

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 3 January 1531 and proved 4 April 1531, of Thomas Rich (d. 3 March 1531?) of South Weald, Essex.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the restator's family background, see Collins, Arthur, *The Peerage of England*, 3rd ed., (London: W. Innys and J. Richardson, 1756), Vol. II, pp. 233-5 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=QIkUAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA234>

See also the Rich pedigree in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex*, (London: Harleian Society, 1878), Vol. XIII, pp. 276-7 at:

<http://audio35.archive.org/stream/visitationsofess1314metc#page/276/mode/2up>

It should be noted that the pedigree in Metcalfe, *supra*, contains errors, including the statement that 'Robert' Rich of Weald, Essex, was the husband of Rachel Newburgh.

Testator's great-grandparents

The testator was the great-grandson of Richard Rich (d.1464) and his wife, Katherine. For the Latin will of Richard Rich, see TNA PROB 11/5/84. For the will of Richard Rich (d.1464), see also Nicolas, Nicholas Harris, *Testamenta Vetusta*, (London: Nichols and Son, 1826), Vol. I, p. 299 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/testamentavetust01nico#page/298>

Testator's grandparents

The testator was the grandson of John Rich (d.1458) and his wife, Isabel. For the will of the testator's grandfather, John Rich, see TNA PROB 11/4/279.

For the will of the testator's great-uncle, Thomas Rich (d.1475), dated 2 July 1471 and proved 4 October 1475, see TNA PROB 11/6/296, and Nicolas, *supra*, p. 339 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/testamentavetust01nico#page/338>

Testator's parents

The testator was the son of Thomas Rich and Margaret Shaa, the daughter of Sir Edmund Shaa (d. 20 April 1488), Lord Mayor of London. For the will of Sir Edmund Shaa, see TNA PROB 11/8/187.

The testator's aunt, Katherine Shaa, sister of the testator's mother, Margaret Shaa, married, as his first wife, Sir William Browne (d. 3 June 1514), Lord Mayor of London. The testator, his mother Margaret (nee Shaa) Rich, and his sister Katherine Rich are mentioned in the will, dated 29 May 1514 and proved 1 July 1514, of Sir William Browne, TNA PROB 11/17/567:

Item, I bequeath of [sic?] my cousins, Isabel Pyke, William Browne the younger, son of William Browne th' elder, late Alderman, and Richard Fermer, grocer, Margaret Rich, widow, and to Erasmus Forde, mercer, a ring of gold of the value of 20s.

Item, I bequeath to my cousin, Thomas Rich, 20 mark, and to his sister, Katherine, other 20 mark.

MARRIAGE AND ISSUE

The testator married Rachel Newburgh, the daughter of Thomas Newburgh, esquire, of Berkley, Somerset. For the will of Thomas Newburgh (d.1513), in which he mentions his son, Christopher Newburgh, who witnessed the testator's will below, see TNA PROB 11/17/367, and the entry for Thomas Newburgh at:

<http://boards.ancestry.com/surnames.pettibone/92.1/mb.ashx>

Thomas Newburgh (d.1513) is said to have been a cousin of Sir Roger Newburgh of Lulworth, and to have been the first to settle at the manor of Berkeley, a mile northeast of Frome. In his will he requested burial at the Gaunts in Bristol, but was interred in the parish church at Berkeley. See Collinson, John, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Somerset*, (Bath: R. Cruttwell, 1791), Vol. II, p. 203 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=OdpSAAAACAAJ&pg=PA203>

According to the will below, the testator had a son and a daughter:

* **Edward Rich** (d.1599) the elder, esquire, of Horndon-on-the-Hill, Essex, who married Joan Saunders, the daughter of Edward Saunders, leather seller of London. For the will of Edward Saunders, see TNA PROB 11/32/319. For the will of the testator's son, dated 30 April 1599, see ERO D/AEW 11/320 at:

https://www.essexarchivesonline.co.uk/All_Results.aspx?intSearchType=12

See also the will, dated 11 May 1598 and proved 4 July 1598, TNA PROB 11/92/27, of the testator's grandson, Edward Rich the younger, who died in 1598, predeceasing his father.

The testator's son, Edward Rich (d.1599) the elder, was the residuary legatee of Richard Rich (1496/7 – 12 June 1567), 1st Baron Rich and Lord Chancellor of England, and it thus seems almost certain that both the testator and the Lord Chancellor were descendants of the London mercer, Richard Rich (d.1464). See the will of Richard Rich, 1st Baron Rich, TNA PROB 11/50/176, and the will of Richard Rich (d.1464), TNA PROB 11/4/279. See also the analysis by Tony Ingham at:

<https://soc.genealogy.medieval.narkive.com/jvoMTvyv/children-of-richard-1st-baron-rich>

* **Margaret Rich**, about whom nothing further appears to be known.

After the testator's death, his widow, Rachel Newburgh. married James Strelley of Nottingham, gentleman. See:

D J Keene and Vanessa Harding, 'St. Mary le Bow 104/12', in *Historical Gazetteer of London Before the Great Fire Cheapside; Parishes of All Hallows Honey Lane, St Martin Pomary, St Mary Le Bow, St Mary Colechurch and St Pancras Soper Lane* (London, 1987), pp. 252-255 <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/no-series/london-gazetteer-pre-fire/pp252-255>

In 1541 James Strilley of Nottingham, gentleman, and his wife Rachel, widow of Thomas Riche, gentleman, leased their messuage or tenement with cellars, solars, warehouses and yard adjoining, in Bow churchyard in the parish of St. Mary le Bow to George Robynson, citizen and mercer, for 40 years at £8 rent. The lessors covenanted to repair, maintain, pave and cleanse during the term if Rachel should live so long, and the lessee agreed to pay all quit-rents. In 1543 James Strilley and Rachel, with Edward Riche, gentleman, son and heir of the said Thomas Riche, granted and quitclaimed to Anthony Marker (? recte Marler), citizen and haberdasher, in their messuage in Bow churchyard, in which Marker lived.

In 1541 Henry VIII granted James Strelley the former priory of the White Friars in Nottingham. See TNA C 66/704, m. 8, and:

'Henry VIII: November 1541, 21-30', in *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII, Volume 16, 1540-1541*, ed. James Gairdner and R H Brodie (London, 1898), pp. 629-644 <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/letters-papers-hen8/vol16/pp629-644>

64. James Sturley, of Notyngham, Notts Grant, in fee, of the late priory of Whyte Fryers in Notyngham; a garden and other lands in the parish of St. Nicholas; and certain lands in the parish of St. Mary in Notyngham (tenants named). Westm. Palace, 21 Nov. 33 Hen. VIII. Del. Westm., 25 Nov.—P.S. Pat. p. 4, m. 8.

In 1573 Humphrey Strelley, James Strelley's son and heir, sold a portion of the former White Friars to Sir John Manners (c.1534 – 4 June 1611), younger son of Thomas Manners, 1st Earl of Rutland. See TNA C 66/1099, m. 8 and:

<http://www.nottshistory.org.uk/articles/tts/tts1930/itinerary1930p6.htm>.

Humphrey Strelley appears to have been the father of Margaret Strelley, who married Nicholas Brend (d. 12 October 1601), first landlord of the Globe playhouse. See TNA C 24/496/114, ff. 3-4, a deposition dated 31 January 1623 in which Margaret Strelley's sister, Mary Strelley, states that she is the daughter of Humphrey Strelley of Strelley, Nottinghamshire, deceased.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

For the will of Thomas Bodley (d.1537), vicar of South Weald, who witnessed the testator's will below, see TNA PROB 11/26/118. Thomas Bodley was the uncle and godfather of Francis Bodley (d.1566), whose son, Sir John Bodley of Streatham, was landlord of the Globe playhouse from 1601-1622, and whose widow, Mercy, became the stepmother of Nicholas Brend (d. 12 October 1601), who leased the site on which the Globe playhouse was built to William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon and other members of the Lord Chamberlain's Men in 1599. For the will of Francis Bodley, see TNA PROB 11/48/415.

RM: Test{amentu}m Thome Reche

In dei nomine amen. In the year of Our Lord God 1530 in the reign of King Henry the 8th the 22nd, the third day of January, I, Thomas Rich, gentleman, being good of memory and of whole mind, laud be to God, make [+and] ordain this my present writing my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, to Our Lady Saint Mary, and to all th' holy company of heaven, my body to be buried in the church of Saint Peter's of South Weald in the chancel of the foresaid church afore Our Lady;

Item, I will and bequeath to the high altar for tithes negligently forgotten 3s 4d;

Item, I will there be 3 Masses said for the wealth of my soul, one of Trinity, the second of th' Holy Ghost, the third of Our Lady;

Item, I will there be done a whole trental of Masses after my burying afore my month's day;

Item, I bequeath all my goods both movable and unmovable to Rachel, my wife, to do with them to order them as good conscience will to order my children and hers as she thinks best, as I put my singular trust in her;

Item, I bequeath to Margaret, my daughter, a coverlet of harrys(? unlined(?), with a standing cup of gilt with the cover;

Item, I will that all manner of jewels or plate that is not in my hands in the hour of my departing, my foresaid wife to have them, in whose hands soever they be;

Item, I will there be penny dole to poor people at my burying;

Item, I will there be a stone conveniently laid over me where my body is buried;

Item, I bequeath to my wife all my debts that be owing me, other [=either] by reason of my father's will or testament as appeareth in his books by his own hand written, or by any other ways that was due to me in the hour of my departing;

Item, I make my special executrix Rachel, my wife, and Edward Rich, my son, with her to have the guidance and rule of him;

Witness of this my last will, Master Thomas Bodley, vicar of South Weald, Christopher Newbrowe [=Newburgh?], Francis Chocke, Master William Clerke, William Phillipp, with divers mo.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum Testamentu{m} cora{m} d{omi}no apud Lamethith quarto die mens{is} Aprilis Anno D{omi}ni Millesimo quingentesimo tricesimo Primo Iuramento Rachell relicte et executric{is} in h{uius}mo{di} testamento no{m}i{n}at{e} Ac approbatum et insinuatum et com{m}issa fuit admi{ni}strac{i}o o{mn}i{um} et singulor{um} bonor{um} iur{ium} et creditor{um} dicti defuncti prefate executrici De bene et fidel{ite}r admi{ni}strand{o} ead{em} Ac de pleno et fideli Inventario o{mn}i{um} et singulor{um} bonor{um} iur{ium} et creditor{um} dicti defunct{i} secundo die post festum Ascen{cio}nis d{omi}ni &c Necnon de plano et vero compoto Reddend{o} Ad s{an}c{t}a Dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{e} Res{er}uata p{otes}tate similem com{m}issionem faciend{o} alteri &c cum ven{er}i{t} eam in debita iuris forma receptur{us}

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord at London on the fourth day of the month of April in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred thirty-first by the oath of Rachel, relict and executrix named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased to the forenamed executrix, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and [+to exhibit] a full and faithful inventory of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased on the second day after the

feast of the Ascension of the Lord etc., and also to render a plain and true account, with power reserved for a similar grant to be made to the other etc. when he shall have come to receive the same in due form of law.]