

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 7 September 1590 and proved 3 November 1590, of Walter Blount, whose second wife, Margaret Talbot, was the aunt of Thomas Russell, overseer of the will of William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon. For the will of Thomas Russell, dated 3 October 1633 and proved 5 May 1634, see TNA PROB 11/165/424.

The testator was the eldest son of Thomas Blount of Sodington, Worcestershire, by his first wife, Katherine Stanford or Stamford, the daughter of Thomas Stanford of Rowley, Staffordshire, and the grandson of Peter Blount of Sodington and Anne Cornwall, daughter of Sir Edmund Cornwall, Baron of Burford. See the will, dated 19 December 1562, of the testator's father, Thomas Blount, TNA PROB 11/46/220; and Grazebrook, H. Sydney, ed., *The Visitacion of Staffordschire*, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1883), p. 136 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=ADsRAQAIAAJ&pg=PA136&lpg=PA136&dq=%22Sillington%22+%22Worcestershire%22&source=bl&ots=_KXWU7j588&sig=UT8WYU10KNAbPSJfWXQc5Cj6Lds&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi0neyEy_DJAhUP6mMKHTwqDNOQ6AEIJjAF#v=onepage&q=%22Sillington%22%20%22Worcestershire%22&f=false.

After the death of Katherine Stanford, the testator's father married Joyce Shirley, the daughter and heir of Thomas Shirley of Enville, Staffordshire. See Phillimore, W.P.W., ed., *The Visitation of the County of Worcester Made in the Year 1569*, (London: Harleian Society, 1888), Vol. XXVII, pp. 17-18 at:

<http://www.archive.org/stream/visitationcount02mundgoog#page/n33/mode/2up>.

The testator's father mentions only four children in his will, the testator and his three brothers, Henry, George and Peter. According to the pedigree in Phillimore, *supra*, however, the testator also had a sister, Dorothy Blount, who married William Heath of Alvechurch, Worcestershire. See also Croke, Alexander, *The Genealogical History of the Croke Family, Originally Named Le Blount*, Oxford: W. Baxter, 1823), pp. 144, 154 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/genealogicalhist02crok#page/n57/mode/2up>.

The testator was twice married, but had no issue. He married firstly Katherine Grey, the daughter of Thomas Grey of Enville, Staffordshire.

The testator married secondly Margaret Talbot (d. 24 February 1632), the daughter of Sir John Talbot (d. 10 September 1549) of Salwarp and Grafton by his second wife, Elizabeth Wrottesley (d. 10 May 1559), daughter of Walter Wrottesley, esquire. After the testator's death his widow, Margaret, married Sir Arnold Lygon. For further details concerning the testator's wife see the sources cited in the will of her first husband,

Richard Lygon (d.1584) of Madresfield, TNA PROB 11/67/499, uncle of Thomas Russell, overseer of the will of William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon.

The testator's heir, Sir George Blount, married Eleanor Norwood, the daughter of William Norwood, esquire, of Leckhampton, Gloucestershire, by Elizabeth Lygon (d.1548 – 16 April 1598), the sister of Richard Lygon (d.1584) of Madresfield, and aunt of Thomas Russell, overseer of the will of William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon. See the will of William Norwood, dated 7 September 1632 and proved 31 May 1633, TNA PROB 11/163/627, and Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, pp. 24-6.

LM: T{estamentum} Walteri Blounte

[f. 204v] In the name of God, Amen. The seventh day of September in the two and thirtieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., I, Walter Blount of Sillington [=Sodington] in the county of Worcester, esquire, being sick in body and of a perfect memory, thanks be given to God, make this my last will and testament in manner and form following, viz.:

First I give my soul unto Almighty God, my Saviour and Redeemer, and my body to the earth;

As touching the disposition of all my lands and tenements, I will and devise that they descend and come unto George Blount, my brother;

Item, I will and devise unto my wedded wife, Margaret, in full satisfaction of her dower and for her only jointure the sum of one hundred pounds yearly to be levied of any part of all my lands and tenements for term of her natural life;

Item, I give and bequeath to my brother, Peter Blount, out of my goods and chattels the sum of one hundred pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath to my said wife, Margaret, the value of all such goods or such goods and chattels as were her own when she was married to me;

Item, I give to John Fawkner the sum of five pounds;

Item I give to Roger Grove the sum of five pounds;

Item, I give to Richard Fawkner the sum of five pounds;

Item, I give to Thomas Comber five pounds;

Item, I give to Richard Butler five pounds;

Item, I give to Jerome Plumley five pounds;

Item, I give to William Cowles five pounds;

The residue of all my goods and chattels movable and unmovable, my debts and legacies being paid, I give and bequeath unto George Blount, my brother, whom I ordain and appoint my full executor to put this my last will in execution with effect, these being witnesses whose names do ensue: Henry Daye, John More, Edward Howell.

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram venerabili viro magistro willmo Lewin legum Doctore ad exercendum officium magistrari Custodis siue Commissarij curie Prerogatiue Cantuariensis legitime deputato Tertio die mensis Novembris Anno domini millesimo quingentesimo nonagesimo Iuramento Anthonij Calton notarij publici procuratoris Georgij Blount executoris in huiusmodi testamento nominati Cui commissa fuit Administratio bonorum iurium et creditorum dicti Defuncti De bene et fideliter administrando ad sancta Dei Evangelia Iurat

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Master William Lewin, Doctor of the Laws, lawfully deputed to exercise the office of Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the third day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred ninetieth by the oath of Anthony Calton, notary public, proctor of George Blount, executor named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer.]