

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Count of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 24 October 1575 and proved 16 December 1575, of Richard Blount of Coleman Street, London, from whose widow, Margaret, Oxford leased the mansion of Fisher's Folly in Bishopsgate (see below).

A further connection with Oxford is indicated by the testator's bequest of a ring of gold worth 40 shillings to his neighbour, Master Golding. The will of Mary Golding indicates that the testator's neighbour was Oxford's maternal uncle and auditor, George Golding, who was buried at St Stephen's, Coleman Street, on 27 November 1584 (see the will of Mary Golding, TNA PROB 11/119/379). Other neighbours of the testator would have been James Burbage (c.1531-1597), whose sons Cuthbert Burbage (1564/5-1636) and Richard Burbage (1568-1619) were baptized at St. Stephen's in Coleman Street in 1565 and 1568, respectively; the painter Marcus Gheeraerts (c.1520/1-d.1586?), who was living in Coleman Street by 1571; and the family of the carpenter Peter Street (d.1609), who was baptized at St. Stephen's in Coleman Street in 1553 and who later built the Globe theatre. These connections with the Burbages and the builder of the Globe are of particular interest since the will below indicates that the testator also had connections to the Pope and Kempe families, and the actors Thomas Pope and Will Kempe, both of whom called themselves gentlemen, were later co-lessees in the ground lease of the Globe with William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon.

For the History of Parliament biography of the testator, see:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/blount-richard-i-1575>.

The testator's parentage is obscure. However in the will below he states that he was born in Stafford, and mentions his cousin, William Blount of Osbaston, Leicestershire. It thus appears that he was a member of the family of the Blounts of Burton upon Trent and Blounts Hall in Stafford. See Croke, Alexander, *The Genealogical History of the Croke Family Originally Called Le Blount*, (Oxford: W. Baxter, 1823), pp. 288-307 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/genealogicalhist02crok#page/290/mode/2up>.

Since Croke's pedigree establishes the identity of a number of persons mentioned in the will below, it is useful to summarize it here. According to Croke, John Blount (d.1524), esquire, of Burton upon Trent and Blounts Hall, Staffordshire, married Ellen Hall, the daughter of John Hall, esquire, of Dovebridge, by whom he had two sons, Thomas and Walter. The elder son, Thomas, married Catherine Aston, the daughter of Sir Walter Aston of Tixhall, Staffordshire, by whom he had a son, John Blount, who was Sheriff of Staffordshire in 1526 and married Susan Draycot, the daughter of Sir Philip Draycot of Painsley, Staffordshire, by whom he had two sons, Edward Blount of Arleston, Derbyshire, who married Catherine Audley, the daughter of Henry Audley, Earl of Castlehaven, and died without issue, and Anthony Blount 'of whom there is no account'.

Walter Blount, esquire, the second son of John Blount and Ellen Hall, lived at Blounts Hall and married Margaret Sutton, the daughter of John Sutton, esquire, (Leicester's father, John Dudley, Duke of Northumberland, was of this family), by whom he had two sons, William and Walter, and four daughters, Elizabeth, Mary, Anne and Ellen.

* William Blount (d. 26 November 1592), the elder son, lived at Osbaston, Leicestershire, and married Frances Love, one of the three daughters of Edward Love by his wife Alice Pope, the sister of Sir Thomas Pope (d. 29 January 1559). For the will of William Blount of Osbaston, see TNA PROB 11/81/137.

* Walter Blount, the second son, was at Trinity College, Oxford until about Michaelmas 1558. He was living in 1594, when he was left a bequest in the will of his sister, Anne Blount.

* Elizabeth Blount (d. 7 or 27 October 1593) married firstly Anthony Basford or Beresford (d. 1 March 1539), esquire, of Bentley, Derbyshire, by whom she had a son, John Beresford. She married secondly, on 1 January 1540, as his third wife, Sir Thomas Pope (d. 29 January 1559), founder of Trinity College, Oxford, Privy Councillor, and in 1555 custodian of the future Queen Elizabeth at Hatfield House. She married thirdly, in 1560, Sir Hugh Paulet (d. 6 December 1573) of Hinton St George, Somersetshire, son of Sir Amias Paulet (c.1457–1538), and father, by his first wife, Philippa Pollard, daughter and heir of Sir Lewis Pollard of King's Nympton, Devon, of Sir Amias Paulet (c.1532 - 26 September 1588), keeper of Mary, Queen of Scots. See the *ODNB* entries for Sir Amias Paulet, Sir Thomas Pope and Sir Hugh Paulet, and the will of Lady Paulet, proved 4 February 1594, TNA PROB 11/83/130. In her final years Lady Paulet was a Catholic recusant. See Morris, John, ed., *The Letter-Books of Sir Amias Poulet*, (London: Burns and Oates, 1874), p. 375 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/letterbooksofsir00pouluoft#page/374/mode/2up>.

See also the History of Parliament entry for Sir Hugh Paulet at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/paulet-hugh-1510-73>.

The testator's 'cousin, Edward Blount' of Burton upon Trent, to whom the testator bequeaths a ring and who witnessed the testator's will, in 1573 married Elizabeth Pope, the daughter of John Pope (buried 24 June 1583) of Wroxton, Oxfordshire, only brother of Sir Thomas Pope (d. 29 January 1559), second husband of Elizabeth Blount (see above). John Pope married three times; Elizabeth Pope was his daughter by his first wife, Anne Staveley. See Warton, Thomas, *The Life of Sir Thomas Pope, Founder of Trinity College*, (London: T. Davies, 1772), pp. 406-7 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=i8QEAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA407&lpg=PA407&dq=%22Edward+Blount%22+%22Burton+upon+Trent%22&source=bl&ots=SSrSu9quyp&sig=fMYDsvjwPHxwAaCO->

wOSmMbTQxk&hl=en&sa=X&ei=1HdOVN_7GafciALgqIDwCA&ved=0CCMQ6AEwAg#v=onepage&q=%22Edward%20Blount%22%20%22Burton%20upon%20Trent%22&f=false.

* Mary Blount married, as his second wife, Sir John Sydenham, the eldest son of Sir John Sydenham (d. 16 April 1557) of Brimpton, Somerset, by Ursula Brydges, the daughter of Sir Giles Brydges. She was living in 1594, when she was executrix to the will of her sister, Anne Blount. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. IV, p. 159, and the History of Parliament entry for his father at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/sydenham-sir-john-1493-1557>.

See also Burke, John and John Bernard Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies*, 2nd ed., (London: Scott, Webster and Geary, 1841), p. 516 at:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=DqkTAAAYAAJ&pg=PA516&lpg=PA516&dq=%22Sir+John+Sydenham%22+%22Brimpton%22&source=bl&ots=wajqvpoIWP&sig=ntWoLMWF00jbc_0Knlzp4D5YHpE&hl=en&sa=X&ei=GKIJVNyxHOSaigLu14G4Aw&ved=0CEMQ6AEwBg#v=onepage&q=%22Sir%20John%20Sydenham%22%20%22Brimpton%22&f=false.

* Ellen or Eleanor Blount was a Maid of Honour to Princess Mary, later Queen Mary I. She married firstly, the Queen's auditor, William Goodwin (d. 30 November 1554) of Bermondsey, Surrey (for whose will see TNA PROB 11/37/204); secondly, John Felton (executed 8 August 1570), brother of Edmund Felton, by whom she had a son, Thomas Felton (executed 28 August 1588), for whom see the *ODNB* article, and two daughters, Joan Felton and Frances (nee Felton) Salisbury, mentioned in the will of Anne Blount (see below); and thirdly, John Strangman, a Catholic recusant. See:

<http://www.kateemersonhistoricals.com/TudorWomenB-BI.htm>.

* Anne Blount died unmarried in 1594. For her will, dated 23 April 1594 and proved 13 May 1594, see TNA PROB 11/83/432. An inscription in Clerkenwell church reads 'Ann Blunt, daughter of Walter Blunt, of Blunt Hall, and sister to Lady Paulet, and to Lady Sidenham, died 24th April, 1503 [sic]'. See Redfern, Francis, *History and Antiquities of the Town and Neighbourhood of Uttoxeter*, 2nd ed., (London: Simpkin, Marshall and Co., 1886), p. 430 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/historyantiquiti00redf#page/430/mode/2up>.

Since the testator describes the children of Walter Blount as his 'cousins', it seems likely that the testator was, like Walter, a descendant of Thomas Blount and Catherine Aston.

In the will below the testator also mentions his niece, 'Ursula Haffehede', who 'married Digbie'. This appears to be Ursula Halfehead of London, who married John Digby, son and heir of Henry Digby and Margaret, his wife. See Fetherston, John, ed., *The Visitation of the County of Leicester in the Year 1619*, (London: Harleian Society, 1870), Vol. II, p. 87 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofcoun02camd#page/86/mode/2up>.

The testator was in the service of Sir John Leigh (d.1564), and was an executor of his will (see TNA PROB 11/48/372). In the will below the testator mentions Leigh's daughter, Agnes (nee Leigh) Paston Fitzgerald. See the History of Parliament entry for Sir Thomas Paston at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/paston-sir-thomas-1517-50>

See also the History of Parliament entry for Edward Fitzgerald at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/fitzgerald-%28fitzgarrett-garrett-tarrat%29-edward-1529-90>.

Sir John Leigh had granted the testator a lease of the manor of Stansted in Kent, and in the will below the testator bequeaths the remaining years of the lease to his brother, Thomas Blount, a bequest which gave rise to subsequent litigation. See:

C 2/Eliz/B13/10

Thomas Blunte v Margery Lee and William Farmer. Bill for injunction. The manor of Stansted, Kent, formerly the estate of Sir John Lee, deceased, and by him demised to Richard Blunte deceased.

The testator married Margaret Bostock. Although the History of Parliament entries for Margaret's three husbands state that she was the daughter of Nicholas Bostock of Newington, Surrey, it appears from the Bostock pedigrees that she was the daughter of Roger Bostock of Moberley, Cheshire, by Felice Heaton, the daughter of John Heaton of Bletchingley, Surrey, and had a brother and two sisters:

* Richard Bostock of Tandrige, Surrey, who married firstly Katherine Field, and secondly a wife named Jane, but died without issue.

* Joan Bostock, who married William Knight, by whom she was the mother of Bostock Knight.

* Katherine Bostock, who married who married Richard Fuller, by whom she was the mother of Bostock Fuller.

See Leveson-Gower, Granville, 'Notebook of a Surrey Justice', in *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, (London: Boworth & Co., 1888), pp. 161-73 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=UtE4AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA162&lpg=PA162&dq=%22Nicholas+Bostock%22+%22Heaton%22&source=bl&ots=0ZUFrdwZjM&sig=djNALFWjVPWs1KbSykONp9RejoE&hl=en&sa=X&ei=NdZOVNvuF8ubigLgxYGADA&ved=0CCwQ6AEwAw#v=onepage&q=%22Nicholas%20Bostock%22%20%22Heaton%22&f=false>.

See also Rylands, W. Harry, *The Four Visitations of Berkshire*, (London: Harleian Society, 1908), Vol. LVII, p. 77 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/fourvisitations00britgoog#page/n96/mode/2up>.

See also the pedigree of Margaret's sister, Katherine Bostock, in Bannerman, W. Bruce, ed., *The Visitations of the County of Surrey*, (London: Harleian Society, 1899), Vol. XLIII, pp. 126-7 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsofcou43beno#page/126/mode/2up>.

See also the will of Richard Bostock, TNA PROB 11/108/9, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/bostock-richard-1530-16056>.

After the testator's death Margaret married secondly, Jasper Fisher (d. 28 February 1579), and thirdly, Nicholas Saunders (d. 17 December 1587) of Ewell. By the will of her second husband, Jasper Fisher, Margaret was granted a life interest in the mansion of Fisher's Folly in the parish of St Botolph's, Bishopsgate. It would appear that Oxford leased the mansion from Margaret in 1580, and in 1582 purchased the reversionary interest in the property from Fisher's heirs at law. For a discussion of Oxford's interest in Fisher's Folly, see the will of Jasper Fisher, TNA PROB 11/61/541

For Margaret's third husband, Nicholas Saunders (d. 17 December 1587) of Ewell, and for the marriage of the testator's only child, Elizabeth Blount, to Margaret's stepson, Sir Nicholas Saunders (d. 9 February 1649) of Ewell, see the will of Nicholas Saunders (d. 17 December 1587), TNA PROB 11/72/42.

The testator's principal legatees in the will below are his wife, Margaret, their daughter, Elizabeth Blount, and the testator's nephew, Richard Blount, son of the testator's brother, Robert Blount, to whom he bequeathed his lease of the manor of Williton. See:

'Parishes: St. Decumans, including Watchet and Williton', *A History of the County of Somerset: Volume 5* (1985), pp. 143-171 at:

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=117145>.

For the testator's manors of Bodley, Scarletts and Upgrove, see:

'Lambeth: The parish', *A History of the County of Surrey: Volume 4* (1912), pp. 50-64 at:

URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=43031>.

See also:

'Henry VIII: September 1545, 26-30', *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII, Volume 20 Part 2: August-December 1545* (1907), pp. 195-233 at:

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=80421>

For the testator's manor of Bodley, see also Allen, Thomas, *The History and Antiquities of the Parish of Lambeth*, (London: J. Allen, 1826), pp. 282-3:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=xvQgAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA282&lpg=PA282&dq=%22manor+of+bodley%22&source=bl&ots=LaGEpHgYqW&sig=mmPUxRpG9TJnMZ0moPAUjLIGZVI&hl=en&sa=X&ei=KkFIV0jSAsj1iQKh2IHgAg&ved=0CDEQ6AEwBA#v=onepage&q=%22manor%20of%20bodley%22&f=false>.

For subsequent litigation concerning the testator's leases see:

C 3/11/100

Plaintiffs: Thomas Blunt clerk

Defendants: Richard Blunt.

Subject: manors of Williton in Somerset and Upgrove and Bodylees, Surrey.

C 3/81/17

Plaintiffs: James Holcombe.

Defendants: Richard Blunt and another.

Subject: copyhold held of the manor of Williton, Somerset.

It appears that the testator's friend, John Glascock, was a lawyer of the Inner Temple. See 'The borough of Sutton Coldfield', *A History of the County of Warwick: Volume 4: Hemlingford Hundred* (1947), pp. 230-245 at:

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=42686>.

For the testator's inquisition post mortem, see TNA C 142/175/86.

RM: T{estamentum} Richardi Blounte

[f. 365r] In the name of God, Amen. I, Richard Blount, of Coleman Street in the City of London, esquire, being of whole and perfect memory (praise be given to God), do ordain and make this my present last will and testament the four and twenty day of October in the year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith etc., the seventeenth:

First, I commend my soul unto Almighty God, my creator, and to Jesus Christ, my only redeemer and justifier, and to the Holy Ghost, my preserver and sanctifier, whom I acknowledge and confess to be three distinct persons and one true and ever-living God, and I believe through the death and most precious bloodshedding of my Saviour, Jesus Christ, that I shall by his mercy possess that everlasting life which he hath purchased to all faithful believers, and shall hear in the day of my resurrection to my comfort that joyful scripture: Come unto me, ye beloved of my Father, and possess the everlasting inheritance prepared for you before all worlds;

My body, which I know to be corruptible, I bequeath unto the earth to be buried in decent and convenient place where by the discretion of my executrix it shall be thought meet;

And to th' end that my body may be the rather decently buried, and for remembrance, my friends considered, I will that there be bestowed in blacks and other convenient ceremonies, as for four sermons, whereof one to be at the time of my burial to be solemnized, and for forty poor men's gowns which I will shall be given, two hundred pounds in money;

Item, I give and bequeath to the poor of the parish of Saint Stephen's in Coleman Street the sum of twenty pounds in money, to be delivered within six months next after my decease by the discretion of my said executrix, Mr Christopher, Mr Doctor Hammond, Mr Daniel, Mr Wythers and Mr Turfitt, parishioners there;

Item, I give and bequeath to the hospitals in London and the suburbs of the same where my executrix shall think good the sum of ten pounds of English money, to be paid within six months after my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath to the poor of the town of Stafford, where I was born, the sum of twenty pounds of lawful English money, to be employed to the help of the most poor people within the said town by the order and oversight of Master Matthew Craddock, one of the inhabitants of the said town, and the bailiffs for the time being, which sum shall also be paid within six months next after my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath to the children of my sister, Agnes Milliton, the sum of thirty pounds, to be equally divided amongst them, and if any of them decease before they come to the age of twenty-one years or marriage, then the same shall remain to the survivors, and the said sum shall be delivered within six months to the said Agnes Milliton or her husband then living to be paid to such use;

Item, I give and bequeath to the children of my sister, Elizabeth Haffehede, the sum of thirty pounds of lawful English money, to be paid and used in like sort, manner and condition as the former thirty pounds given to the children of my other sister, Agnes Milliton, whereof Ursula Haffehede, one of the said children of my said sister, and wife to Digbie, shall have no part for that I have advanced her beforetime with forty pounds at her marriage;

Item, I give unto my sister, Mawde Seymer, her children the like sum of thirty pounds, to be delivered in like manner and condition as [-as] the children of my former sisters are to receive the same, whereof Elizabeth, one of the daughters of the said Mawde, shall have no portion for that she is advanced by me before this with forty pounds in marriage;

Item, I give unto my brother, Robert Blount, all such debts as he oweth unto me at or before the time of my decease, and I give and bequeath unto him the sum of forty pounds of current money, to be paid unto him within six months after my decease;

Item, I give unto the children of my said brother, Robert, the sum of fifty pounds, to be paid unto them at their age of one and twenty years or the day of their marriage, which shall first happen, of which legacy Richard Blount, one of the said children, shall have no portion;

Item, I forgive and remit unto my servant, John Crostman, all such debts as he oweth unto me at or before my decease, and I will that such person as shall enjoy my lease of Williton in the county of Somerset shall without any money or recompense to be paid therefore make unto him an estate for term of his own life of the tenement which now his father holdeth, there to begin in reversion next after him;

Item, I give unto my servant, Henry Lightfote, the sum of three pounds six shillings eight pence besides his wages due unto him at the time of my death;

Item, I give unto every of my maidservants of my household at the making of this my will twenty shillings besides their wages due to them;

Item, I forgive unto my sister Knight all such money and debts as at the time of my decease she oweth unto me, and I further give and bequeath unto her the sum of three pounds six shillings eight pence;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my servant, Barbara Blount, one of the daughters of my cousin, William Blount of Osbaston, the sum of twenty pounds of English money, to be paid unto her at the day of her marriage or at her age of twenty-one years, which shall first happen;

Item, I give to every of my godchildren that shall claim the same two shillings sixpence piece;

Item, I give to Elizabeth [f. 365v] Blount, one of the daughters of my said cousin, William Blount of Osbaston, a chain of gold which I bought of her father;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my very good Lady and friend, the Lady Paulet of Hinton, as a poor remembrance of my duty and goodwill borne unto her, one cross of gold with four diamonds, and one portague of gold worth three pounds ten shillings;

Item, I give unto my Lady Sydenham, the wife of Sir John Sydenham, knight, one table diamond which I usually do wear;

Item, I give unto my cousin, Anne Blount, now lying at my house in London, a pair of bracelets of gold, being of esses;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my brother, Thomas Blount, the sum of five hundred pounds of English current money, to be paid unto him within one year next after my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my nephew, Richard Blount, the sum of four hundred pounds of English current money, to be paid unto him at his full age of four and twenty years;

Item, I give and bequeath to Elizabeth Blount, my daughter, to be paid unto her at her age of one and twenty years, the sum of sixteen hundred pounds, and if she shall happen to be in the custody and wardship of my said Lady Paulet, or my well-beloved wife, Margaret, or in the wardship and custody of Mr Thomas Bromley, the Queen's Majesty's Solicitor, then I will that the said sum of 16 hundred pounds shall be paid unto her at her said age of 21 years or at the day of her marriage, which first shall happen;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my well-beloved wife the lease of my house in Coleman Street wherein I now dwell, and all the furniture of household except my plate, and I further give unto her all my jewels herein not bequeathed, and the sum of one thousand pounds of lawful English money, and so much of my plate as shall be worth the value of two hundred pounds in money, to be chosen by herself out of the whole;

Item, I give unto Elizabeth Barsford [=Basford?] one angel of gold of ten shillings, and to Mary Barsforde one other angel of the same value;

Item, I give to Elizabeth Tirrisse, my Lady Paulet's servant, twenty shillings in money, and to the officers of her house at Hinton, forty shillings in money;

Item, I give and bequeath to Mr Doctor Yale, to my cousin William Blount of Osbaston, to my brother Bostock, to my brother Fuller, to John Wythers, to Richard Austine, to Vincent Pointer, to Baker the scrivener, Edward Turfitt, Doctor Hammon [=Hammond?], Mr Daniell, Mr Goldinge, my neighbour, to every of them one ring of gold worth the value of forty shillings the piece, wherein shall be engraven the picture of death;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my brother, Thomas Blount, all my term, lease and interest for years of and in the manor of Stansted in the county of Kent which I hold by force of a grant to me made from John Lye [=Leigh], esquire;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my said brother, Thomas, all my term, lease and interest of and in the farm called the Morestede in the county of Hampshire;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my nephew, Richard Blount, at such time as he shall come to his age of four and twenty years, all my term of years, lease and interest of and in my manor of Williton in the county of Somerset, the custody and keeping of which lease, with the yearly profits which shall grow and increase thereby until the said Richard shall come to his said age, I will shall remain in the custody of my said brother, Thomas, and of my very friend, Mr John Glascoke [=Glascock], to this end and purpose, that he shall be maintained in decent order and kept to school and learning, and if there shall grow any surplusage of profit more than shall be meet to be allowed for his said education and bringing up to learning, then I will that the said Thomas and John shall have the use and custody thereof, and shall pay and be accountable for the same to the said Richard at his full age of four and twenty years, and if the said Richard happen to die before he come to the said age, then I will that the said lease and term, with the mean profits of the said manor not employed in the necessary education for the said Richard to learning, shall be and remain to the next second and younger brother of the said Richard, my nephew, to such use and purpose, and to be answered and delivered in such manner to the said younger brother as before is limited and appointed to the said Richard, and I will that the said Richard shall be and remain in the custody and bringing up of my well-beloved wife and the said John Glascocke until the said age of 24 years;

Item, I will that all such annuities as I have of the grants of Sir Thomas Kempe, knight, and Sir John Sentlinge [=St Leger?], knight, shall be sold by mine executrix for the performing of this my last will and testament;

Item, my will and intent is that all such sums of money as herein I have bequeathed unto my daughter, Elizabeth Blount, and to my nephew, Richard Blount, shall remain and be in the custody of my said well-beloved wife until their several ages herein limited if my said wife shall so long remain a widow, and if it happen that she shall marry, then I will that the said several sums shall be in the use, custody and [-and] keeping of Thomas Bromley, esquire, the Queen's Majesty's Solicitor-General, and John Glascocke, gentleman, until their said ages, unless that my said wife will keep the same and be bound with two good sureties to the said Thomas and John in convenient sum to their liking to answer and pay the said sums [f. 366r] safely as before is limited;

Item, I give and bequeath to my cousin, William Blount of Osbaston, my best velvet jacket and my best cloak with two guards of velvet;

Item, I give unto my said brother, Thomas, the remnant of all my wearing apparel saving my coat of satin, the which I give unto the said John Glascocke;

And to the end that this my last will and testament may be in force and take effect according to my meaning and intent, I will that all former wills and codicils at any time heretofore by me made shall be utterly repealed, made frustrate and void to all intents and purposes;

And for the more better and full accomplishment thereof, I make, constitute and ordain my well-beloved wife my sole and only executrix, requiring and charging her as she will answer therefore before the majesty of the eternal God at the general day of judgment, to see this my last will truly ex[e]cuted, and the legacies herein given duly paid and performed, and for her better assistance herein I constitute, ordain and make my very good friends the Lady Elizabeth Paulet, widow; Mr Thomas Bromley, the Queen's Majesty's Solicitor-General; Gilbert Gerard, esquire, her Majesty's Attorney-General; John Glascocke and John Cade, gentlemen, my supervisors and overseers of this my last will and testament, and for their pains, besides their costs and charges if they shall bestow any in the execution hereof, I give first to the said Lady Paulet one gilt standing cup of silver with a cover weighing about twenty-seven ounces; [+to] Thomas Bromley, esquire, ten pounds of good current English money and mine own grey gelding whereupon I am wonted to ride; to Gilbert Gerard, esquire, ten pounds in money; to John Glascocke, ten pounds in money; and to John Cade five pounds in money, praying them to vouchsafe to take upon them to be mine overseers and to further th' execution of this my will so much as lawfully they may;

The residue of all my goods and chattels herein not bequeathed (my debts paid and funerals discharged), I give and bequeath as hereafter followeth:

Firstly, I give and bequeath my term, lease and interest of and in one tenement in Coleman Street in London, being now of the yearly rent of ten pounds, lately demised to one (blank) Smythe of London, gentleman, to the use, exhibition and finding of a poor scholar within the University of Oxford, to be taken and nominated out of the town of Stafford from time to time during all such term of forty and odd years which now I have in the said tenement; the nomination, appointment and payment as well of the said poor scholar as of the money coming and growing of the said tenement, I will shall be made by my said wife during her natural life, and after her decease I will that the same poor scholar shall be nominated, paid and appointed by my brother, Thomas Blount, during his natural life, and after his decease, the same nomination, payment and appointment of such scholar shall be and remain to the bailiffs for the time being of the said town of Stafford during all such time and term as is yet unexpired in the said lease, and my will and meaning is that as well my said wife during her life as my said brother for term of his life, if he live after my said wife, shall have the use, setting and letting of the said tenement, and shall receive the yearly profits and rents coming of the said tenement, and after their decease, I will that the bailiffs for the time being shall have the use, setting and letting of the said tenement to such purposes as is before expressed, and my will and meaning is that the said lease from the time of my decease remain in the custody of the said bailiffs in some sure place within the town of Stafford, and shall only remain to the use aforesaid and to none other;

Item, I will that if my daughter, Elizabeth Blount, do die before her age of one and twenty years or before she shall be married, that then Richard Blount, my nephew, shall have at his age of four and twenty years all the legacy of £1600 to her given and bequeathed, and that my wife shall enter to such bonds for the payment thereof unto him as is before set down for the payment to my said daughter if my said wife shall happen to marry after my decease;

Item, I give unto the Master and Fellows of Trinity College in Oxford the sum of one hundred pounds in English money upon condition that they shall find and maintain one poor scholar with such salary and maintenance as Sir Thomas Pope upon his foundation of his said College hath allowed to any one scholar, the order and assurance whereof shall be done and made to the liking and contentation of mine executrix and the most of my overseers, or else this legacy shall stand void;

And because it hath pleased Almighty God not only to bless me with such goods and chattels as herein I have given and bequeathed, but also with some lands and possessions, I have thought good hereby for the better establishment thereof in my succession and friends to make simile(?) declaration in what manner I would have the same to remain and descend, and therefore I will, give and bequeath all my lands and tenements whereof I am seised of any estate of inheritance unto my well-beloved wife for term of her life, and after her decease, I will that the same shall come and descend to Elizabeth, my daughter, and to the heirs males of her body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue I give and bequeath the same unto my nephew, Richard Blount, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue I give and bequeath my said lands and tenements unto the next younger brother of the said Richard, my nephew, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue I give and bequeath all my said lands and tenements to my brother, Thomas Blount, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten or to be begotten, and for default of such issue I give and bequeath [f. 366v] all my said lands and tenements to my cousin, William Blount of Osbaston in the county of Leicester and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue I will that all my said lands remain to my next heirs;

Item, I give and bequeath to Richard Causey, servant to my Lady Paulet, in consideration of his pains taken about me in time of my sickness, the sum of forty shillings of lawful English money;

Item, I give and bequeath to the maidservants of the said Lady Paulet at her house at Hinton five pounds in money, to be distributed and paid at her Ladyship's appointment and discretion;

Item, I give and bequeath to Thomas Robson, son of Anne Robson, my sister, the sum of ten pounds of lawful English money, to be paid at the accomplishment of his age of one and twenty years;

Item, I will also, and hereby do charge my said executrix that she shall deliver all such chests and goods which of trust in the time of my Lady her absence remain in my house and were delivered unto me to be kept for her;

Item, my further will and intent is that if at any time hereafter I shall add any codicil, and annex the same hereunto under my hand and seal, and shall thereby give any legacies, minish or alter grants, legacies or estates herebefore contained, that then the same shall stand and be as parcel of this my last will and testament, and so shall remain and abide in full force;

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my seal the day and year first above-written in the presence of these persons whose names are hereunder written. Per me Rich{ard}um Blount; per me, Edwardum Blount, per me, Rich{ard}um Austen, Richard Butler, Lewes Grenewaye, Richard Causey.

A codicil annexed to the last will and testament of me, Richard Blount, of Coleman Street in London, esquire, under my seal the sixteenth day of November in the seventeenth year of the Queen's Majesty's reign, Elizabeth etc., for the true declaration of mine intent and meaning as followeth:

First, whereas in [+the] will whereunto this codicil is annexed I have devised unto my nephew, Richard Blount, when he shall have accomplished the age of four and twenty years, my lease of the manor of Williton in the county of Somerset, and if he die before the said years, then unto his younger brother at the like years, my will and meaning is, and I will that Margaret, my wife, shall have so many years of the said term as shall or may incur before the said Richard, my nephew, shall accomplish the age of 24 years, and if he die before the said years, then until his brother shall accomplish the like age of four and twenty years, for the intents and considerations hereafter mentioned, that is to say, to th' end she shall receive so much of the commodities and revenues of the said manor as shall be needful for and towards the performance of my said testament and last will, and the rest of the commodities and profits thereof, the necessary charges of the maintenance and keeping of the said Richard Blount, my nephew, at learning being deducted, I will that my said wife shall pay or cause to be paid unto my said nephew when he shall have accomplished the age of 24 years, and if he die before the said age accomplished, then unto his said brother at his said age;

And I further will, and my meaning is that if both my said brother's sons do happen to die before they or any of them shall have accomplished the said age of 24 years, that then as well the said lease and term for years then to come of and in the said manor of Williton with the four hundred pounds before devised to the said Richard, as also the mean profits of the said farm, shall be employed and bestowed in deeds of charity and erecting of such alms-houses and for the relieving of poor scholars and decayed persons as to my said wife and mine overseers, or the most part of them, shall be thought meet and convenient;

And where also I have given and bequeathed by my said last will and testament to my daughter, Elizabeth, the sum of sixteen hundred pounds to her to be paid at her marriage or full age of 21 years, and if she die before her marriage or full age, then the said legacy and bequest to be to Richard Blount, my nephew, at his said age of 24 years to be delivered, my will and meaning is that if the said Richard happen to die before the said age of 24 years, then the said portion, after the death of my said daughter and nephew, shall be paid and delivered amongst my sisters' children then living and other the poorest sort of my kinsfolk, to be delivered by the discretion of my executrix and of mine overseers and the most part of them;

And where I have devised to be sold by my said wife my annuities which I have of Sir Thomas Kempe and Sir John Sentlinge, my will and meaning is that my said daughter and her husband, if she shall happen to be married, and her heirs and assigns, shall confirm, ratify and make good all such grants, bargains and assurances as my said wife, her executors or administrator shall make of the said annuities or any of them to any person or persons according to the intent and true meaning of my said last will and testament by such lawful ways and means and at such convenient time and times as by learned counsel shall be devised and requested, and I will that my said wife shall retain in her hands three hundred pounds, parcel of the said sixteen hundred pounds, until [f. 367r] the said ratification and confirmation in form aforesaid to be devised shall be performed and done according to the meaning hereof, and if that ratification be not made accordingly within convenient time after request made for the same to my said daughter, her heirs or assigns, being of full age, then I will the said three hundred pounds shall go and be employed towards the performing of this my last will;

Item, I will and bequeath unto my cousin, Edward Blount, Mr Heywarde, Mr Doctor Drury, and to every of them a ring of gold in value of forty shillings apiece with the picture of death engraven, and to my cousin Froste a ring of gold worth twenty shillings;

Item, I give to Edward Welshe [=Walsh?] five pounds in money, and to Mr John Cade my damaskeen hanger;

And to Mr John Glascocke I will and bequeath twenty pounds in money in consideration that he shall be assistant and helping unto my wife in all her business;

Item, I give to my very good Lady Paston a gold ring of the value of three pounds six shillings and eight pence;

In witness whereof I have hereunto put my seal the day and year first herein mentioned in the presence of these whose names are hereunder written, Richard Blount. Vincent Poynter, Thomas Blount, Edward Blount, Richard Austen and Joseph Man.

Probatum fuit h{uius}mo{d}i Testamentum coram mag{ist}ro Will{el}imo Drewrye legum Doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cant{uariensis} Commissario apud London Decimo

sexto die mens{is} Decembris Anno D{omi}ni mill{es}imo quingentesimo Septuagesimo quinto Iurament{o} mag{ist}ri Edwardi Orwell notarij publici procuratoris Margarete Reli{ct}e et Executricis in h{uius}mo{d}i Testament{o} nominat{e} Cui com{m}issa fuit Administrac{i}o omnium et singulor{um} bonor{um} Iurium et Creditor{um} &c De bene et fidel{ite}r administrand{o} ead{em} Ac de pleno et fidei Inventario &c Necnon de plano et vero Comp{ot}o Calculo &c Ad s{an}c{t}a Dei Evangelia Iurat{e}

[=The same testament was proved at London before Master William Drury, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the sixteenth day of the month of December in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred seventy-fifth by the oath of Master Edward Orwell, notary public, proctor of Margaret, relict and executrix named in the same will, to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to calculate(?) a full and true inventory etc., and also a plain and true account etc.]