

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 16 November 1579 and proved 2 November 1580, of Anthony Bonner of Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, whose daughter, Mary Bonner (d. 5 April 1617), was the mother of Thomas Combe (died c.1608), to whom William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon left a sword in his will. For the will, dated 22 December 1608 and proved 10 February 1609, of Thomas Combe of Stratford upon Avon, see TNA PROB 11/113/130.

The testator married Bridget Savage (d.1608x11). For her family, see the will of her brother, Francis Savage (c.1524 - 19 August 1557), dated 17 August 1557 and proved 4 July 1558, TNA PROB 11/40/349. See also Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, pp. 493-4, and Vol. IV, p. 387, and the will of Bridget (nee Savage) Bonner (d.1608x11), dated 16 January 1608 and proved 3 June 1611, TNA PROB 11/118/12.

At the time the testator made his will, his daughter, Mary Bonner (d. 5 April 1617) was the wife of William Yonge (d. December 1583), gentleman, of Caynton in Edgmond, Shropshire, by whom she had an only daughter, Bridget Yonge (buried 11 March 1629), who on 2 November 1609, in Holy Trinity Church, Stratford upon Avon, married George Wyllys (c.1591 – 9 March 1645), gentleman, of Fenny Compton, Warwickshire, son of George Chambers of Williamscott, Oxfordshire. George Wyllys became Governor of the Connecticut Colony in 1642. See Richardson, *supra*, Vol. IV, p. 387.

Prior to his marriage to Mary Bonner (d. 5 April 1617), William Yonge (d. December 1583) had earlier been married to Anne Sneyd, by whom he had five sons, William, Giles, Thomas, John, another John, and six daughters Elizabeth, who married Walter Cotton; Margaret, who married William Cotton; Anne, who married a husband surnamed Evans; Mary, who married a husband surnamed Comley; Frances, who married William Bolton; and Hester. See Richardson, *supra*, Vol. IV, p. 387.

Anne Sneyd was the daughter of Sir William Sneyd (d. 6 June 1571), maternal grandfather of Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham (d.1612/3). For the will of Sir William Sneyd, see TNA PROB 11/54, ff. 234-5.

Mary Bonner's stepson, Giles Yonge, was thus a first cousin of Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham (c.1612/3). He acted as Elizabeth Trentham's trustee when she purchased King's Place in Hackney in 1597 (see TNA C 66/1476, m. 19).

After William Yonge's death in 1583, Mary (nee Bonner) Yonge (d. 5 April 1617) married, secondly, on 10 January 1586, Thomas Combe (died c.1608), by whom she had two sons, William and Thomas (to whom William Shakespeare left a sword), and two daughters, Mary and Joyce. Mary (nee Bonner) survived her second husband, Thomas Combe, and died at Stratford upon Avon on 5 April 1617.

For further details of the relationship between the Trentham, Combe and Savage families see the will of Ralph Sheldon of Beoley, TNA PROB 11/121, ff. 221-3 on this website.

For the Combe family see also Pogue, Kate Emery, *Shakespeare's Friends*, (Westport, Connecticut: Praeger Publishers, 2006), pp. 27-30.

At the time he made his will, the testator had two sons, Anthony and George, and three unmarried daughters, Anne, Joan and Elizabeth. It appears from the will of the testator's widow, Bridget (nee Savage) Bonner that Anne married William Goddard, Joan married William Wyatt, and Elizabeth married Sir Stephen Culpeper. See also Richardson, *supra*, Vol. III, p. 494.

For a pedigree of the testator's family and an earlier summary of the testator's will see 'The First Wife of Governor Willys of Connecticut and her Family', *The New England Genealogical and Historical Register*, Vol. LIII, 1899, (facsimile reprint, 1998), pp. 217-24 at p. 223:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=SCZSoqEw1pYC&pg=PA223&lpg=PA223&dq=%22westonton%22&source=bl&ots=V9FLFn0j1h&sig=9ANPIyC8OF5eFRxL7IcEhRngIK8&hl=en&sa=X&ei=MGI3U8S5NMr4qAGCr4CABQ&ved=0CDkQ6AEwBA#v=onepage&q=%22westonton%22&f=false>.

RM: T{estamentum} Anthonij Bonner

[f. 342r] In the name of God, Amen. The sixteenth day of November the one and twentieth year of the reign of our most gracious Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith etc., and in the year of Our Lord God one thousand five hundred seventy-nine, I, Anthony Bonner of Campden in the county of Gloucestershire, gentleman, being sick in body but of good and perfect remembrance, thanks be to Almighty God, do ordain and make this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

Firstly I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God, my Creator, and to Jesus Christ, my Redeemer, and to the Holy Ghost, my Comforter, and my body to be buried in the church of Campden aforesaid at the discretion of my executrix;

Item, I give and bequeath towards the reparations of the said church twenty shillings;

Item, I give and bequeath to the mother church of Sarum twelve pence;

Item, I give and bequeath unto every poor body(?) within the almshouse of Campden in money twelve pence;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth Littleford, one of the said house, three shillings four pence;

Item, I will and bequeath to the reparations of the church of Alcester in money ten shillings;

Item, I will and bequeath to William Keme, sometimes my servant, in money twenty shillings;

Item, I will and bequeath to Anne Bonner, my eldest daughter, towards her advancement in marriage the sum of two hundred pounds of current money of England, to be paid and delivered to her or her assigns in such manner and form as hereafter in this my last will and testament is limited and appointed;

Item, I will and bequeath to Joan Bonner, another of my daughters, towards her advancement in marriage the sum of two hundred pounds of current money of England, to be paid and delivered unto her or her assigns in such manner and form as hereafter in this my last will and testament is limited and appointed;

Item, I will and bequeath to Elizabeth Bonner, my youngest daughter, toward her advancement in marriage the sum of two hundred pounds of current money of England, to be paid and delivered to her or to her assigns in such manner and form as hereafter in this my last will and testament is limited and appointed;

Item, my mind and will is that if it shall fortune (as God forbid) any of my said daughters to decease and die before they shall be married, that then her part and portion so bequeathed her or them by this my last will and testament shall remain to the other daughters or daughter that surviveth for her or their better advancement and preferments equally to be divided amongst them, and if it please God all my daughters to decease and die before their said marriages, then all their said portions so bequeathed shall remain and be due to Anthony and George, my sons, to be divided equally betwixt them;

And further my mind and will is that my said daughters and every of them that shall remain unmarried shall have sufficient maintenance in all things necessary according to their ages and callings at the hands of my executrix or, she marrying or refusing, at the hands of my overseers, but if they or any of them shall be willing to be in service, then my said executrix or overseers that shall then have authority in this my last will and testament shall pay and allow unto every one of my said daughters for her better maintenance yearly until they marry six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence of current money of England in two equal portions and at two equal feasts to be paid;

But if any of my said daughters shall remain unmarried at what time my debts be paid and the rest of the legacies and my will performed, then my mind and will is that my executrix, or she being married, my overseers that shall enter into th' execution of this my last will and testament, or, their authority ceasing, my two sons equally or one of them surviving, shall pay such daughter or daughters every one yearly during her or their

natural life if she live unmarried twenty pounds of good and lawful money of England at two equal feasts or days from their entries by the half year and in equal portions;

Item, I will and bequeath to Edward, my servant, twenty shillings besides his wages;

Item, I will and bequeath to Alice Manxe, my servant, twenty shillings besides her wages;

Item, I do devise, will, give, grant and bequeath to Anthony Bonner, my eldest son, and to his heirs forever all those my messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances whatsoever situate, lying and being within the town and fields of Campden aforesaid, Burington and Westonton [=Westington?] in the parish of Campden aforesaid, and Norton in the parish of Weston Subedge in the county of Gloucester;

Item, I do devise, will, give, grant and bequeath unto George Bonner, my youngest son, and to the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten forever all those my lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances whatsoever situate, lying and being in the town, fields and enclosures of Ullington and Pebworth and within the parish of Pebworth in the county of Gloucester, provided nevertheless and my mind and will is that if the said George Bonner shall decease and die (as God forbid) without heirs male of his body lawfully begotten, then the said lands, tenements and hereditaments in Ullington and Pebworth aforesaid shall revert and descend to the heir male of the body of the said Anthony, my son, forever;

But if the said George have issue female of his body lawfully begotten, and that Anthony, my son, shall want issue male as before is said of his body lawfully begotten, then the said lands, tenements and hereditaments in Pebworth and Ullington and in every one of them by what name soever to remain unto the issue female of the body of the said George forever;

And for want of issue [f. 342v] of the bodies of the said Anthony and George, my sons, or either of them, the said lands, tenements and hereditaments aforesaid(?) in Campden Burington, Westonton and Norton and all the lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances in Ullington and Pebworth and in every one of them shall descend and remain to the right heirs of me, the said Anthony Bonner, forever;

Item, I do will and bequeath unto Bridget, my wife, (illegible) of all those my several leases, viz., of Bickmarsh and Norton, the lease of certain woods called (illegible), a lease of two acres of meadow ground, the lease of my now dwelling house in Campden and in the towns and fields of Campden, Barington and Westonton (illegible), and also the stocks and store of all manner of cattle being in and upon every of them at the time of my decease, together with the use and occupation of all those my lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever in Ullington and Pebworth and their precincts(?) with their stocks and store of beasts and cattle of what kind soever, and also the use and occupation of two parts of all my lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances in the town and fields of Campden, Burington and Westonton in the parish of Campden in the

county of Gloucester with their stocks and store of all manner of cattle, the said lands being divided into three equal parts or portions, so long as the said Bridget shall continue sole and unmarried for and towards the payments of my debts, legacies, funeral charges, bringing up of my said children and the marriages of my daughters and generally to the fulfilling and performing of this my last will and testament;

Provided always and nevertheless my mind and will is that the said Bridget, my wife shall within three months next after my decease enter into such sufficient bonds by obligation or otherwise in such sums of money as to my said son-in-law, William Younge, esquire, George Savage, clerk, William Foskin, esquire, and Thomas Duffield or two of them consenting shall be thought meet and convenient that the said Bridget, my wife, nor her assigns or other person or persons whomsoever at any time or times during her remaining sole and unmarried and occupier of the said several leases and interests, lands and stocks and store of cattle whatsoever shall do any act or acts or procure or suffer to be done or committed act, matter or thing whatsoever that shall be prejudicial or hurtful or tend to the avoiding or forfeiting of the said leases or interests or of any of them, as also for the most sure and safe delivery of the said leases and interests, goods and stocks of cattles, if she marry again, quietly and peaceably and in reasonable time to the said Anthony and George, my sons, if they then shall be or one of them of the age or ages of one and twenty years, or if they be not come to the said ages, then to the said William Younge, George Savage, William Foskin and Thomas Duffield or to the survivor of them to the uses and intents of this my last will and to none other use;

And further that the said bonds charge her with the bringing up of my sons and daughters, and that further she be accountable yearly for the sum of one hundred pounds towards the satisfying and payments of such of my daughters' legacies and bequests by me willed and bequeathed as shall first be married, and so every one of their portions to grow due and payable yearly as they are advanced to be paid and not otherwise;

And also further provided and my intent and will is that if the said Bridget, my wife, shall marry again or fortune to decease and die before the accomplishment and fulfilling of this my last will and testament, that then and from thenceforth my meaning and will is that the said William Younge, esquire, Mr George Savage, clerk, William Foskin, esquire, and Thomas Duffield or the survivor or survivors of them shall stand and be possessed of all and every of the said several leases and stocks of cattle so devised, and also to take into their hands the said lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever with their several stocks and store of all manner of cattle in Campden, Burington and Westonton, Ullington and Pebworth with their appurtenances so willed and devised over to the said Bridget, my wife, as is aforesaid, unto the use & performance of this my last will and testament as in paying of my debts, legacies, bringing up of my children and to the marriage of my daughters and their maintenance in such manner and form as is limited and appointed of my said wife to do, and until my said sons Anthony, George or one of them shall accomplish the full age of one and twenty years, [+and?] then to deliver over the said leases, stocks of cattle, goods and lands whatsoever that shall come to their hands, their reasonable costs and charges whatsoever sustained by them or any of them always to be deducted and allowed to the said William, George, William and Thomas and

every of them truly accounted for unto the said Anthony and George, my sons, or to the survivor of them, equally to be divided betwixt them by the good discretion of the said William Younge, George Savage, William Foskin and Thomas Duffield or the survivor of them;

And I do give unto every of the said parties, namely the said William Younge, George Savage, William Foskin and Thomas Duffield, five pounds yearly to be paid and allowed upon their accounts after they are entered and charged therewith;

Item, my mind and will is, if my said wife shall marry again, that she shall have and take unto her clearly the third part of all my goods and chattels, household stuff, implements and goods whatsoever movable and unmovable as they shall sort and come forth and be divided together [f. 343r] with her third of all my lands and tenements whatsoever for her dowry according to the custom of England, and not to be charged further with any matter of this my last will;

The rest of my goods and chattels whatsoever, my debts paid, my funeral charges allowed and legacies performed, I give and bequeath to Bridget, my said wife, whom I make the sole executrix of this my last will and testament, revoking all former wills heretofore made;

And do ordain and make my son-in-law, William Younge, esquire, George Savage, clerk, my brother-in-law, William Foskine, esquire, and Thomas Duffield, my cousins, overseers of this my last will, and do give unto every one of my said overseers five marks for their pains;

Item, my mind and will is that if any ambiguity, doubt or question arise and grow by misconstruing or mistaking of any sentence or matter contained in this my will whereof strife may arise, the said controversy, doubt, misconstruction or question whatsoever to be destiled(?) [sic for 'decided'?] and judged my meaning by my said overseers and Mr Roger Bracegirdle, Bachelor of Physic, three or two of them, whereof my cousin, Thomas Duffield, to be one if he be in life, or the said Roger Bracegirdle;

In witness whereof I have to every part or leaf of this my last will and testament put to my hand and to the whole my seal the day and year above-written in the presence of these etc. By me, Anthony Bonner.

Witnesses: Bridget Bonner, Roger Bracegirdle, Bachelor of Physic, Thomas Duffield, the writer, Marie Younge, William Harborne, Richard Bonner, William Keme, John Pratt and Anthony Bonner.

Probatum fuit h{uius}mo{d}i Testamentum Apud London Coram mag{ist}ro will{el}mo Drury legum Doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cantuarien{sis} Comissario secundo die mensis Novembris Anno D{omi}ni mill{es}imo Quingentesimo Octogesimo Iuramento Thome

Willett notarij publici procuratoris Brigitte Relicte et executricis in h{uius}mo{d}i Testamento no{m}i{n}at{e} Cui commissa fuit Administrac{i}o &c de Bene &c Ad Sancta dei Evangelia 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 second day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred eightieth by the oath of Thomas Willett, notary public, proctor of Bridget, relict and executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc.]