

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Count of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 23 April 1594 and proved 13 May 1594, of Anne Blount, sister-in-law of John Felton, executed 8 August 1570 for nailing the papal bull excommunicating Queen Elizabeth to the door of the palace of the Bishop of London.

For the testatrix' sister, Ellen (nee Blount), wife of John Felton, see:

<http://www.kateemersonhistoricals.com/TudorWomenB-BI.htm>.

See also the *ODNB* entry for the testatrix' brother-in-law, John Felton:

Felton, John (d. 1570), Roman Catholic martyr, was, according to an account given in 1627 by his daughter, Frances Salisbury, related to the protestant Feltons of Norfolk but occupied the former Bermondsey Abbey, Surrey. Salisbury added that her mother was maid of honour to Mary I and formerly wife of her auditor, adding (rather implausibly) that she was also so favoured by Elizabeth that the queen, after executing her second husband, licensed her to keep a priest in her house. Perhaps Salisbury's mother was the Ellyn Goodwin married in St Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey, on 30 July 1557 to a John Felton, who had successive infant daughters baptized Frances there in 1560, 1564, and 1565. It seems that Felton was not then a recusant, but his son Thomas Felton (1566x8–1588), a Franciscan friar and, in his turn, a Roman Catholic martyr, was not baptized in the parish church.

*Felton's devotion to the papal primacy led him to publish in England (and so give it canonical effect) *Regnans in excelsis*, the bull of excommunication and deposition against Elizabeth issued by Pius V, by nailing a copy to the door of the bishop of London's palace by St Paul's Cathedral on 25 May 1570.*

For the testatrix' brother-in-law, John Felton, see also Camm, Dom Bede, ed., *Lives of the English Martyrs*, (London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1914), Vol. II, pp. 1-13 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/livesofenglishma02cammiala#page/2/mode/2up>.

For the testatrix' nephew, Thomas Felton, see also Burton, Edwin H. and J.H. Pollen, eds., *Lives of the English Martyrs*, 2nd Series, (London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1914), Vol. I, pp. 399-407 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/livesofenglishma01burtooft#page/398/mode/2up>.

See also *The Goodwins of East Anglia*, 1890, pp. 59-60 at:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=Z9g7AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA59&lpg=PA59&dq=%22John+Cade+of+Aldenham%22&source=bl&ots=Jx2L_CcIVU&sig=H5fjEzklIVDMZfCw6P-

Mj9OkYLI&hl=en&sa=X&ei=OmZOVlu1O5W7ogTi64LABg&ved=0CCAQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=%22John%20Cade%20of%20Aldenham%22&f=false.

The testatrix' sister, Ellen (nee Blount) Goodwin Felton married, as her third husband, a Catholic recusant, John Strangman. See:

<http://apps.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/records.aspx?cat=176-6729&cid=-1#-1>

Letter from the Privy Council, the Court at Nonsuch, to Sir William More, sheriff of Surrey, Sir Thomas Browne, and Mr John Skinner. They are to take bonds from those named below, to appear without delay in front of the Council, only allowing them time to travel there: Hugh Worsley of Camberwell, gent; John Strangman of Bermondsey, gent; Robert Gage of Croydon; John Wynne of Epsom, gent; Francis Brown [Francis Browne] of Ash, gent; Nicholas Saunders of Epsom. [HMC p.634b; the bonds probably relate to recusancy] 6729/10/47 12 Jul 1580.

In 1577 William Gardiner (whose nephew, William Wayte, in 1596 petitioned for sureties of the peace against William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon and others) petitioned for sureties of the peace against the testatrix' sister and her third husband, John Strangman. See Hotson, Leslie, *Shakespeare Versus Shallow*, (London: The Nonesuch Press, 1931), pp. 40, 167-8 at:

http://books.google.ca/books?id=k1xINwDRKt8C&pg=PA167&lpg=PA167&dq=%22John+Strangman%22+%22Bermondsey%22&source=bl&ots=U7LemfFLAH&sig=Wh2NS4T_jQO3RgVKmdaRirA_SOW&hl=en&sa=X&ei=K5ROVJ32GaTxigK8moHwDA&ved=0CB0Q6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%22John%20Strangman%22%20%22Bermondsey%22&f=false.

1577. William Gardner craves sureties of the peace against John Strangman and Eleanor his wife, James Langdall and James Clyfords, for fear of death etc.

For further details of the testatrix' family, see the will of her kinsman, Richard Blount, proved 16 December 1575, TNA PROB 11/57/612.

Isabel Sackville (d. 21 October 1570), mentioned in the will below, was the daughter of John Sackville (d. 26 September 1557) by Margaret Boleyn, the daughter of Sir William Boleyn. She was the last prioress of St Mary Clerkenwell. See the Wikipedia article on John Sackville edited by the author of this summary.

RM: T{estamentum} Anne Blunt

[f. 272r] In the name of God, Amen. The three and twentieth of April a thousand five hundred ninety-four, I, Anne Blount of the parish of Saint James in Clerkenwell in the

county of Middlesex, being whole in mind and good and perfect remembrance, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say:

First I commend my soul to Almighty God, my Maker and Redeemer;

Secondly, my body to the earth to be buried in Christian burial, desiring if I die in London to be buried in the parish of Saint James in Clerkenwell in the church by the body of the late prioress there, Dame Isabel Sackefilde [=Sackville];

Thirdly and lastly, my goods to the world in manner and form following:

First I bequeath and give to be bestowed of my burial the sum of ten pounds;

Item, I bequeath the sum of five pounds to be distributed shortly after my decease amongst the poor inhabiting within the said parish of Saint James in Clerkenwell;

Item, I give to my loving sister, the Lady Sydenham, twenty pounds and a jewel with two agates and set about with pearl and a cluster of pearl hanging at it;

Item, I bequeath to my brother, Walter Blount, the sum of twenty pounds and also five pair of sheets, whereof two pair of them are flaxen and three pair canvas sheets;

Item, I give to Mr Doctor Smythe dwelling in Paternoster Row my black jewel with three pearls and a posy about it, viz., *Post phebum nubila*, whom I desire to be an overseer of this my will;

Item, I give to my cousin, Mrs Jane Carden, the sum of ten pounds, to be paid to her within one year after my decease;

Item, I give to my cousin, Mrs Mary Cade, the wife of Mr John Cade of Aldenham, esquire, the residue and term of those years of my lease of my house at Clerkenwell which shall be then at my death unexpired;

Item, I give to her sister, my cousin Katherine Love, the sum of five pounds;

Item, I give to old Mrs Cade three pounds to make her a ring;

Item, I bequeath to my two cousins, Walter Goodwin and Pope Goodwyn, the debt that Mr Kerne doth owe unto me, which debt at the least is two hundred pounds, and his lands lying extended therefore, as may appear by writings thereof made, to be distributed equally between them, and they to bear the charges of the law for the suit thereof;

Item, I give to my niece, Joan Felton, and her heirs forever an annuity of ten pounds, to be received of Mr Leake of Edmonton in the county of Middlesex in such manner and form as he hath and doth pay it unto me by virtue and force of a pair of indentures made

between him and me for the payment thereof, as in the said indentures more at large doth and may appear;

Item, I give to my two nieces, Joan and Frances Felton, a chest of linen which now standeth in my Lady Paulet her house at Clerkenwell, the linen therein to be equally divided according to the bill that is in the said chest;

Item, I give to either of them a featherbed, a bolster, a pillow, with four blankets and two coverlids to them belonging;

Item, as concerning the lease of Maunsfeild Milles, the which I have of our Sovereign Lady the Queen for years, as by the same more plainly appeareth, I will that my loving cousin, Mr Edward Blount of Burton, shall have an annuity of three pounds yearly to be levied out of the profits thereof, and that he shall have the whole use thereof upon condition that he shall discharge and pay the rent due to our Sovereign Lady the Queen upon the lease aforesaid, and also upon condition and in consideration that he shall pay or cause to be paid to my niece, Frances Felton, my sister's daughter, during the term of years an annuity of fourteen pounds, the which annuity my will is that my cousin, Edward Blount, shall pay her yearly out of the profits of the foresaid mills during the term of the lease, and the rest of the profits and commodities (the foresaid conditions performed truly), I will that it shall go to the use of William Cotton, his kinsman, late tenant thereof;

Provided always that if the Queen's rent be not discharged and paid within one and twenty days after the usual feasts of payment in which it ought to be paid, and do not send an acquittance to my executors or one of them certifying the payment thereof before the thirtieth day after the feasts of payment of the said rent, that then it shall be forfeited to my executor to the use of Frances Felton, and to pay the Queen's rent duly as it ought to be [f. 272v] paid;

Item, I bequeath to the town of Uttoxeter in Staffordshire the sum of one hundred pounds to the help and relief of such persons as then at my death or after shall be fallen in decay by fire or death of cattle, sickness or otherwise, provided always that they and every of them that shall have any part of the foresaid money to their use shall put in sufficient sureties for the repaying of such sums as they and every of them shall have so lent unto him to their help and relief as aforesaid according to the discretion of my cousin, Edward Blount of Burton in the county aforesaid, which said hundred pounds I will that my said cousin Blount do and shall put and employ the said sum to the use aforesaid in manner and form afore expressed during his life, and at or before his death to take such order by putting the said sum into the hands of the chief officers, bailiffs, churchwardens or other officers in the said parish of Uttoxeter that they may put in good assurance that it may go from time to time forever to the use aforesaid;

Item, I give to my good friend, Mr Thomas Horsman, one of her Majesty's Gentleman Shoers [=Ushers?], a portague of gold and three pounds in gold more to make him a ring;

Item, I give to Mrs Elizabeth Blunden forty shillings;

Item, I will that all those that do or shall owe me any debt at the hour of my death upon specialty, statute, indenture or otherwise, that if they upon the lawful demand of my executor do or shall pay such sums of money as shall be due by them as aforesaid within one quarter of a year next after my decease, that then my executor shall only receive the due debt without any forfeiture, Mr Kerne excepted;

Item, I will that all the rest of my goods that shall be unbequeathed at the hour of my death, that there shall be a perfect value made thereof, and the goods or the value thereof to remain in my sister the Lady Sydenham her hands during her life, and after her decease to be distributed amongst the poorest of my kin according to their necessities;

And for the surer and better perfecting and accomplishing of this my last will and testament, I ordain and make my very good and loving sister, the Lady Sydenham aforesaid, and Mr Thomas Horsman aforesaid, my executors, and they to have for their pains as is afore already specified, desiring them and every of them of their charitable goodness, as they would have their own performed, to see this performed my last will and testament according to the true meaning thereof in all points, whereunto in witness whereof I put to my hand and name as my own. By me, Anne Blount. Witness to the same: Edward Blount, Owen Fletcher, Jane Carden, Mary Lewes.

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram Mag^{ist}ro Will^{el}mo Bird legum doctore Surrogato venerabili viri Magistri Will^{el}mi Lewin legum etiam doctoris Curie prerogative Cantuarien^{sis} Mag^{ist}ri Custod^e siue Com^missarij decimo tertio die mensis Maij anno domini millesimo quingentesimo nonag^{esimo} quarto Iuramento Ioh^{ann}is Burroughe notarij publici procur^{ator}is domine Marie Siddenham et Thome Horsman ac executorum in h^{uius}mo^di testamento no^miⁿat^{orum} Quibus com^missa fuit administracⁱo bonorum iurium et creditorum dⁱc^ti Defuncti de bene et fideliter administrand^o &c ad sancta Dei Evangelia Iurat^{is}

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before Master William Bird, Doctor of the Laws, Surrogate of the worshipful Master William Lewin, also Doctor of the Laws, Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the thirteenth day of the month of May in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred ninety-fourth by the oath of John Burrough, notary public, proctor of Lady Mary Sydenham and Thomas Horsman, executors 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 etc.]