

SUMMARY: The document below contains extracts from the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 3 August 1545 and proved 15 January 1546, of Sir John Aleyn, Lord Mayor of London in 1525 and 1535 and a counsellor to Henry VIII. The testator was the uncle of Giles Aleyn (d. 27 March 1608), who leased the former priory of Holywell to James Burbage, who in 1576 built the first London theatre on the premises.

### ***FAMILY BACKGROUND***

For the testator's family background, see 'Aleyn of Hatfield Peverel and Little Leighs, baronets' at:

<http://landedfamilies.blogspot.ca/2014/01/105-alleyn-of-hatfield-peverel-and.html>

See also the pedigree of Alleyne of Hatfield in Burke, John and John Bernard Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies of England, Ireland and Scotland*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., (London: Scott, Webster and Geary, 1841), pp. 3-4 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=DqkTAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA4>

For the testator's family background, see also the Aleyn pedigrees in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex, Part I* (London: Harleian Society, 1878), Vol. XIII, p. 333 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=hqwKAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA333>

### ***Testator's father***

The testator was one of the three sons of Richard Aleyn (d. 23 June 1527) of Thaxted, Essex.

### ***Testator's siblings***

The testator had two brothers, both mentioned in the will below:

**-John Aleyn** (d.1558), ancestor of the Aleyns of Hatfield Peverell.

**-Christopher Aleyn** (died c.1555) of London and Hazeleigh, Essex, father of Giles Aleyn (d. 27 March 1608), who leased the Holywell property to James Burbage, as noted above. For Christopher Aleyn, see TNA C 142/105/40 and TNA E 150/329/3. For Giles Aleyn (who married Sara Scory, the daughter of John Scory (d.1585), Bishop of Hereford), see the inquisition post mortem taken after his death, TNA C 142/309/163,

and 'Giles and Christopher Aleyn of Holywell', *Notes and Queries* (1909) s10-XII (305): 341-343 at:

<http://nq.oxfordjournals.org/content/s10-XII/305/341.full.pdf+html>

The testator's brothers, John and Christopher, married, respectively, Margaret Leigh and Agnes Leigh, the two daughters and co-heirs of Giles Leigh (d.1538) of Walton-on-Thames. For Giles Leigh (d.1538) see TNA E 305/1/A6; TNA 142/61/135; and TNA E 150/493/1. Henry VIII purchased the manor of Leigh Court from Giles Leigh, and annexed it to Hampton Court. See:

'Parishes: Walton on Thames', in *A History of the County of Surrey: Volume 3*, ed. H E Malden (London, 1911), pp. 467-475. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/surrey/vol3/pp467-475> [accessed 28 August 2020].

For Giles Leigh, see also Essex Record Office D/DBs T1.

The testator also had a sister, Elizabeth. He refers to her in the will below as 'Elizabeth, Lady Askew', and mentions her son, John Askew, and her daughter, Elizabeth Fuller, the wife of Hugh Fuller.

### ***ISSUE***

The testator died unmarried, leaving two illegitimate sons and an illegitimate daughter:

\* **Sir Christopher Aleyn** (d.1586).

\* **Lazarus Aleyn** (d. before 1583).

\* **Joan Aleyn** (d.1564) who married Thomas Pyke (d.1559), the son of John Pyke of Little Ilford, Essex, and Alice Jenyn, the sister of Nicholas Jenyn (d.1533). See the will of Nicholas Jenyn, TNA PROB 11/24/298. For Joan Aleyn's children, see her will, TNA PROB 11/47/338, and the WikiTree entry for Thomas Pyke at:

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Pyke-211>

According to the *ODNB*, Sir William Paget (1505/6–1563), 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Paget, had the wardship and marriage of the testator's two sons, and Sir Christopher Aleyn (d.1586) married Paget's eldest daughter, Audrey Paget (c.1535-1587), while Lazarus Aleyn married Paget's daughter Agnes. However according to TNA C 78/68/28, Lazarus Aleyn left a widow named Margaret, and according to the website below she was Margaret Compagni, the illegitimate daughter of the Florentine merchant, Bartholomeo Compagni (23 April 1503 – 27 April 1561) of Broad Street in London. See:

<http://pigott-gorrie.blogspot.ca/2008/05/captain-john-pigott-of-stradbally.html>

*About 1535, [Compagni] sired, by an unknown woman, probably English, & perhaps one of his servants, an illegitimate daughter, Margaret Compagni; named in her father's will, 1561, as his "...dear natural daughter" and wife of John Baptist Castillion, whom he made overseer of his will.*

*In April 1558, Margaret Compagni, by then the widow of Lazarus ALLEN, illegitimate son of Sir John ALLEN, P.C., Lord Mayor of London, married 2ndly, Giovanni Battista Castiglione, Master of the Italian Tongue to the Lady Elizabeth Tudor, & Groom of her Privy Chamber when she became Queen.*

John Baptist Castillion (d. 12 February 1598) and his wife, Margaret, were the parents of Sir Francis Castillion, who was living in Oxford's Great Garden property in 1607. See *English Reports*, Vol. 77, pp. 1235-1252, on this website.

See also the entry for Audrey Paget in 'A Who's Who of Tudor Women' at:

[www.tudorwomen.com](http://www.tudorwomen.com)

For Sir Christopher and Lazarus Aleyn, see also TNA C 78/68/28.

See also Wright, Thomas, *The History and Topography of the County of Essex*, (London: George Virtue, 1836), pp. 244-5 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=SgQVAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA244>

See also Berry, Herbert, *Shakespeare's Playhouses*, (New York: AMS Press, 1987), pp. 28-9.

RM: Testamentum Domini Ioh{ann}is Alen milit{is} def{uncti}

In the name of God, Amen. I, John Aleyn, knight, citizen and alderman of the city of London, being in good health and memory . . . .

. . . .

I bequeath to Robert Pyke, the son of Thomas Pyke, my mansion house or place with the appurtenances and a tenement next adjoining lying and being in the parish of Saint Margaret Patten in London, in which house Sir John Champneys, knight, now dwelleth.

. . . .

The residue of my goods, chattels, ready money and debts, my funerals and debts paid and discharged and this my testament fulfilled in all things, I will, devise and bequeath to

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be equally divided, thone moiety between Christopher, Lazar and Joan, their sister, and my children, and thother moiety to mine executors part like;

And the executors of this my present testament and last will I ordain and make my well-beloved friends, Thomas Pyke, Christopher A[ll]en, my brother, and John Askowghe, my cousin and servant, and I give to every of them for their labours and pains in this behalf as is beforesaid;

Overseers of the same I constitute and make my friends Robert Iartsoy(?), John Allen, my brother, John Hasilwode, my cousin, and Sir John Puisaunte, clerk, and every of them to have for his labour and pains herein £20;

In witness whereof to this my present testament containing my last will I have set my seal, given the third day of August in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred forty and five and in the 37<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Henry the 8<sup>th</sup> by the grace of God King of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith and in earth Supreme Head of the Church of England and of Ireland. Per me Iohannem Allen Alderman{um}(?). . . .