

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 8 March 1551 and proved 14 May 1551, of Emmott Henslowe (d.1551), grandmother of Ellen Henslowe Fortescue, whose husband was the John Fortescue, gentleman, mentioned in the indenture by which William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon and others purchased the Blackfriars gatehouse on 10 March 1613. See the Shakespeare Documented website at:

<https://shakespearedocumented.folger.edu/exhibition/document/shakespeare-purchases-blackfriars-gatehouse-copy-bargain-and-sale-signed-vendor>

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The maiden name and family background of the testatrix are unknown.

MARRIAGES AND ISSUE

The testatrix married Thomas Henslowe, who predeceased her and was buried in the parish church of Southwick, Hampshire. In 1543 or 1544 the testatrix sued Lord Lisle for moneys due to her husband's estate. See TNA REQ 2/6/95.

According to the will below the testatrix had four sons and four married daughters:

* **Ralph Henslowe** (d. 18 June 1577) of Boarhunt, Hampshire, servant of the Earls of Southampton. See his will, Hampshire Record Office 1577B/034, and 1607B/045. See also HRO 5M53/588; HRO 5M53/947; and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/henslowe-ralph-1520-77>

b. by 1520, s. of Thomas Henslowe of Southwick by Emmotte. m. (1) by 1545, Clare, da. of William Pound of Drayton, 2s. 2da.; (2) 1570/71, Catherine, da. of (Sir) Geoffrey Pole of Lordington, Suss., wid. of Anthony Fortescue.

Ralph Henslowe married firstly Clare Pounce, for whom see the will of her father, William Pounce (d. 5 July 1525), TNA PROB 11/21/561, and the Pounce pedigree, Hampshire Record Office, 5M50/403/405.

According to the pedigree, Clare Pounce had a brother and two sisters:

-**William Pounce** (d. February 1559), who married Ellen Beverley (d. 30 September 1589), half sister of Thomas Wriothesley (1505-1550), 1st Earl of Southampton, by whom he was the father of the courtier and Jesuit lay brother, Thomas Pounce (1539-1615). See Guiney, Louise Imogen, *Recusant Poets*, (London: Sheed & Ward, 1938), p. 182 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/in.ernet.dli.2015.501066/2015.501066.0388-recusantpoets#page/n199>

For the will of Ellen (nee Beverley) Pounce, see TNA PROB 11/74/301. In the will of Henry Wriothesley (1545-1581), 2nd Earl of Southampton, TNA PROB 11/65/88, Ellen (nee Beverley) Pounce is referred to as ‘my aunt Pounce’.

-Frances Pounce, who married Francis Robinson, by whom she had a son(?), whose name is unclear in the pedigree, and two daughters, Judith Robinson and Honor Robinson. A Francis Robinson was gentleman of the horse in October 1594 to Henry Wriothesley (1573-1624), 3rd Earl of Southampton. See Akrigg, G.P.V., *Shakespeare and the Earl of Southampton*, (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1968), pp. 43, 45. A John Robinson was steward to the testatrix’ granddaughter, Ellen Henslowe and her husband, John Fortescue, at the Blackfriars. See Martin, Patrick H., *Elizabethan Espionage*, (Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company, Inc., 2016), at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=crcfDAAAQBAJ&pg=PT185>

The Fortescues’ steward may have been the John Robinson mentioned as a tenant of the Blackfriars gatehouse in the will of William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon. See the Shakespeare Documented website at:

<https://shakespearedocumented.folger.edu/exhibition/document/william-shakespeares-last-will-and-testament-original-copy-including-three>

And also all that messuage or tenement with the appurtenances wherein one John Robinson dwelleth, situate, lying and being in the Blackfriars in London near the Wardrobe. . . .

See also the indenture of 10 February 1618 by which the Blackfriars gatehouse was transferred to new trustees:

<https://shakespearedocumented.folger.edu/exhibition/document/bargain-and-sale-transfer-blackfriars-gatehouse-new-trustees-john-greene-and>

And except one lease and demise of the premises with th’ appurtenances heretofore made by the said William Shakespeare, together with them, the said John Jackson, John Heminge and William Johnson, unto one John Robinson, now tenant of the said premises, for the term of certain years yet to come and unexpired.

- **Mary Pounce**, who married John Carpenter, by whom she had a son, John Carpenter, and a daughter, Dorothy Carpenter.

According to the will below, Ralph Henslowe had two sons and a daughter born by 1551:

-**Thomas Henslowe**, who married Katherine Hyde, the daughter of William Hyde of Denchworth, Berkshire, and his wife, Alice. See HRO 5M50/1149 and HRO 5M50/1150. See also the will of William Hyde, proved 25 June 1568, TNA PROB 11/50/196; and the History of Parliament entry for William Hyde (c.1517 – 24 July 1567) at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/hyde-william-1517-67>

-**Henry Henslowe**, for whose will, dated 24 September 1598, and proved 26 March 1599, see TNA PROB 11/93/1.

-**Jane Henslowe**.

According to HRO 5M50/149, *supra*, Ralph Henslowe also had a son, John Henslowe, by 20 June 1572.

According to the will of Henry Henslowe, *supra*, and the Pounce pedigree, *supra*, Ralph Henslowe had three daughters (one of whom may have been Jane, mentioned above):

-**Ellen Henslowe**, who married John Fortescue, the son of Sir Anthony Fortescue and Katherine Pole (see below). As noted above, Ellen Henslowe's husband was the John Fortescue, gentleman, mentioned in the indenture by which William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon and others purchased the Blackfriars gatehouse on 10 March 1613.

-(**blank**) **Henslowe**, who married William Horde. William Horde appears to have been the son of Roger Horde of Wolvesey, Hampshire, who appointed Ralph Henslowe's sons, Thomas Henslowe and Henry Henslowe, as overseers of his will, TNA PROB 11/63/495. For a summary of the will, dated 6 May 1580 and proved 23 October 1581, see *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, Vol. IV, pp. 267-8 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/miscellaneagenea04unse#page/268>

-(**blank**) **Henslowe**, who according to the will of Henry Henslowe married a husband surnamed Shelley. It seems likely her husband was one of the sons of John Shelley (d.1550?) of Michelgrove in Clapham, Sussex, son of Sir William Shelley (1478/9–1549) of Michelgrove. For Sir William Shelley, see the *ODNB* entry, and Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. IV, pp. 142-3. For the Shelley pedigree, see Berry, William, *County Genealogies: Pedigrees of the Families of the County of Sussex*, (London: Sherwood, Gilbert, and Piper, 1830), p. 62 at:

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=njp.32101007240102;view=1up;seq=80>

After the death of Clare Pounce, Ralph Henslowe, married Katherine Pole, widow of Sir Anthony Fortescue, and daughter of Sir Geoffrey Pole (d.1558) of Lordington, Sussex,

and Constance Pakenham. By Sir Anthony Fortescue, Katherine Pole had three sons, one of whom, John Fortescue, married the testatrix' granddaughter, Ellen Henslowe (see above). See the will of Constance Pakenham Pole, dated 7 August 1570 and proved 20 September 1570, TNA PROB 11/52/361; Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, p. 30; the *ODNB* entry for Sir Geoffrey Pole and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/pole-geoffrey-15015-58>

For the monument to Ralph Henslowe and his two wives in St Nicholas' Church, Boarhunt, Hampshire, see:

<http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/2614803>

* **Peter Henslowe**, who had a son, Stephen Henslowe.

* **John Henslowe**, who had a son, Stephen Henslowe.

* **William Henslowe**, who according to the will below married a wife named Nicholas, by whom he had a son, Thomas Henslowe. According to one source, William Henslowe's wife was Nicholas Gage. He is said to have built up ownership of land in Portchester Castle manor between 1515 and 1540, and to have been mentioned in a will of 1569 as William of Southwick. See:

<http://www.nikoko.co.uk/Henslow/GedHTree/ghtout/np2.htm>

***Joan Coote**.

* **Ame Knight**.

* **Maud Knight**. According to the will below she had, among other children, three daughters, Margery Knight, Agnes Knight and Thomasine Knight. She may be the Maud Knight of Romsey, Hampshire, who died in 1555. See HRO 1555U/35.

* **Elizabeth Marten**, who had a son and a daughter, Edward Marten and Jane Marten.

LM: Test{amentu}m Emme Henslowe

In the name of God, Amen. The 8th day of March in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred fifty and one, I, Emmott Henslowe of Southwick in the county of Southampton, widow, do ordain and make this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my body to be buried within the chancel of the parish church of Southwick nigh unto Thomas Henslowe, my late husband;

Item, I give to the poor people within the parish of Southwick 20s;

Item, I give to the parish church of West Boarhunt 3s 4d;

Item, I give to Jane [f. 106r] Henslowe, my son Ralph's daughter, my best standing cup of silver and gilt with the cover to the same, and one towel of diaper;

Item, I give to Thomas Henslowe, his son, ten pounds in ready money;

Item, I give unto Henry Henslowe, my said son Ralph's son, one featherbed, a bolster and a coverlet remaining in the keeping of his father;

Item, I give to Joan Coote, my daughter, six pounds 13s 4d in ready money, my best kirtle, two pair of canvas sheets and two kerchiefs;

Item, I give to Amee Knight, my daughter, two pair of sheets;

Item, I give to Maud Knight, my daughter, my wedding girdle harnesssed with silver, and thone half of my coral beads with gauds of silver and gilt;

Item, I give to Margery Knight, Agnes Knight and Thomasine Knight, my daughter's [=daughter] Maud's children, every of them one pair of sheets and one silver spoon and four pounds in ready money to be divided amongst them and the rest of her children;

And to the said Thomasine I give one featherbed and a bolster;

Item, I give to Nicholas Henslowe, my son William's wife, my best gown and my worsted kirtle;

Item, I give to Thomas Jeffrey five marks in ready money;

Item, I give to Stephen Henslowe, my son Peter's son, six pounds 13s 4d to be delivered him when he shall come to th' age of 24 years;

Item, I give to John Henslowe, my son, over and besides that he shall perceive and take as one of my executors by virtue of this my last will and testament, my lease of the ground called Medselles in the parish of West Boarhunt, and my six kine which he hath now in his keeping;

Item, I give unto Stephen Henslowe, his son, one featherbed, one bolster and a coverlet, one brass pot, one silver spoon, one cauldron of brass, and ten pounds in ready money;

Item, I give to John Markes 10s;

Item, I give to Emmot Cater, my goddaughter, one pair of sheets;

Item, I give to every of my godchildren 4d;

Item, I give to James Henslowe one quarter of barley;

Item, I give to Joan Rooke, my kinswoman, my violet kirtle;

Item, I give to Edward Marten and to Jane Marten, my daughter Elizabeth's children, to every of them 20s in ready money;

Item, I give to Sir Thomas Holland priest, my ghostly counsellor, one pair of sheets and 3s 4d in ready money;

Item, I give to my son, Ralph Henslowe, forty pounds in ready money, ten quarters of wheat and ten quarters of barley, four of my best silver spoons, one fine sheet, four pair of canvas sheets, my best forms and my best chest of elm, which Ralph I do ordain and make my overseer of this my last will and testament;

Item, I give to Clare Henslowe, my son Ralph's wife, thother half of my best coral beads with gauds of silver;

All the rest of my goods not bequeathed, first my debts paid and my will fulfilled, I give wholly to William Henslowe and John Henslowe, my sons, whom I do ordain and make my whole executors of this my last will and testament.

Witnesses of this my last will, Ralph Henslowe, Thomas Holland, priest.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascripti defuncti h{ab}entis &c xiiijmo die mensis Maij Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingen{tesi}mo quinquagesimo primo Coram D{omi}no apud London auc{torita}te D{omi}ni n{ost}ri Regis &c Iurament{o} execu{tor}um in h{uius}mo{di} testament{o} no{m}i{n}atorum In p{er}sona Roberti Good no{ta}rij pu{bli}ci procu{rato}ris sui in hac p{ar}te Ac approbatum & insinuat{um} Et com{m}issa fuit admi{n}istracio o{mn}i{u}m & singulorum bonorum Iuri{um} & creditorum d{i}c{t}i defuncti p{re}fat{is} executorib{us} in p{er}so{n}a d{i}c{t}i procur{atoris} De b{e}n{e} & fidel{ite}r admi{n}strand{o} Ac de pleno & fidei In{uenta}rio secundo die post festum s{an}c{t}e Trinitatis prox{imum} futur{um} exhibend{o} Necnon de plano & vero compoto reddend{o} Ad s{an}c{t}a dei Eu{a}ngelia in debita iuris forma Iurat{i}

[=The testament of the above-written deceased, having etc. was proved on the 14th day of the month of May in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-first before the Lord at London by the authority of our Lord the King etc., by the oath of the executors

named in the same testament in the person of Robert Good, notary public, their proctor in that behalf, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all & singular the goods, rights & credits of the said deceased to the forenamed executors in the person of the said proctor, sworn on the Holy Gospels in due form of law to well & faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full & faithful inventory on the second day after the feast of the Holy Trinity next to come, and also to render a plain & true account.]