

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 28 April 1574 and proved 12 July 1574, of Anthony Bryskett (Antonio Bruschetto), whose son, Thomas Bryskett, appears to have taken over the lease in the Blackfriars held by the master of fence, Rocco Bonetti (d.1587), and whose friend and overseer, Benedict Spinola (d.1580), sent funds to Oxford in Italy in 1575 and sold the Great Garden property to Oxford in 1580. For Thomas Bryskett's lease of property in the Blackfriars, see Folger MS L.b.357. For Benedict Spinola, see the *ODNB* article, TNA SP 70/135, ff. 173-4; TNA C 54/1080; and TNA 11/62/443.

The maiden name of the testator's wife, Elizabeth, is unknown. He had five sons, named in the will below, and three daughters: Lucrece Bryskett, the eldest, who married the testator's friend and overseer, Vincent Guicciardini (d.1581); Joan Bryskett, who married Francis Eaglesfield (d.1606/7), whose first wife, Mary, was the daughter of Eustace Sulyard; and Mary Bryskett, who married Edward Atkinson. See the pedigree in Jones, Deborah, 'Lodowick Bryskett and His Family' in Sisson, Charles J., ed., *Thomas Lodge and Other Elizabethans*, (New York: Octagon Books Inc., 1933, reprinted 1966), pp. 243-362. See also the will of Vincent Guicciardini, TNA PROB 11/63/334.

For the testator's son, Lodowick Bryskett, a close friend of Edmund Spenser and Sir Philip Sidney, see the *ODNB* article:

*Bryskett, Lodowick [Lewis] (c.1546–1609x12), administrator and writer, probably born in Hackney, was the fifth of the eight children of Antonio Bruschetto (d. 1574), merchant, and his wife, Elizabeth (d. 1579), an Italian whose lineage remains unknown. Antonio was a native of Genoa who had taken up residence in England by 1523 and was granted letters of denization on 4 December 1536.*

See also Portelli, Sergio, 'Translation and Adaptation in Original Composition: Lodowick Bryskett's Use of His Sources in *A Discourse of Civill Life* (1606)' in Federici, Federico M. and Dario Tessicini, *Translators, Interpreters, and Cultural Negotiators*, (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014), at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=HBC-BQAAQBAJ&pg=PT74&lpg=PT74&dq=%22Bryskett%22+%22mother%22&source=bl&ots=1U7N4i2QbL&sig=hOYcBDhpEsCr7T9b5MCZRMUxIII&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0C CYQ6AEwAmoVChMIhYjypoOuxwIVRDG1Ch2NhgUw#v=onepage&q=%22Bryskett%22%20%22mother%22&f=false>

LM: T{estamentum}(?) Anthonij Bruskett

[f. 250v] In the name of God, Amen. I, Anthony Brusket of London, free denizen, being sick of body and of whole and perfect remembrance, thanks be given to Almighty God, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I commend my soul to Almighty God, my Maker, Saviour and Redeemer, in whose mercies I hope to have the fruition of eternal life;

Item, I will my body to be buried in the parish church of Saint Gabriel Fenchurch at the discretion of Elizabeth, my wife, whom I make and ordain my sole executrix, and to my two dear and faithful friends, Mr Vincent Guicciardini and Mr Benedict Spinola, whom I do request and make the overseers of this my present testament, unto whom I commit the governance and trust of all things in this my last will contained;

Item, I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth, my wife, all that my great house and all those lands and tenements which I now have and hold in Saint Sythes Lane in London or in the parish of Saint Sythes, by whatsoever title I do or may the same claim, to her, her heirs, executors or assigns forever, them to dispose as to her or them shall seem convenient;

Item, I give and bequeath to the said Elizabeth, my wife, my now mansion or dwelling-house set, lying and being in London in the parish of Saint Gabriel Fenchurch aforesaid, with all and singular the appurtenances and movables as it is now furnished, to her during her natural life;

And after her decease I will the same to remain to my five sons, that is to say, Sebastian, Henry, Lodowick, Michael and Thomas, their heirs and assigns, forever, to be equally between them divided;

And if it shall happen any of my said sons to die without issue and not having received his or their parts, then my very will and meaning is that the survivor or survivors shall enjoy his or their parts so deceasing to them, their heirs or assigns, forever;

Item, I will that all my houses, lands and tenements set, lying and being in Hackney within the county of Middlesex shall be by my overseers aforesaid with the advice of my wife sold or otherwise at their discretions let, and the sum or sums thereof coming I will and bequeath to be divided equally amongst my five sons portion and portion like, and that those my sons which have accomplished the age of twenty and one years shall have their portion upon the receipt of the money, and those my sons which have not accomplished the age of twenty and one years I will that their portion and portions shall remain in the hands and custody of my overseers, by them to be kept for their benefit until they shall accomplish the full age of twenty and one years;

And if it happen any of my said sons to die without issue and not having received his or their parts, then my very will and meaning is that the survivor or survivors shall enjoy his or their parts so deceased to them, their heirs and assigns, forever;

Item, I give and bequeath to Mary, my daughter, all those my nine tenements set lying and being within the said parish of St Gabriel Fenchurch in London with all and singular their appurtenances, my mansion house before bequeathed only excepted, to her, her heirs and assigns, forever;

Provided always and my very will and meaning is that Elizabeth, my wife, shall have, receive and perceive the yearly rents of all those nine tenements to her discretion for and during the term of three years next ensuing the date of this my present testament;

Item, all my other goods not before bequeathed I give and bequeath to Elizabeth, my wife, my sole executrix, to bear the charges of my funerals and all other needful and necessary charges and expenses at her discretion with the advice and consent [f. 251r] of my before-named overseers, whom I earnestly request and entreat to take this travail upon them, to have care over my wife and children and to see this my will and testament to be performed as my best trust and confidence is in them;

In witness whereof I, the said Anthony Brusket, have hereunto set my hand and seal this present eight and twenty day of April in the sixteenth 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., and in the year of our Lord God one thousand five hundred seventy and four;

This was by the hands of Anthony Brusket signed, sealed and performed as his last will in the presence of us, Vincent Guicherdine, Benedict Spinola, Annibale Spinola, Agostino Grafigna, John Turpin, Thomas Wheeler and Rowland Browghton.

Probatum fuit huiusmodi testamentum coram Curia prerogatiua Cantuarien{sis} Com{m}issario duodecimo die mensis Iulij anno d{omi}ni mill{esi}mo Quingentesimo Septuagesimo Quarto Iuramento Thome Wheeler Notarij publici procuratoris Elizabete Brusket Executric{is} in huiusmodi testamento nominat{e} Cui com{m}issa fuit administracio de bene &c Iurat{i}

[=The same will was proved before the Commissary at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on the twelfth day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred seventy-fourth by the oath of Thomas Wheeler, notary public, proctor of Elizabeth Bryskett, executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted, sworn to well etc.]