiven me, and as for my body, I will that it shall be buried in Christian burial decently at the discretion of mine executors and overseers hereafter named;

And whereas of late I purchased of Richard Breton all that key called or known by the name of Dice Key within the parish of St Dunstan in the East of London for the sum of nine hundred pounds, whereof there is four hundred and fifty pounds already paid unto the said Richard, and four hundred and fifty pounds residue remaineth to be paid after the decease of Elizabeth Gascoigne, mother of the said Richard Breton, and to her during her natural life there is to be paid yearly fifty pounds, towards the payment of the which fifty pounds the said Richard standeth bound to pay yearly twenty and five pounds, my very mind and will is that within as convenient time as may be after my decease all my goods, chattels, plate, jewels, ready money and debts shall be indifferently valued and appraised, and out of the whole sum I will that there shall be the sum of four hundred and fifty pounds deducted and abated, the which sum of £450 I will that it shall remain in the hands of my well-beloved wife, Anne, she putting in bond with sufficient sureties unto mine heir within two months after my decease for the discharge of my said heir against the said Richard Breton for the payment of the said sum of four hundred fifty pounds after the decease of the said Elizabeth Gascoigne according to my covenant with him made in that behalf as by learned counsel shall be devised;

Provided always and my very will and mind is that if the said Anne, my wife, shall fortune to decease out of this present life before the said sum of four hundred fifty pounds shall be due and paid unto the said Richard Breton, that then within two months next after her decease the same £450 shall be delivered over into the hands of my friend, William Webbe, citizen and salter of London, he putting in bond with sufficient sureties unto mine heir for his discharge against the said Richard Breton for the payment of the £450 as by learned counsel shall be devised;

And I will that the said £450 being defalked and abated as aforesaid, then I will that all the residue of my said goods, chattels, plate, jewels, ready money and debts shall be divided into three equal parts or portions according to the laudable custom of the City of London, the first part whereof I give, leave and appoint unto my said well-beloved wife, Anne, according to the said custom;

The second part I give, leave and appoint unto my two sons, James Bacon and William Bacon;

And the third part or portion I reserve unto myself and to mine executors for the performance of this my present testament and payment of the legacies herein contained, and out of the same third part by me reserved, I give and bequeath these several legacies hereafter ensuing, viz.:

First, unto fifty poor men, whereof twenty to be of my Company of Fishmongers, and the other 30 to be at the discretion of mine executors and overseers, and to every one of them one gown of such cloth as shall seem good unto mine executors & overseers;

Also I give and bequeath unto every of these several persons hereafter particularly named black gowns at such rates and prices as shall be thought meet for them after the discretion of mine executors and overseers, that is to say: first, Thomas Bacon, my brother, & his wife; Sir Lionel Duckett, knight, Lord Mayor, and the Lady, his wife; the Lady Barbara Champion, widow; the sword-bearer, Sir John White, and the Lady, his wife; Sir Christopher Draper and the Lady, his wife; Sir Roger Martyn and the Lady, his wife; Master Recorder and his wife; Mr Alderman Langley; Mr Alderman Bonde and Mr Alderman Olyff and their wives; my brother [=brother-in-law] Paston and his wife; my brother [=brother-in-law] John Lambert and his wife, my brother [=brother-in-law] Colles and his wife; Robert Blackman; my sister [=sister-in-law] Hollyman; my brother [=brother-in-law] William Pakington and his wife; Mr John Jackman, son of Edward Jackman; my brother [=brother-in-law] Edward Pakington; Robert Bacon; the foresaid William Webbe and his wife; my sister Amye Hill, widow; my brother Williamson and his wife; Michael Goldstone and his wife; my daughter Tyrrell; and [f. 211r] to my household servants gowns, coats and cassocks at the discretion of mine executors and overseers; Robert Goldstone and his wife; Oliver Goldstone and his wife, if he have any at the time of my decease; Helen Flowerdale, widow; my son [=son-in-law] Revett and his wife; Thomas Bankes and his wife; Thomas Sharpe; my cousin Cockes in Lombard Street and his wife; Mr John Cooper and his wife; my neighbour Pyrowe Coltie; George Lording, clerk of the Company of Fishmongers; the deputies of my ward which shall be at the time of my decease, and the beadle of my ward; the Goodman Golding of Hornchurch in Essex, a black coat, and his wife a cassock; Humphrey Bawdrick, a black gown, and his wife a cassock; William Ashebold, Master of Art, and Thomas Cattell, curate of St Dunstan's in the East of London;

Also I give and bequeath unto every of these several persons hereafter named these several sums hereafter particularly mentioned, to make them rings for remembrance of me, that is to say: to my Lord Keeper and to my Lady, his wife, £5 between them; my

cousin, Nicholas Bacon, my Lord's eldest son, and to his wife, four pounds; my cousin Woodhouse and his wife, four pounds; to my cousin Windam [=Wyndham] and his wife, £4; to my cousin, Nathaniel Bacon, and his wife, four pounds; my cousin, Edward Bacon, 40s; my cousin Anthony Bacon, forty shillings; my cousin Francis Bacon, forty shillings; my said son [=son-in-law] Revett and his wife, five pounds; my said brother, Thomas Bacon, and his wife, five pounds; my cousin Robert Bacon, 40s; my cousin Thomas Banckes and his wife, four pounds; my cousin Robert Blackman, 40s; my cousin Robert Browning and his wife, four pounds; my cousin Thomas Sharpe, 40s; Bartholomew Kemp and his wife, four pounds; the said Sir Lionel Duckett, knight, Lord Mayor, and the Lady, his wife, £5; the said Sir John White and the Lady, his wife, £4; the said Sir Christopher Draper and the Lady his wife, £4; the said Sir Roger Martyn and the Lady his wife, £4; the said Mr Alderman Langley and his wife, £4; the said Mr Alderman Bonde and his wife, £4; the said Mr Alderman Olyff and his wife, £4; my said brother [=brother-in-law] Paston and his wife, £4; my said brother [=brother-in-law] John Lambert and his wife, £4; my brother [=brother-in-law] Colles and his wife, four pounds; my sister [=sister-in-law] Hollyman, 40s; my brother [=brother-in-law] William Pakington and his wife, £4; the said Nicholas Parkinson and his wife, £4; my brother [=brother-in-law] Edward Pakington, 40s; the said William Webbe and his wife, £4; my said sister Amye Hill, widow, 40s; my said brother Williamson and his wife, £4; the said Michael Goldstone and his wife, four pounds; my said daughter Tyrrell, 40s, and her sisters, Margaret and Martha, to either of them 40s, and to their brother, Richard Goldstone, the ring which was his father's with a cornelian therein; Mr John Broxholme, 40s; the said Mr Cooper and his wife, £4; the said Helen Flowerdale, forty shillings in money;

And I do likewise give and bequeath unto these several persons hereafter named these several sums hereafter particularly mentioned, to make them like rings for a remembrance of me, viz.: Sir Valentine Browne and his wife, four pounds; my cousin Crafford and his wife, £4; Mr Lilgrave and his wife, £4; John Gardiner th' elder, 40s; John Gardiner the younger and his wife, £4; to my brother [=brother-in-law] John Pakington th' elder, 40s, and to his wife, 40s; Margery Burbridge [=Burbage], 40s; Mr Edmund Burton and his wife, four pounds; John Dudley and his wife, four pounds; my cousin Owen and his wife, four pounds; Mr William Sebright, 40s; William Megges and his wife, four pounds; John Jackman and his wife, four pounds; Francis Bowyer and his wife, four pounds, and John Nayler's wife, 40s; Richard Weekes of Battell, 40s; Bartholomew Jeffrey, 40s; Clement Hicins(?), 40s; David Willard, 40s; Robert Davis, 40s; Thomas May(?), 40s and Henry Davis, 40s;

Item, I do give and bequeath unto St Thomas' Hospital in Southwark, fifty pounds; to Christ's Hospital, twenty pounds; to St Bartholomew's Hospital in Smithfield, £20; and to Bridewell ten pounds, amounting in all unto the sum of one hundred pounds, the which I will shall be paid within one year after my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the four prisons of Ludgate, Newgate and the two Counters in London five pounds apiece, sum, £20, and to the three prisons in Southwark, viz., the Queen's Bench, the Marshalsea and the White Lion, three pounds apiece, and to the Counter there 20s, sum, £10; and to Bedlam [=Bethlehem], five pounds;

Item, I will that within fifteen months (or sooner, if it may be) next after my decease my executors shall freely give and deliver unto the hands of the Wardens of the Commonalty of the Mystery of Fishmongers of London the sum of one hundred pounds to this intent and purpose, so that the same Wardens immediately after the receipt thereof shall deliver and lend out the same hundred pounds in free loan unto two honest young men of the same Company, not being in the livery, that is, to either of them fifty pounds apiece by them to be had in occupying during the space of two years, they putting in sufficient sureties, the which sureties I will shall not be free of the same Company of the Fishmongers, which shall be bound with them for the repayment of the same £100 at the end of the same two years, and so to be put then unto the hands of two other honest young men of the same Company and out of the livery thereof for other two years, and so forth from two years to [f. 211v] two years by the grace of God during the world;

Provided always and my mind and will is that those two young men which shall have the use and occupying of the said sum of £100 shall yearly buy and provide between them two loads of coals called cart coals, accounting 30 sacks to the load, and shall yearly from time to time as the Wardens shall appoint deliver the same two loads of coals, that is, one load between the first day of November and the twenty day of December, and the other load between the first day of January and the second day of February, to the end that the same two loads of coals may be distributed amongst the poorest of the said Company according to the discretion of the Wardens of the same Company for the time being;

Provided also and my mind & will is that if any of those which have been my servants at any time before my decease, and not being in the livery as is aforesaid, shall require to have the use and occupying of the said hundred pounds, then they to have the preferment thereof before any other, putting in sureties as is aforesaid, and providing and delivering the said two loads of cart coal in manner and form before declared;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the Wardens of the said Commonalty of the Mystery of Fishmongers of London £13 6s 8d for a dinner for them and the whole livery, at their discretions to be kept;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Robert Bacon, son of my brother, Thomas Bacon, one hundred pounds, whereof I will that such debt as he oweth me shall be accounted as part and parcel of the same hundred pounds, and I do give it unto him for this consideration, that he shall be good unto his sister, Jane, and I will that the residue of the said hundred pounds unto him by me bequeathed besides the debt which he oweth me shall be paid unto him within one year next after my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my son [=son-in-law] Revett and his wife threescore six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence, to be paid unto them within two years next after my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my said friend, William Webbe, one hundred pounds;

Item, I bequeath to Thomas Sharpe £30, and to John, I forgive all such debt as he oweth to me, and I bequeath unto him thirty pounds more;

Item, I bequeath unto the two children of the said William Webbe, that is to wit, Margaret and Christopher, to either of them five and twenty pounds apiece, to be paid unto either of them at their several lawful ages or marriage;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the said Anne, my well-beloved wife, two hundred pounds, and all her jewels and her chamber according to the custom of the City of London, over and above her said third part;

Item, I give and bequeath towards the reparations of the parish church St Peter the Poor whereas I am a parishioner, three pounds six shillings and eight pence, and to the poor of the same parish I bequeath £4, to be paid and distributed in manner and form following, that is to say, on the day of my burial, forty shillings, and within one year then next after the other, forty shillings;

Item, I forgive unto the beadle of my ward named Richard Spurling all such debt as he oweth unto me;

Item, I give and bequeath unto and amongst the poor people dwelling in the parish of Hornchurch in the county of Essex £3 6s 8d, to be distributed unto them according to the discretion of mine executors;

Item, I bequeath unto Henry Amcotts 40s, and to John Davies six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence, and to Thomas Emson [=Empson?] three pounds, and to Michael Collett five pounds, and to Edward, my boy in the kitchen, 20s, and to every one of my maidens servant which shall be dwelling with me at the time of my decease, 40s apiece;

Item, I give and bequeath unto and amongst the four children of Richard Goldstone one hundred pounds, viz., to Jane Tyrrell, twenty and five pounds, to be paid unto her within such convenient time as mine executors shall think it meet and necessary, and to Margaret, Martha and Richard, to every of them twenty and five pounds apiece, to be paid unto them and every of them at their several lawful ages or marriages;

Item, I give and bequeath unto and amongst the poor people dwelling about the gate of my house where I dwell twenty shillings, to be distributed on the day of my burial at the discretion of mine executors;

Item, I give and bequeath unto and amongst the poor people dwelling in the parish of St Dunstan in the East forty shillings, to be distributed amongst them at the discretion of mine executors;

Item, I give & bequeath unto and amongst the learned preachers of God's Holy Word £10, to be paid for twenty sermons to be made, part in the said parish church of St Peter the Poor, and part in the said parish church of St Dunstan in the East;

Item, I bequeath unto the Goodman Golding of Hornchurch aforesaid and to his wife forty shillings apiece, and to Mary, their maiden, ten shillings;

Item, I bequeath unto Robert Hollyman five pounds, to be paid unto him at his lawful age;

Item, I bequeath unto my cousin Cockes his wife ten pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my said sister, Amye Hill, ten pounds;

And to Robert Blackman, ten pounds;

Item, I will that mine executors, with the advice of mine overseers, [f. 212r] or of two of them, shall give and distribute forty pounds unto and amongst my poor kinfolks which I do not now remember and unto whom in this my present testament I have bequeath no legacy;

The residue of my third part and portion above by me reserved after that my funerals be finished and this my present testament in all things performed, I give and bequeath the same residue unto my said sons, James and William, equally to be divided between them, and either of them to be the other's heir;

And I make, name and ordain my said well-beloved wife, Anne, and my said son, James, executors of this my present testament and last will, and I bequeath unto either of them ten pounds apiece for their travails in that behalf;

And I constitute and appoint my said son [=son-in-law] Revett and my said brother Cole [=Colles?] and the foresaid William Webbe to be supervisors of this my testament, and to every of them for their pains I give and bequeath five pounds apiece;

In witness whereof hereunto I have set my seal, these being witnesses.

Item, I bequeath unto Henry Jaye £3 6s 8d.

By me, James Bacon

Lect^{um} subscript^{um} sigillat^{um} et pro testa^{men}to suo declarat^{um} p^{er} dⁱc^{tu}m testatorem quinto die maij inter horas tertiam et quartam post meridiem eiusd^{em} diei Annis predⁱc^tis in p^{rese}ntia n^{ost}r^um quor^{um} no^miⁿa subscribuntur By me, William Webbe. By me William Ashebolde. By me, Thomas Cattell. P^{rese}te etiam me, Georgio Lordinge

[=Read, subscribed, sealed and for his testament declared by the said testator on the fifth day of May between the third and fourth hours after noon of the same day in the years aforesaid in the presence of us whose names are subscribed.]

This is the last will and devise of me, the said James Bacon, touching all those my lands, tenements and hereditaments which I have, as well within the City of London as elsewhere within the realm of England:

First, I will that all that my farm and all the lands thereunto belonging in Hornchurch in the county of Essex now in the tenure of Edmund James alias Pymier(?), shall be and remain unto my son William and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and if he die without heirs, then to remain unto my son James and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue, then to remain to my daughter Revett and to her heirs forever;

And as touching all that my tenement with th' appurtenances called the Sign of the Boar's Head in Thames Street in the parish of St Marie at Hill in London in the tenures & occupations of William Pennington, George Jackson, and the Lady Barbara Champion, and also all that tenement with the appurtenances called the Sign of the Neat's Foot in the parish of St Dunstan in the East of London now in the tenure and occupation of George Querneby, I will, give, devise and bequeath both the said two tenements with all and singular their appurtenances, rents, reversions & profits unto my said son James and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and if he die without heirs then I will that the same two tenements with their appurtenances, rents, reversions and profits shall be and remain unto my said son William and his heirs, and for default of such issue then the same two tenements with the appurtenances to remain unto my said daughter Revett and to her heirs forever;

Also I will, give, devise and bequeath unto my said son James and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten all that my key called Dice Key with all and singular th' appurtenances, rents, reversions and profits, which key is set and being in Thames Street in the said parish of St Dunstan in the East of London and is in the several tenures & occupations of Lawrence Mellowe, William Yonge, Walter Dypmiackes, stranger, and (blank) Thurstan, widow, and of the above-named William Webbe, and if my said son, James, die without heirs of his body lawfully begotten, then I will that the said key called Dice Key with all and singular th' appurtenances, rents, reversions and profits shall be and remain unto my said son William and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for lack of such issue the remainder of the same key with th' appurtenances to be and remain unto my said daughter Revett and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten forever;

In witness whereof unto this my present last will and testament I have also set my seal, these being witnesses. By me, James Bacon.

Lect{um} subscript{um} sigillat{um} et pro vero testame{n}to et vltima voluntate sua declarat{um} et deliberat{um} p{er} d{i}c{tu}m testatorem quinto die maij inter horas

tertiam et quartam post meridiem eiusdem diei D{ic}to Anno D{omi}ni 1573 et d{ic}to anno decimo quinto Regine Elizabethę in p{rese}ntia n{ost}r{u}m quor{um} no{m}i{n}a subscribuntur By me, William Webbe. By me, William Asheboolde. By me, Thomas Cattell. P{rese}nte etiam me Georgio Lordinge

[=Read, subscribed, sealed and for his true testament and last will declared and delivered by the said testator on the fifth day of May between the third and fourth hours after noon of the same day in the said year of the Lord 1573 and in the said fifteenth year of Queen Elizabeth in the presence of us whose names are subscribed.]

A codicil annexed unto the testament and last will of James Bacon, citizen and alderman & fishmonger of London the 5th day of May Anno Domini 1573 Anno Decimo quinto Regine Elizabeth{e}

I, the said James Bacon, well weighing and considering that the key called Dice Key which I purchased of late of Richard Breton, gentleman, whereof [f. 212v] mention is made in this my present testament, and the houses and edifices upon the same key are somewhat ruinous and do lack reparations, I will therefore and appoint by this my present writing that mine executors with the advice of mine overseers or the more part of them which are named in my said testament within such convenient time as they shall think good after my decease shall bestow and employ upon the reparations of the same key and houses and edifices thereunto appertaining whereas they, my said executrix and overseers or the more part of them shall think it meet and necessary, the sum of two hundred marks;

Also I, the said James Bacon, will that from and sithence the last account which before the writing of this present codicil until the day of my decease touching the co-partnership & joint occupying used and exercised between me and the said William Webbe, salter, all manner of gain and profit which from the said account until my decease hath come and shall grow by reason of the same co-partnership (except only such weekly payment as between the said William Webbe & me is concluded and agreed upon) shall be and remain to the proper use and behoof of the same William Webbe without any account or other thing to be yelden or done therefore other than of the principal stock;

And furthermore I, the said James Bacon, will and my very mind and meaning is that if any ambiguity, doubt, scruple or question shall fortune to arise, grow or be moved by any manner of person or persons for or concerning any legacy, article, bequest, sentence, clause or word contained in my testament hereunto annexed or in this present codicil, then the exposition, declaration and opening of every such ambiguity, doubt, scruple or question shall be expounded, declared, opened and made plain by mine overseers named in my testament or the more part of them without any further suit of law to be commenced or attempted by any person or persons;

And in witness hereof I have also hereunto put my hand and seal, these being witnesses;

And I forgive unto Thomas Sharpe and John Sharpe all such debt as they owe unto me by reason of the execution of the testament of Barbara Sharpe, their mother.

By me, James Bacon.

Presens Codicillus Lectus subscriptus sigillatus et pro parte testamenti sui declarat et deliberatus fuit per dictum testatorem dicto quinto die maij Annis superscriptis inter horas tertiam et quartam post meridiem eiusdem diei in presence nostra [=The present codicil was read, subscribed, sealed and for part of his testament declared and delivered by the said testator on the said fifth day of May in the years above-written between the third and fourth hours after noon of the same day in our presence.]

By me, William Webbe. By me, William Ashebold. By me, Thomas Cattell. Presente etiam me Georgio Lordinge

Probatum fuit Huiusmodi Testamentum Coram Domino Cantuariensis Archiepiscopo apud London Secundo Die mensis Octobris Anno Domini Millesimo quingentesimo Septuagesimo Tercio Iurato Anne relicte et executricis Cui commissa fuit administratione omnium et singulorum bonorum Iurium et creditorum &c De bene &c Iuratae &c reseruatata potestate Iacobo Bacon filio et executori etiam nominato cum venisset &c admissurum

[=The same testament was proved before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury at London on the second day of the month of October in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred seventy-third by the oath of Anne, relict and executrix, to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits etc., sworn to well etc., with power reserved to James Bacon, son and executor also named, when he shall have come etc. to be admitted.]