

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 13 February 1587 and proved 31 May 1587, of Hugh Newport, gentleman, of Corsham, Wiltshire, brother of Sir Richard Newport (d. 12 September 1570), owner of a copy of Hall's *Chronicle* containing annotations thought to have been made by Shakespeare. The volume was Loan 61 in the British Library until 2007, was subsequently on loan to Lancaster University Library until 2010, and is now in the hands of a trustee, Lady Hesketh. According to the Wikipedia entry for Sir Richard Newport, the annotated Hall's *Chronicle* is now at Eton College, Windsor. See:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Newport_\(died_1570\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richard_Newport_(died_1570))

Newport's copy of his chronicle, containing annotations sometimes attributed to William Shakespeare, is now in the Library at Eton College, Windsor.

For the annotated Hall's *Chronicle*, see also the will of Sir Richard Newport (d. 12 September 1570), TNA PROB 11/53/456; Keen, Alan and Roger Lubbock, *The Annotator*, (London: Putnam, 1954); and the Annotator page on this website:

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

According to the PCC copy, the testator made his will on 13 February 1587, which would usually be taken as 13 February 1588 (New Style). However according to the probatum clause, the will was proved on 31 May 1587. Unless the probatum clause is in error, the will should therefore be dated 13 February 1587 (New Style).

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For early generations of the Newport family, see Bridgeman, Ernest R.O. and Charles G.O. Bridgeman, 'History of the Manor and Parish of Weston-under-Lizard, in the County of Stafford', William Salt Archaeological Society, ed., *Collections for a History of Staffordshire*, Vol. XX, Vol. II, New Series, (London: Harrison and Sons, 1899), p. 146 at:

<https://archive.org/details/collectionsfora14socigoog/page/n189>

See also the Newport pedigree in Grazebrook, George, and John Paul Rylands, eds., *The Visitation of Shropshire Taken in the Year 1623*, Part II, (London: Harleian Society, 1889), Vol. XXIX, pp. 372-4 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationshrop01grazgoog#page/n100/mode/2up>

Testator's parents

The testator was the son of Thomas Newport and Anne Corbet. He is not mentioned in his father's will dated 24 July 1548, and was likely born after that date. See the will of Thomas Newport, dated 24 July 1548 and proved 11 June 1551, TNA PROB 11/34/176.

The testator's mother, Anne Corbet, was the daughter of Sir Robert Corbet (c.1477 – 11 April 1513) by Elizabeth Vernon, the daughter of Sir Henry Vernon (c.1441 – 13 April 1515) of Haddon, Derbyshire. For the will of Sir Henry Vernon, see TNA PROB 11/18/121. For the will of Sir Robert Corbet, see TNA PROB 11/17/471.

See also the pedigree of Corbet of Morton in Grazebrook, George, and John Paul Rylands, eds., *The Visitation of Shropshire Taken in the Year 1623, Part I*, (London: Harleian Society, 1889), Vol. XXVIII, pp. 136-7 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationshrop00britgoog#page/n190/mode/2up>

Sir Robert Corbet's sister, Elizabeth Corbet, and her husband Thomas Trentham (d.1518/9) of Shrewsbury, were the great-grandparents of Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham (d.1612). For the will of Thomas Trentham (d.1518/9), see TNA PROB 11/19/252.

Testator's siblings

As noted above, the testator's brother, Sir Richard Newport, was the owner of a copy of Hall's *Chronicle* containing annotations thought to have been made by Shakespeare.

The testator's sister, Elizabeth Newport, married John Pakington (1530-1578), and was the aunt of Humphrey Martyn (d.1587?), the addressee of the *Langham Letter* describing Leicester's entertainment of Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth in the summer of 1575. See the Langham page on this website.

For the testator's other siblings, see the will of his father, Thomas Newport, TNA PROB 11/34/176.

MARRIAGE

According to the pedigree of Butler of Langley the testator married Jane Butler, the daughter of Thomas Butler, gentleman, of Hanger in the parish of Bremhill, Wiltshire, by Joyce Godridge or Goodrich, daughter of John Godridge, esquire, of Pyrton, Gloucestershire. See Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitation of Wiltshire 1565*, (Exeter: William Pollard & Co., 1897), p. 11 at:

<https://archive.org/details/visitationofwilt00harvrinch/page/10>

Robert Butler of Northlich [=Northleach], co. Gloc., Gent., younger brother to Sir Thomas [Boteler] of Bewsey Hall, co. Lanc., Kt, mar. Jane, da. of Robert Harcourt of Harcourt, co. Oxford, Gent., and by her hath issue, -- Thomas.

Thomas Butler of Norlich, co. Gloc., son and heir of Robert, mar, Margery, da. of Robert Goughe (Gonne in G 8), of Brode Rysington [=Great Rissington], co. Gloc, Gent., and by her hath issue, Thomas, his eldest son.

Thomas Butler of Hanger in the parish of Bremhill, co. Wilts., Gent., son and heir of Thomas, mar. Joyce, da. of John Godridge of Pyrton, co. Gloc, Esq., and by her hath issue, -- William, son and heir; Richard, second son; Edmond, third son; Jane, mar. to Hugh Newport of Shropshire, Gent.; Jone, mar. to Valentine Norton of Hunwick, co. Berks, Gent.; Bridgett, mar. to George Edwards of West Wodhey, co. Berks, Gent.

See also Gloucestershire Archives D3117/190, a quitclaim dated 10 May 1538 to which John Goodrich and William Goodrich, gentlemen, and Thomas Butler, gentleman, and Joyce, his wife, were parties.

For the Boteler pedigree, see Raines, F.R., ed., *The Visitation of the County Palatine of Lancaster Made in the Year 1567*, (Manchester: Charles S. Simms, 1870), p. 106 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/remainshistorica81chetuft#page/n131/mode/2up>

For Bewsey Old Hall, see:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bewsey_Old_Hall

Bewsey Old Hall passed to Robert Dudley, 1st Earl of Leicester in 1586 in settlement of gambling debts when Edward Boteler died without an heir.

LM: T{estamentum} Hugonis Newporte

In the name of God, Amen. February 13th Anno 1587. I, Hugh Newport of the parish of Corsham in the diocese of Sarum and county of Wiltshire, gentleman, sick in body but of good and perfect memory, the Lord be praised, do make my last will and testament in manner and form as followeth:

First I bequeath or rather render again my soul unto God Almighty, my heavenly Father, and to his only Son, Our Lord Christ Jesus, my only Saviour and Redeemer, by the merits of whose death and passion I surely trust to be saved and to enjoy his glorious kingdom among the chosen children of God, our heavenly Father;

And I bequeath my body to be buried in the parish church of Corsham aforesaid;

Item, I give to the same church six shillings eight pence;

Item, I give unto the Lady Church of Sarum 2s 6d;

Item, I bequeath to the poor of the same parish of Corsham 13s 4d;

All the residue of my goods, cattles and chattels whatsoever, movable and unmovable, [+my?] funeral expenses discharged, I give and bequeath unto Jone(?), my wife, whom I make the sole executrix of this my last will and testament, these being witnesses: Henry Smithe, William Archer, John Harding, Hugh Pincham, with others.

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram venerabili viro magistro Willmo Drury Legum doctore curie prerogative Cantuariensis Commissario etc vltimo die mensis Maij Anno Domini Millesimo quingentesimo octogesimo septimo Iuramento Thome Barker notarij publici procuratoris Jane relicte et executricis in huiusmodi testamento nominatim Cui commissa fuit administratio etc De bene et fideliter administrando etc ad sancta Dei Evangelia Iuratim

[=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 last day of the month of May in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-seventh by the oath of Thomas Barker, notary public, proctor of Jane, relict and executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted etc. sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer etc.]