

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 20 August 1577 and proved 20 September 1577, of Thomas Bacon, gentleman, of Lavenham, Suffolk.

TESTATOR'S CONNECTION TO THE COURT

According to Machyn, the testator was Serjeant of the Acatry during the reign of Queen Mary. See Nichols, John Gough, ed., *The Diary of Henry Machyn*, (London: Camden Society, 1848), pp. 300-1 at:

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

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

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

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

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

TESTATOR'S CONNECTION TO THE EARLS OF OXFORD

In the will below, the testator leaves to his eldest son, Thomas Bacon, all the lands in Lavenham he currently holds from the 17th Earl of Oxford as well as the portion of the Colne Priory tithes in Lavenham:

Item, I give and bequeath unto my said son, Thomas, all my lands holden as well by copy of court roll of the right honourable th' Earl of Oxenford as for term of years by indenture, situate, lying and being within the field commonly called the town field within the parish of Lavenham aforesaid. . . .

Item, I give and bequeath unto my said son, Thomas Bacon, all that my lease and term of years that I have from the grant of the right honourable th' Earl of Oxenford of all the

portion of the tithes within the parish of Lavenham afore-named and belonging unto the Priory of Colne.

The testator leaves to his son, Robert Bacon, the reversion of a lease of lands in Lavenham which he holds from the 17th Earl:

Item, I give unto my said son, Robert Bacon, all my lease and whole term of years that I have in reversion of all the lands, meadows, pastures, feedings, and commonly called and known by the names of Baylie Brooke and Nether Hall, which lease and term of years I hold of the grant of the right honourable th' Earl of Oxenford, to be begun after the expiration and determination of the term of years that one Robert Symond of Lanam [=Lavenham] now hath in the same lands by virtue of a former lease in possession.

The testator bequeaths to his wife, Anne (nee Blackwell) Bacon, leases which he holds from both John de Vere (1516 – 3 August 1562), 16th Earl of Oxford, and his son, the 17th Earl:

Item, I give and bequeath unto Anne, my said wife, and to her heirs forever, all my leases whatsoever and not afore disposed that I have and hold by the grant as well of the right honourable the Earl of Oxenford that now is as also by the grant of his right honourable father, the Earl of Oxenford that dead is

The 16th Earl's inquisition post mortem also states that prior to his service as Serjeant of the Acatry to Queen Mary, the testator and Sir Robert Rochester (d. 28 November 1557) had been granted, by indenture dated 6 June 1545, the reversion, after the death of Robert Mares [sic for 'Richard Morrys'?], of the office of bailiff of the 16th Earl's manors of Chesham Higham and Chesham Bury. Moreover after his service to Queen Mary, the testator had been appointed for life, by indenture dated 30 October 1561, to the office of bailiff of the 16th Earl's manor of Lavenham. See the will of Sir Robert Rochester, TNA PROB 11/42A/105, the will of Sir Edward Waldegrave (d. 1 September 1561), TNA PROB 11/44/318, and TNA C 142/136/12:

*And the foresaid jurors say that the foresaid late Earl, by a certain deed of his sealed by his seal at arms and subscribed by his own hand bearing date the 6th day of June in the 37th year [=6 June 1545] of the reign of the late King Henry VIII, for and in consideration of good and faithful service to him by **Thomas Bacon, gentleman, still surviving, and Robert Rochester, now deceased**, previously done & thereafter to be done, gave & granted to the same **Thomas Bacon and Robert Chester** [sic?] the office of bailiff or bailiwick of his manor of Chesham [+Higham] & Chesham Bury aforesaid in as ample manner and form as Robert Mares [sic for 'Richard Morrys'?] or any other for himself formerly has had, perceived or perceived [sic], [+or] have had, occupied or perceived, to have, hold, occupy, exercise and enjoy the foresaid office and the rest of the premises to the forenamed Thomas Bacon and his assigns for term of the natural life of the same Thomas Bacon, by him or his sufficient deputy or deputies, and the foresaid late Earl by the foresaid deed in consideration aforesaid gave and granted to the same Thomas Bacon for exercising and occupying the office aforesaid a certain annuity or*

yearly rent of three pence per day issuing and yearly to be perceived of and in the foresaid manors of Chesham Higham and Chesham Bury and the rest of the premises with their appurtenances, to have, hold, levy and yearly perceive the foresaid annuity or yearly rent to the same Thomas Bacon and his assigns during the natural life of the same Thomas Bacon, the first payment thereof to begin after the death of the forenamed Richard Mares at two terms of the year, viz., to be paid yearly at the feasts of the Annunciation of Blessed Mary the Virgin and Saint Michael the Archangel by equal portions, and further the foresaid late Earl by the foresaid deed granted that for non-payment of the said annuity or yearly rent it should be well allowed to the forenamed Thomas Bacon & his assigns to distrain in the foresaid manor, as by the same deed to the foresaid jurors upon the taking of this inquisition in manifest evidences more fully appears.

*And the foresaid jurors say that the foresaid late Earl by a certain deed of his sealed by his seal at arms & subscribed by his own hand bearing date the penultimate day of October in the third year [=30 October 1561] of the reign of the Lady Elizabeth now Queen for divers good & reasonable causes and considerations him especially moving gave and granted to **Thomas Bacon, gentleman**, the office of bailiff or bailiwick of his manor of Lavenham in the county of Suffolk and of all & singular his lands, tenements, hereditaments & possessions whatsoever within the foresaid manor and to the same manor in any way belonging or appertaining, and made, ordained & appointed the same Thomas Bacon bailiff of the foresaid manor, to have, hold, enjoy and exercise the foresaid office to the forenamed Thomas Bacon by him or his sufficient deputy or deputies for and during the whole term of the natural life of the same Thomas, together with all & singular profits, commodities, advantages, pre-eminences and emoluments whatsoever to the same office in any manner belonging or appertaining, and in as ample manner and form as Edward Glascock or any other or others for himself formerly have had, held or enjoyed (s. & pl.), and the foresaid late Earl by the foresaid deed in consideration aforesaid gave and granted to the same Thomas Bacon for exercising & occupying the foresaid office a certain annuity or yearly rent of four pounds of lawful money of England issuing & to issue of the foresaid manor at two terms of the year, viz., to be paid yearly at the feasts of the Annunciation of Blessed Mary the Virgin and Saint Michael the Archangel by equal portions, and also the second crop of the meadow of Lavenham aforesaid called le Lord's Meadow during the whole term of the natural life of the same Thomas Bacon, and further the said late Earl by the foresaid deed granted that for non-payment of the said annuity or yearly rent it should be well allowed to the forenamed Thomas Bacon & his assigns in the foresaid manor of Lavenham to distrain, as by the same deed to the foresaid jurors upon the taking of this inquisition in manifest evidences more fully appears.*

For Thomas Ashfield (d.1609) and the testator as bailiffs of the manors of Chesham Higham and Chesham Bury, see also TNA SP 12/44/19.

On 6 October 1564(?) Thomas Ashfield brought suit in Chancery alleging that the testator had failed to fulfil an agreement reached shortly after the death of the 16th Earl of Oxford for the sale of the office of bailiff of the manors of Chesham and Chesham Bury.

Ashfield claimed that the testator had failed to perform his part of an agreement. The testator, however, alleged that the parties had never reached an agreement since the sale of the office was conditional on the approval of the Earl of Oxford's officers, Henry Golding, Robert Christmas and John Turner, who refused to give their approval on the ground that Thomas Ashfield had not complied with his obligations as the 16th Earl's tenant and moreover had concealed from the Earl certain lands which he held of him. See TNA C 3/5/26 (bill and answer) and TNA C 3/1/115 (replication).

After the testator's death, Oxford sold the manor of Chesham Bury to Thomas Ashfield. For the recognizance in the amount of £1500 acknowledged by Oxford in Chancery on 17 August 1579 in connection with the sale of the manor of Chesham Bury, see TNA C 54/1065, Part 19.

For Thomas Ashfield, see also his will, TNA PROB 11/115/126, proved 9 February 1610, and:

'Parishes: Chesham', in *A History of the County of Buckingham: Volume 3*, ed. William Page (London, 1925), pp. 203-218. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/bucks/vol3/pp203-218> [accessed 24 July 2018]

The site of the manor of Chesham Bury, including woods and solums called Wuckeridge Wood, Higham Park and Cowcroft, was alienated in 1579 by the Earl of Oxford to Thomas Ashfield and his heirs, to hold of the queen in chief, reserving a rent of £7 to the earl and his successors. (fn. 194) Thomas Ashfield, who had formerly been bailiff to the Earl of Oxford, (fn. 195) had received a grant of Chesham advowson (q.v.) in 1571, with which the site of Chesham Bury then descended. (fn. 196)

In 1535 the church [of Chesham] was assessed at £13 6s. 8³/₄d., (fn. 364) and was leased after the Dissolution to Thomas Ashfield in 1571 for twenty-one years to commence from 1586. (fn. 365) In 1602, however, Ashfield obtained a grant in fee to hold of the manor of East Greenwich in socage. (fn. 366) Thomas Ashfield died in 1609, when the advowson passed to his nephew and heir Edmund afterwards Sir Edmund Ashfield. (fn. 367)

TESTATOR'S CONNECTION TO SHAKESPEARE

The testator's will contains this clause:

Further I give and bequeath unto Anne, my wife, all such household stuff, plate, jewels, money, implements of household as remaineth of mine within the house of my mother by law, Mistress Blackwell, within the Blackfriars within the City of London.

This bequest confirms that the testator's wife was the Anne Bacon mentioned in the indenture by which William Shakespeare (1564-1616) of Stratford upon Avon purchased the Blackfriars gatehouse.

The testator's father-in-law, William Blackwell (d.1570?), the testator's wife, Anne Blackwell Bacon, and the testator's son, Mathy Bacon of Gray's Inn, are all mentioned in the indenture by which William Shakespeare and others purchased from Henry Walker (d.1612) a dwelling-house or tenement and plot of ground in the precinct of the Blackfriars on 10 March 1613 (see Folger MS Z.c.22(45) and London Metropolitan Archives CLC/522/MS03738 on this website for the purchasers' and vendor's copies of the indenture, respectively).

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

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

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

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

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

See also the Loseley manuscripts at:

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

L.b.391

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

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

For the documents in a lawsuit requiring the production of evidences concerning a capital messuage and other property in the Blackfriars brought in Chancery on 26 April 1615 against the testator's son, Mathy Bacon, by Sir Thomas Bendish (d.1636), Edward Newport, William Thursby, Robert Dormer and Mary, his wife, William Shakespeare of

Stratford upon Avon, gentleman, and Richard Bacon, see TNA C 2/JasI/B11/9. See also the facsimile at the Shakespeare Documented website at:

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

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

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

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

FAMILY BACKGROUND

A brief Bacon pedigree signed in 1634 by Mathy Bacon (d.1639) of Gray's Inn, then living in Coleman Street ward in London, states that his father was Thomas Bacon of Holt, Norfolk, 'descended of the Bacons of Baconsthorpe', and that his mother was Anne Blackwell, the daughter of William Blackwell, esquire, Town Clerk of London. The pedigree also mentions two other sons of the testator, George Bacon, who died without issue, and 'Richard Bacon of London, deceased'. See Howard, Joseph Jackson and Joseph Lemuel Chester, eds., *The Visitation of London, Anno Domini 1633, 1634, and 1635, Vol. I*, (London: Harleian Society, 1880), Vol. XV, p. 38 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=yb7UAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA38>

As noted above, the pedigree states that the testator was of Holt, Norfolk, and was 'descended of the Bacons of Baconsthorpe'. Baconsthorpe is three miles from Holt, and a house which survives in Holt today is listed as Bacon's House. See:

<https://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101049286-bacons-house-holt/maps>

However, the claim in the pedigree that the testator was descended from the Bacons of Baconsthorpe is complicated by the fact that the direct male line of the Bacons of Baconsthorpe was extinguished at the death of Thomas Bacon (died c.1485), whose heirs were his two daughters, Elizabeth Bacon, who married John Glemham, and Anne Bacon, who married Robert Garneys (d.1554?). See:

Francis Blomefield, 'Hundred of South Erpingham: Baconsthorp', in *An Essay Towards A Topographical History of the County of Norfolk: Volume 6* (London, 1807), pp. 502-513.

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

British History Online <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/topographical-history-norfolk/vol6/pp502-513> [accessed 23 July 2018].

1379, Sir Roger Bacon was lord and patron, son, (as I take it) of Thomas Bacon and Joan his wife, who dying intestate in 1384, Sir William de Baconsthorp, chaplain, administered; in 1395 Catherine Bacon, widow (probably of Sir Roger,) and her trustees, held this manor, and in 1491 John Bacon, Esq. his son, by the service of one fee, of the manor of Horseford, who by Maud, daughter of Sir Thomas Bedingfield, had John Bacon of Baconsthorp, Esq. his son and heir, who in 1426, married Margaret, daughter of Robert Baniard, whose arms were, sable, a fess between two chevronels, or, (fn. 10) on whom Baniard's manor in Spectishall in Suffolk, the manors of Baconsthorp, Lodue Bacons, Hacforth, Channons and Westhall in Tibenham, were then settled: he died at his house in Norwich, in 1462, (fn. 11) and was buried there in the conventual church of the Austin-friars, by John Bacon, Esq. his father, and Maud his mother, and gave legacies to Robert Baniard, his father-in-law and Margaret, his mother-in-law, to Margaret his wife this lordship and advowson, with the lordships of Channons, Westhall and Hacforth in Tibenham for life, and then to Thomas his son. She afterwards married Nicholas Radclyff, Esq. who presented to this church in her right in 1478.

Thomas [Bacon] her son succeeded, and dying about 1485, left two daughters, and coheirs, by Margery, daughter of John Jenny, Esq. (who bore, pale of 6 gules, and or, a chief ermine,) Elizabeth Bacon married to Sir John Glemham of Glemham Parva in Suffolk, Knt. whose arms were, or, a chevron between three torteaux; and Ann, to Robert Garneys, or Garnish, of Kenton in Suffolk, Esq. who bore argent, a chevron ingrailed azure, between three escallops sable. And on the division of the Bacons estate, this manor and advowson was settled on Robert Garnish, Esq. who presented to the church in 1527; and in 1554, his son, (as I take it,) Thomas Garnish, succeeded, and dying in 1573 [sic?], left it to his only daughter, Elizabeth, who in 1583, with her second husband, Mr. Phillip Strelley of Strelley in Nottinghamshire, sold it to William Heydon, Esq. with Bacon's manor in Lodne, this being then found to be held of the manor of Forncet, by knight's service.

As noted above, Anne Bacon married Robert Garneys (buried 3 August 1556), whose first cousin, John Garneys, was the father of Richard Garneys (d.1586) of Mendlesham, Suffolk, and Boyland Hall, Norfolk, who married Margery Tyrrell, the daughter of James Tyrrell (1475?-1538) of Columbine Hall. It appears Margery Tyrrell was the half sister of Charles Tyrrell (d.1570), second husband of Oxford's mother, Margery Golding. See the will, dated 8 April 1533 and proved 17 October 1539, of James Tyrrell (1475?-1538) of Columbine Hall, TNA PROB 11/26/266.

For Richard Garneys (d.1586) and Margery Tyrrell, see also Copinger, W.A., *The Manors of Suffolk*, Vol. 3, (Manchester: Taylor, Garnett, Evans & Co. Ltd., 1909), pp. 281-2 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/cu31924092579568#page/n295/mode/2up>

See also the pedigree of Garneys of Kenton in Muskett, Joseph, James, *Suffolk Manorial Families*, Vol. I, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1900), pp. 190-1 at:

https://archive.org/stream/bub_gb_ZxANnBnHKBQC#page/n197

See also the Garneys wills and pedigree in Muskett, Joseph James, *Suffolk Manorial Families*, Vol. II, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1908), pp. 261-5 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=1U1fv9pQA1UC&pg=PA265>

See also the pedigree of Garneys of Mendlesham in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Suffolk*, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1882), p. 33 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/visitationsofsuf00harvuoft#page/32/mode/2up>

For the will of Thomas Garneys of Kenton, dated 26 November 1566 and proved 17 October 1567, see TNA PROB 11/49/292.

See also Mason, R.H., *The History of Norfolk, Part V*, (London: Wertheimer, Lea & Co., 1885), p. 116 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ftoGAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA116>

See also the Garneys pedigree in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Suffolk*, (Exeter: William Pollard, 1882), pp. 32-3 at:

<http://archive.org/stream/visitationsofsuf00harvuoft#page/32/mode/2up>

Robert Garneys of Kenton, esquire, son and heir to John, married Anne, daughter and one of the heirs of Thomas Bacon, son and heir of John Bacon of Baconsthorpe, co. Norf., and of Margaret, his wife; da. and heir of Robert Baynard of Spettishall, co. Suff., Esq., which John Bacon was son and heir to John Bacon son and heir to Sir Roger Bacon, Kt., son and heir to Sir Thomas Bacon, Kt., and of Alice his wife, da. and heir of Sir [crossed out: Thomas] Bartholomew Antingham, Kt.; and the said Robert Garneys and Anne his wife had issue, -- John, son and heir; Elizabeth, mar. to James Calthrop of Cockthorpe, co. Norf.; Anne, first mar. to Richard Adamporte (Harl. MS. 1560, Dampart), after to Robert Bacon, thirdly to Jervys Wentworth of Wentworth, co. York; Margaret, first mar. to Edward Ferys (Walter, third Baron Ferrers, first) Viscount Hereford, after to John, Lord Willoughby of Parham.

For the marriage of Anne Garneys and Robert Bacon (d.1558) of Harleston, see also the Bacon pedigree in Rye, Walter, ed., *The Visitacion of Norffolk*, (London: Harleian Society, 1891), Vol. XXXII, p. 11 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=HS8EAAAIAAJ&pg=PA11>

For the marriage of Anne Garneys and Robert Bacon (d.1558) of Harleston, see also Waters, Robert Edmond Chester, *Genealogical Memoirs of the Extinct Family of Chester of Chicheley*, Vol. I, (London: Robson and Sons, 1878), pp. 259, 277 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=oGMBAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA259>

In summary, the testator's father cannot be specifically traced to the senior Baconsthorpe branch of the family, which terminated in two female co-heirs. If, as stated in the pedigree, the testator's father was descended from the Bacons of Baconsthorpe, it may have been through a cadet branch, or perhaps through a female member of the Baconsthorpe branch who married a member of another branch of the Bacon family.

MARRIAGES AND ISSUE

First marriage

According to the brief Bacon pedigree in *The Visitation of London, supra*, p. 38, the testator married firstly Anne Tomlinson:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=yb7UAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA38>

In the will below, the testator states that she is buried in the parish church of Lavenham. No children of this marriage are shown in the pedigree. However in the will below the testator names two sons who appear to have been the children of his first marriage:

* **Thomas Bacon**, 'referred to by the testator as 'my eldest son'.

* **Robert Bacon** (d. before 1639), gentleman, of Lavenham, Suffolk. In the will below the testator bequeaths him a lease held of the Earl of Oxford:

Item, I give unto my said son, Robert Bacon, all my lease and whole term of years that I have in reversion of all the lands, meadows, pastures, feedings, and commonly called and known by the names of Baylie Brooke and Nether Hall, which lease and term of years I hold of the grant of the right honourable th' Earl of Oxenford, to be begun after the expiration and determination of the term of years that one Robert Symond of Lanam [=Lavenham] now hath in the same lands by virtue of a former lease in possession.

It was perhaps in connection with this lease that Robert Bacon was a defendant, together with his stepmother, Anne Bacon Blackwell, and the Lavenham clothier, George Ruggle, in a bill of complaint dated 9 February 1602 filed in the Court of Chancery by Thomas Skinner, the second son of Thomas Skinner (d.1596), Lord Mayor of London, concerning leases which, according to Skinner, pertained to Oxford's former manors of Overhall and Netherhall in Lavenham. See TNA C 3/290/19.

According to the will of his half brother, Mathy Bacon, he married a wife named Faith, by whom he had three daughters, Faith Bacon, Margaret Bacon and Bridget Bacon, as well as two grandsons, Robert Preston and (blank) Preston, all of whom are mentioned in the will of Mathy Bacon (d.1639), TNA PROB 11/180/622.

Second marriage

The testator married secondly Anne Blackwell, the daughter of William Blackwell (d.1570?) by Margaret Campion (d.1586).

For the will of William Blackwell, see TNA PROB 11/52/400. For the will of Margaret Campion Blackwell, see TNA PROB 11/69/398.

In the will below, the testator mentions only one son by his second wife, Anne Blackwell:

* **William Bacon**, referred to as ‘William Bacon, the eldest son of Anne, my said wife’.

However according to the pedigree signed by Mathias Bacon, *supra*, and the challenge to the will of Mathy Bacon after his death, by his second marriage the testator had three other sons, and two daughters:

* **Mathias or Mathy or Mathie or Matthew Bacon** (d.1639) of Gray’s Inn, who married Elizabeth Raven, the daughter of John Raven of Sandbach, Chester. For his will, see TNA PROB 11/180/622.

* **George Bacon**, who died without issue. Henry Machyn recorded that ‘young Master George Blackwell’ was godfather at the christening of his nephew, George Bacon, in February 1563. See *The Diary of Henry Machyn, supra*, pp. 300-1 at:

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

* **Richard Bacon**, citizen and apothecary of London, for whose brief will, dated 12 June 1627 and proved 25 February 1628, see TNA PROB 11/153/263. In his will, Richard Bacon mentions a deed of trust ‘unto my good friends Robert Blackwell, esquire, and Thomas Hawarde [=Hayward?], gentleman’, whom he makes his executors. In his will, Mathy Bacon, leaves bequests to three sons and two daughters of his brother, Richard Bacon:

And my further will and mind is that my executors hereafter named shall pay unto Mathie Bacon, my godson, one of the sons of my brother, Richard Bacon, deceased, the sum of fifty pounds of lawful money of England, which I freely give and bequeath unto him.

And I give and bequeath to his brother, Francis Bacon, and Edward Bacon, two other of my brother Richard Bacon his sons, twenty pounds of like money, viz., to either of them ten pounds apiece.

And I do also give and bequeath to Marie Walker, widow, and to Elizabeth Marriott, two of my brother Richard Bacon his daughters, twenty pounds of lawful money of England, viz., to either of them ten pounds apiece.

The bequest to Marie Walker perhaps indicates a marriage into the family of Henry Walker (d.1616), to whom in 1604 Mathy Bacon sold the Blackfriars gatehouse purchased by William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon in 1613. For the will of Henry Walker, see TNA PROB 11/128/230.

-Anne Bacon, who married a husband surnamed Whitbred. For the Whitbred pedigrees, see Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex, Part I*, (London: Harleian Society, 1878), Vol. XIII, pp. 17, 126, 320 and 520 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationsofess1314metc#page/16/mode/2up>

-Susan Bacon.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

For Margaret Rolfe, see:

A P Baggs, Diane K Bolton, M A Hicks and R B Pugh, 'Finchley: Other estates', in *A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 6, Friern Barnet, Finchley, Hornsey With Highgate*, ed. T F T Baker and C R Elrington (London, 1980), pp. 59-64. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/middx/vol6/pp59-64> [accessed 29 July 2018].

RM: T{estamentum} Thome Bacon

In the name of God, Amen. The twentieth day of August Anno D{omi}ni one thousand five hundred seventy-seven, I, Thomas Bacon th' elder of Lavenham in the county of Suffolk, gentleman, being whole in mind and of good and perfect remembrance (thanks be given to Jesus), forsaking and disannulling all and every other will at any time before this day by me made, had and declared, do only betake me unto this for my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First, I give and betake my soul into the hands of Almighty God, the maker thereof, only hoping through the merits of my Saviour and Redeemer Jesus Christ's blessed and most bitter passion to have clear remission of all my sins, and so with an unfeigned hope do trust to have a joyful resurrection;

And my body to be buried within the parish of Lanam [=Lavenham] afore-named near unto my wife;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the poor people within the parish of Lavenham afore-named the sum of three pounds six shillings and eight pence, to be distributed amongst them upon my burial-day by the discretion of my executors and supervisor of this my last will and testament;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Anne, my wife, all that my capital messuage or mansion house wherein I do now inhabit or else of late have dwelled in, situate, lying and being within the parish and town of Lavenham afore-named, and in the street commonly called Prentis [=Prentice?] Street, being burgage-hold, with all manner of buildings, dovehouse, orchards, gardens, meadow or pasture whatsoever unto the same messuage in any manner of wise now belonging, had, used or occupied, or of old time occupied, and as they are now enclosed within my backside, in as ample, large and beneficial manner as I myself in my lifetime did hold, occupy, use and enjoy the same or any other from me or by my grant, to have and to hold all my said capital messuage or manor house together [f. 271v] [-together] with all the buildings, dovehouse, orchards, gardens, meadow or pasture whatsoever as is afore given and bequeathed unto the same Anne, my wife, and her assigns by and during the whole term of her life natural according to the custom of the burgage of the manor of Lavenham, paying all rents and doing all such service as shall be due upon the same, she keeping all the edifices and buildings in and upon any part of the premises from time to time and as often as need shall require by and during all her said life in good and sufficient reparations;

And after the decease of my said wife, I will and bequeath the remainder of all my said capital messuage or mansion house with all the buildings, orchards, gardens, ponds, waters, with the moiety or one-half of the afore-named meadow or pasture lying within my backside afore-named which I purchased of William Fryar [=Frere?], gentleman, late of Clare, deceased, and now with my said messuage or mansion house occupied, shall go and remain to William Bacon, the eldest son of Anne, my said wife, and to his heirs forever according to the custom of the burgage of Lavenham afore-named, except the orchard and garden whereupon my dovehouse now standeth, which I will shall remain to my messuage wherein Robert Warren the butcher now dwelleth;

Item, I give and bequeath to Thomas Bacon, my eldest son, all my said messuage which I purchased of the said William Fryer, and wherein the said Robert Warren now inhabiteth, with all the tenements belonging unto the same messuage;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the said Thomas, my son, and his heirs all my lands holden by copy of court roll called by the name of Prentys hills, situate within the parish of Lavenham afore-named, and all the meadows and hop-yards thereunto belonging;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my said son, Thomas, my windmill with all the furniture thereunto belonging, and my tenement unto the same mill belonging, with the hoise(?) mill situate and standing within the same tenement;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my said son, Thomas, all my lands holden as well by copy of court roll of the right honourable th' Earl of Oxenford as for term of years by indenture, situate, lying and being within the field commonly called the town field within the parish of Lavenham aforesaid;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my said son, Thomas, and his heirs all my meadow called Fremans alias Amecrofte;

Item, I give unto my said son, Thomas, all my tenement with the lands thereunto belonging wherein one Richard Brewster now dwelleth upon this condition following, that is to wit, my will and pleasure is that my said son Thomas shall not in any case put out the said Richard Brewster or his assignee from the use and occupation thereof during the whole term of the life natural of the said Richard Brewster, but the said Richard to have and enjoy the same tenement with all the lands now thereunto belonging in as ample, large and beneficial manner as the same Richard Brewster now holdeth and enjoyeth the same by my grant and sufferance, upon this condition following, that is to say, the said Richard shall yearly by and during all the whole term of his life natural pay unto my said son, Thomas, the sum of twenty-six shillings eight pence for his rent due upon the same at two usual feasts in the year, that is to wit, at th' Annunciation of Our Blessed Lady the Virgin and Saint Michael th' Archangel by even portions, and also by and during his life to discharge yearly the lord's rent due upon the same tenement and lands;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Robert Bacon, my son, and his heirs my house within Prentis Street afore-named commonly called the Guild-hall of the Trinity, with the yards, orchards, garden and pond now or of late thereunto belonging, seeming(?) out away about two rod(?) in length and as much in breadth from the corner of my backhouse now annexed unto the same guild-hall, and stretching and extending unto the pond belonging unto the same guild-hall;

Item, I give unto my said son, Robert Bacon, all my lease and whole term of years that I have in reversion of all the lands, meadows, pastures, feedings, and commonly called and known by the names of Baylie Brooke and Nether Hall, which lease and term of years I hold of the grant of the right honourable th' Earl of Oxenford, to be begun after the expiration and determination of the term of years that one Robert Symond of Lanam [=Lavenham] now hath in the same lands by virtue of a former lease in possession;

Item, I give unto my said son, Robert, my tenement and the yard next adjoining unto the said guild-hall wherein the joiner did of late inhabit and dwell;

Item, I give unto my said son, Robert, and his heirs my tenement and the yard thereunto belonging commonly called Shillings, being likewise burgage-hold, except all the whole barn now standing thereupon, which barn I will shall remain to Anne, my wife, during her natural life for to lay her corn and stuff therein, with egress and regress to and from the said barn always at the will and pleasure of my said wife with servants, horses, carts and carriages throughout the same yard leading to the same barn, and the remainder of

the same barn after the decease of my said wife I will shall go and remain to my said son, Robert, and his heirs forever, after the custom of the manor;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my said son, Thomas Bacon, all that my lease and term of years that I have from the grant of the right honourable th' Earl of Oxenford of all the portion of the tithes within the parish of Lavenham afore-named [f. 272r?] and belonging unto the Priory of Colne;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my servant, John Turtill, as well in consideration of the good and faithful service that he hath done unto me many years, as also for the good trust and opinion that I have in the honest, just and diligent service that he intendeth to do during his life unto Anne, my wife, his mistress, all that my tenement with two pieces of land, arable and meadow, containing by estimation six or eight acres more or less, which lands are now in mine own occupation, to have and to hold all the said tenement and customary-hold land according to the custom of the manor afore-named to the said John Turtill or his assigns by and during the whole natural life of the said John, paying the lord's rent due upon the same, and doing the service as hath been always accustomed to the lord of the manor, and after the death of the said John Turtill, I will the remainder thereof to go to Thomas Bacon, my said son, and his heirs;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Anne, my said wife, and to her heirs forever, all my leases whatsoever and not afore disposed that I have and hold by the grant as well of the right honourable the Earl of Oxenford that now is as also by the grant of his right honourable father, the Earl of Oxenford that dead is, as well of all those grounds whatsoever as is commonly known, reputed and taken by the name of Brome park, situate within the parish of Lavenham, as of all and every parcel and parcels of grounds whatsoever as are included within every or any of all the said leases that either I hold in possession or reversion by virtue and force of any of the said leases, except before excepted, and to my children always reserved all such parcels of land, meadow and pasture whatsoever as I have before in this my will made especial assignment, gift and nomination, made, given, bequeathed and assigned unto any of my said children and included within any of the said leases, provided always notwithstanding my will is that if any of my said sons shall happen to hold by virtue of my former gift and assignment in this my last will any manner of part, parcel or member of any grounds included within any of my said leases before-named whatsoever, that then my said sons or any of them or the heirs, executors, administrators and assigns of every of them shall yearly and from time to time during the whole term of years in all these leases that I have made gift unto my said wife of, discharge, acquit and harmless keep my said wife and her heirs, executors, administrators and assigns of all manner of rents due unto the lord for such grounds that they or any of them shall hold by virtue of my said gift, being parcel, part or member of any of the said leases, paying after the rate for every acre by the year as my said wife payeth for the rest(?) of her lease grounds unto the lord;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Anne, my said wife, and to Thomas Bacon, my son, all my goods, as well movable as unmovable, of what nature, quality or condition soever they be of, that is to wit, as well corn, cattle, plate, jewels, ready money, implements of

household, debts whatsoever that I have as well in and about all my house or houses in Lavenham afore-named as in and upon all my grounds there or elsewhere within the county of Suffolk, to be equally divided by even and just participation betwixt my said wife and son;

Item, I will that Thomas, my son, shall pay unto Robert Bacon, his brother, the sum of ten pounds of lawful money of England out of his part of my said goods that I have given and bequeathed him within one year next after my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Anne, my said wife, and her heirs my leases and term of years yet enduring that I have to come in Ballardis Readinge [=Ballards Reding?], lying within the town of Finchley and county of Middlesex, paying out of the same unto Margaret Rolfe all such sum or sums of money as by any manner of mean or cause shall grow to be due unto the said Margaret by the last will and testament of her late father at the day of her marriage, as by the same will doth and may more plainly appear;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Anne, my said wife, and her heirs all my lease and term of years as yet to come that I have in the manor called the Fryth alias the New Hall, with all my movable and unmovable goods whatsoever as remaineth in and within my said house called the Fryth alias New Hall or upon any of all my grounds whatsoever as belongeth unto the same my house called the Fryth alias New Hall upon this only condition, that she shall pay all my debts that I am either by specialty or conscience bound to pay;

Further, I give and bequeath unto my said wife and to her heirs forever all the rest of my houses and lands as well free as copy that I have in Lavenham and not as yet by this my last will and testament given, disposed nor assigned, to do her will therein, trusting that as I have found her a very loving and dutiful wife unto me in my life so I nothing doubt but she will show herself as loving a mother to her children and mine [-at] after my death, and to see them brought up in the fear of God that they may live virtuously in this world, and not to forget me nor them, but to seek the advancement and benefit of them all to the uttermost of her power;

Further I give and bequeath unto Anne, my wife, all such household stuff, plate, jewels, money, implements of household as remaineth of mine within the house of my mother by law [=mother-in-law], Mistress Blackwell, within the Blackfriars within the City of London;

And the rest of all my goods, movable and unmovable, and debts wheresoever they are or within whose custody and possession they be kept (my debts paid and my funerals discharged and my legacies performed), I commit them wholly to the disposition of mine executrix and executor, whom I do ordain and make Anne, my wife, and Thomas Bacon, my son;

And I ordain and make William Bytteringe my supervisor to see this my last will and testament truly performed.

Read, sealed and delivered in the presence of me, Thomas Sadlington. P{er} me, Thomam Bacon, and me, William Adam and Thomas Robinson.

Probatum fuit h{uius}mo{d}i Testamentum apud London Coram mag{ist}ro Will{el}imo Drewry Legum Doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cant{uariensis} Commissario Vicesimo Die mensis Septembris Anno D{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingentesimo Septuagesimo Septimo Iuramento mag{ist}ri Petri Johnson notarij publici procuratoris Anne Relicte et Thome Bacon filij et Executorum in h{uius}mo{d}i Testamento no{m}i{n}atorum Quibus commissa fuit Administrac{i}o omnium et sing{u}lor{um} bonorum Iurium &c De bene et fidel{ite}r Administrand{o} eadem Ac de pleno et fideli Inventario omnium et singulorum bonorum Iurium &c Conficiend{o} Et illud exhibend{o} Necnon de plano et vero Comp{ot}o &c reddend{o} Iurat{i}

[=The same testament was proved at London before Master William Drury, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the twentieth day of the month of September in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred seventy-seventh by the oath of Master Peter Johnson, notary public, proctor of Anne, relict, and Thomas Bacon, son, [-and] executors named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights etc., sworn to well and faithfully administer the same, and to prepare a full and faithful inventory of all and singular the goods, rights etc., and to exhibit the same, and also to render a plain and true account.]