

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 14 and 15 May 1586 and proved 4 July 1586, of Margaret (nee Campion) Blackwell, whose daughter, Anne (nee Blackwell) Bacon, was the wife of Thomas Bacon (d.1577), bailiff of the 16th Earl's manor of Lavenham, who held leases from Oxford. Both the testatrix' husband, William Blackwell (d.1570?), and her daughter, Anne (nee Blackwell) Bacon, are mentioned in the indenture by which William Shakespeare (1564-1616) of Stratford upon Avon purchased the Blackfriars Gatehouse on 10 March 1613 (see Halliwell, James Orchard, *The Life of William Shakespeare* (London: John Russell Smith, 1848), pp. 248-9), available online.

This Indenture made the tenth day of Marche, in the yeare of our Lord God according to the computacion of the church of England one thowsand six hundred and twelve, and in the yeares of the reigne of our soveraigne Lord James, by the grace of God king of England, Scotland, ffr aunce, and Ireland, defender of the faith, &c. that is to saie, of England, ffr aunce and Ireland the tenth, and of Scotland the six and fortith, Betweene Henry Walker citizein and minstrell of London of thone partie, and William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon in the countie of Warwick gentleman, William Johnson citizein and vintener of London, John Jackson and John Hemmyng of London gentlemen, on thother partie; Witnesseth, that the said Henry Walker, for and in consideracion of the somme of one hundred and fortie poundes of lawfull money of England to him in hande before thensealing hereof by the said William Shakespeare well and trulie paid, whereof and wherewith hee the said Henry Walker doth acknowledge himselfe fullie satisfied and contented, and thereof and of every part and parcell thereof doth cleerlie acquite and discharge the saide William Shakespeare, his heires, executours, administratours, and assignes, and every of them, by theis presents hath bargayned and sould, and by theis presents doth fullie cleerlie and absolutlie bargayne and sell unto the said William Shakespeare, William Johnson, John Jackson, and John Hemmyng, their heires and assignes for ever, all that dwelling house or tenement with thappurtenaunces situate and being within the precinct, circuit and compasse of the late Blackffryers, London, sometymes in the tenure of James Gardyner esquior, and since that in the tenure of John ffortescue gent, and now or late being in the tenure or ocupacion of one William Ireland or of his assignee or assignes, abutting upon a streete leading downe to Pudle Wharffe on the East part, right against the Kinges Majesties Wardrobe; part of which said tenement is erected over a great gate leading to a capitall mesuage which sometyme was in the tenure of William Blackwell esquior deceased, and since that in the tenure or ocupacion of the right Honorable Henry now Earle of Northumberland; and also all that plott of ground on the West side of the same tenement, which was lately inclosed with boords on two sides thereof by Anne Bacon, widowe, soe farre and in such sorte as the same was inclosed by the said Anne Bacon

The testatrix states in the will that the mansion house in the parish of Saint Andrew in Castle Baynard ward referred to in the foregoing excerpt had been purchased by her husband, William Blackwell (d.1570?), from Bishop Thomas Thirlby, who was the testatrix' first cousin, the son of the testatrix's paternal aunt, Joan (nee Campion) Thirlby. From the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, available online:

Thirlby, Thomas (c.1500–1570), bishop of Westminster and of Ely, was born in Cambridge where his father, John (d. 1539), was town clerk. His mother, Joan (d. 1557), was the daughter of William Campion of London. Thomas was the first of their three children.

For the will of the testatrix's husband, William Blackwell (d.1570?), gentleman, see TNA PROB 11/52, ff. 214-15. For the will of the testatrix' father, Thomas Campion (d.1539), see TNA PROB 11/27, f. 247. For the will of the testatrix' brother, William Campion (d.1576), see TNA PROB 11/58, ff. 230-2. For the will of the testatrix' son, Thomas Blackwell (d.1573), see TNA PROB 11/55, f. 23. For the will of the testatrix's son-in-law, Thomas Bacon (d.1577), see TNA PROB 11/59, ff. 271-2. For the will of the testatrix' grandson, Mathy or Matthew Bacon (d.1639), see TNA PROB 11/180, ff. 413-14. For the will of the testatrix' son-in-law, William Walpole (d.1587), see TNA PROB 11/71, ff. 313-14. The testatrix' daughter Saintes or Sence Blackwell married Matthew Draper on 13 June 1559, and was buried 24 August 1571. For the will of the testatrix' son-in-law, Matthew Draper (d.1577), see TNA PROB 11/59, ff. 254-5. For further information on the Draper family see *Collectanea Topographica et Genealogica*, Vol. III, (London: John Bowyer Nichols, 1836), pp. 150-1, available online.

For further information on the testatrix' family, see:

(1) The Campion pedigree in Howard, Joseph Jackson and Joseph Lemuel Chester, eds., *The Visitation of London Anno Domini 1633, 1634 and 1635*, (London: Harleian Society, 1880), p. 134.

(2) <http://histfam.familysearch.org/getperson.php?personID=I68550&tree=London>.

(3) Jessopp, Augustus, *One Generation of a Norfolk House*, (Norwich: Miller and Leavins, 1878), pp. 117-29, available online at <http://books.google.com/books?oe=UTF-8&id=fjI2AAAAMAAJ&q=blackwell#v=snippet&q=blackwell&f=false>.

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

RM: T {estamentum} Margarete Blackwell

In the name of God, Amen. The fourteenth day of May in the year of Our Lord God one thousand five hundred fourscore and six, I, Margaret Blackwell of London, widow, being

very sick and weak in body yet nevertheless of perfect mind and remembrance (thanks be unto Almighty God therefore), do make and ordain this my present testament declaring therein my last will in manner and form following, that is to say:

First and principally I bequeath and recommend my soul unto the infinite mercy of Almighty God, the Maker and Redeemer thereof, and my body to be buried in the parish church of Saint Andrew in the ward Castle Baynard, London, as near to the body of William Blackwell, my late husband, as to my executrix hereunder named shall be thought meet and convenient;

Item, I give and bequeath to the right honourable Sir Thomas Bromley, knight, Lord Chancellor of England, and to Lady Elizabeth, his wife, my especial good Lord and Lady, as a poor token and remembrance of my hearty goodwill and love towards them, one piece of hanging of arras and one carpet of Turkey work, desiring their Honours to take this my poor gift in good part;

Item, I give to Thomas Stynte, my servant, my three leases of certain tenements and lands thereunto belonging within the parish of North Chapel in the county of Sussex which I bought, the one of Jeffrey Longeley, thother of one [] Aspeley, and the third of one [] Allen, the said Thomas Stynte to pay out of the said leases to Jerrard Trice(?), one other of my servants, £3 yearly so long as the said Allen's lease shall endure at the feasts of Saint Michael th' Archangel and th' 'Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary by even and equal portions;

Item, I give and bequeath to Anne Bacon, my daughter, my now mansion and dwelling-house with all the meses and tenements thereunto adjoining together with all the gardens and yards thereunto belonging now in th' occupation of several persons, situate and being in the parish of Saint Andrew in the ward of Castle Baynard or in any other parish or ward within the said City of London, which said mansion house with th' appurtenances aforesaid the said William Blackwell, my late husband, bought of the Reverend Father in God, Thomas Thirlby, late Bishop of Ely, in as large and ample manner as I, the said Margaret Blackwell, did hold the same at the day of my death or at any time before during my life, to have and to hold the said mansion house with all and singular th' appurtenances aforesaid to the said Anne Bacon, her executors and administrators, for and during the term of three whole years next and immediately following after my decease, she and they to make her and their best commodity thereof during the said term, at th' end of which said term of three years my will and meaning is that the said mansion house with all th' appurtenances aforesaid shall be sold by the said Anne Bacon, her executors and administrators, to the best advantage that may be, and the money received for the same to be divided in two equal parts, whereof thone part I will and bequeath to William Blackwell, my son, towards the bringing up of his children, and thother part thereof I give and bequeath to my said daughter, Anne Bacon, for and towards the bringing up of her children, and for the help and succour which my will is she shall be to her sister, Mary Walpole, one other of my daughters, if occasion shall so require, viz., to allow her yearly £20 during the time of any breach between her and her husband, William Walpole;

Item, I give and absolutely bequeath unto my said daughter, Anne Bacon, all my goods, debts and chattels whatsoever, as well movable as unmovable, which I now have at the time of my death within the said City of London or in any place wheresoever within three miles' compass of the same City;

Item, I give and bequeath unto William Blackwell, my son, all that my messuage or farmhouse with all and singular barns, stables, orchards, gardens, lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances as well free as copy whatsoever unto the same belonging, situate, lying and being in the parishes of Barking and Dagenham in the county of Essex, together with one messuage or dwelling house situate, lying and being within the town of Barking aforesaid, to have and to hold the said messuage or farmhouse with all and singular the appurtenances aforesaid together with the said dwelling-house in Barking town aforesaid to the said William Blackwell, his heirs and assigns, forever, upon this condition following, viz., that the said William Blackwell, his heirs and assigns, shall yearly pay the sum of £10 issuing out of the said messuage, lands and tenements in Barking aforesaid by the last will and testament of Alice Lemande, widow, in such sort as in the said will is appointed, and also shall pay yearly £20 into the Exchequer which I stand bound by my band to pay during such term of years as is to come, and as I stand bound to pay the same, which I think to be three years or thereabouts;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the said William Blackwell all that my messuage or farmhouse with all and singular the barns, stables, orchards, gardens, lands, tenements and hereditaments with th' appurtenances whatsoever which I of late purchased of one John Fernden, situate, lying and being in the several parishes of Farnest, Hasyldmore and Lurgysale or elsewhere in the several counties of Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire, together also with one watermill which I purchased of the said John Fernden, to have and to hold the said messuage or farmhouse with all th' appurtenances aforesaid together with the said watermill to the said William Blackwell, his heirs and assigns, forever, upon this condition following, viz., that he, the said William Blackwell, his heirs and assigns, shall pay yearly unto the said Anne Bacon and her assigns for and towards the relief and maintenance of Margaret Galleye, wife of Richard Galleye, one other of my daughters, out of the said premises last recited the sum of £10 yearly during the natural life of the said Margaret so long as the said Richard Galleye doth live, and after his decease, the said £10 to be yearly paid unto the said Margaret herself during her natural life at the feasts of Saint Michael th' Archangel and th' Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary by even portions, and the said William Blackwell to see (as much as in him lieth) that she, the said Margaret, be honestly and well used and placed in some house meet for her;

Item, I give and bequeath to my said son, William Blackwell, all that my manor of Fridinghurst with all the lands, tenements and hereditaments thereunto belonging, set, lying and being within the parish of Chiddingfold in the county of Surrey, to have and to hold the said manor with all th' appurtenances whatsoever to the said William Blackwell, his heirs and assigns, forever;

Item, I give and bequeath to the said William Blackwell all my lands, tenements and hereditaments within the parish of Wooklye(?) in the county of Surrey called and known

by the name of the Strowde, to have and to hold the said lands called the Strowde to him, the said William Blackwell, his heirs and assigns, forever;

And my mind and will is that my said son, William Blackwell, shall either by his will at the time of his decease or otherwise by good and lawful conveyance in law during his life convey and assure unto Thomas Blackwell, his now youngest son, at his full age of 21 years so much of the lands and tenements before by this my will to him, the said William Blackwell, bequeathed as shall amount unto the yearly value of (blank);

Item, I give and bequeath to my said son, William Blackwell, all my goods, debts and chattels, as well movable as unmovable, within the said counties of Essex, Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire or in any of them upon condition that the said William Blackwell, his heirs and assigns, shall pay and discharge all such debts, duties, sums of money and demands whatsoever as I do at this present owe and stand indebted in or endangered to any person or persons in any of the said counties or elsewhere within the realm of England;

I give and bequeath to my said son, William Blackwell, all my debts and money whatsoever which my son-in-law, William Walpole, doth owe unto me at this present or which shall hereafter grow to be due unto me from my said son, William Walpole;

And my will and mind is that my said son, William Blackwell, shall find, keep and maintain of charity and devotion one William Wilkinson, my servant, with such necessaries as shall to him belong during his natural life, and if it shall please God that my said son, William Blackwell, do decease and depart this life before my said servant, William Wilkinson, then my will is that the heirs and assigns of the said William Blackwell shall pay yearly, out of the lands by this my last will to him given, to the said William Wilkinson the sum of 40s of good and lawful money of England during his life;

And my will and mind further is that if my said son, William Blackwell, shall refuse to take and accept the lands and other the premises by this my last will to him bequeathed by virtue of this my said will, and to discharge the conditions, payments and charges therein limited and appointed for him, his heirs and assigns, to pay and discharge, that then my said daughter, Anne Bacon, and her assigns to have so much rent issuing yearly out of all and every the said premises with clause of distress as will discharge and pay the said conditions, payments and charges, and she and they to see this my will performed and the said charges paid during such time and times as is hereinbefore limited and appointed;

All the residue of my goods, debts and chattels not before by this my last will given and bequeathed, after my legacies performed and funerals discharged, I wholly give and bequeath to my said daughter, Anne Bacon, whom I make my sole executrix of this my last will and testament, not doubting but that she (for the love and affection she beareth unto me) will have a care and regard to the just execution of the same;

And I do make and ordain my beloved friend, Leonard Mapes, overseer of this my said will, hoping that he will help and assist my said executrix to his power in the performance of this my said will, which I (repealing all former wills by me made) do make and ordain my last will and testament;

In witness whereof I have hereunto put my hand and seal to every leaf hereof. Margaret Blackwell. Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of us whose names are hereunder subscribed the 15th day of May one thousand five hundred fourscore and six. Katherine Hall, William Inman, Mathye Bacon, George Bacon, Richard Bacon, the mark of John Greene, the mark of Richard Holboroughe.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum Testamentum apud London Coram venerabili viro magistro Will{el}mo Drewry Legum doctore curie prerogatiue cant{uariensis} Comissario etc quarto die mensis Iulij anno d{omi}ni mill{es}imo quingen{tesi}mo Octogesimo sexto Iura{men}to Lawrentij Swinborne notarij publici procuratoris Anne Bacon filie et executricis etc cui comissa fuit administrac{i}o etc de bene etc Iurat{i} Ex{aminatur}

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Master William Drury, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury etc., on the fourth day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred eighty-sixth by the oath of Lawrence Swinborne, notary public, proctor of Anne Bacon, daughter and executrix etc., to whom administration was granted etc., sworn to well etc. Examined]