

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 3 October 1611 and proved 26 October 1611, of Thomas Savage, one of two trustees used by William Kempe, Thomas Pope (d.1603), Augustine Phillips (d.1605), John Heminges (bap. 1566, d. 1630) and William Shakespeare (1564-1616) of Stratford upon Avon to allocate shareholdings in the Globe Theatre in 1599. See TNA REQ 4/1/2:

Which said William Shakespeare, Augustine Phillips, Thomas Pope, John Heminges & William Kempe did shortly after grant & assign all the said moiety of & in the said gardens & grounds unto William Leveson and Thomas Savage, who regranted & reassigned to every of them severally a fifth part of the said moiety of the said gardens & grounds, upon which premises, or some part thereof, there was shortly after built the said then playhouse, so as the said Augustine Phillips had a fifth part of the moiety of the said gardens & grounds, & after the said playhouse was built, he had a fifth part of the said galleries of the said playhouse in joint tenancy with the said William Shakespeare, Thomas Pope, the said John Heminges & William Kempe, & as tenant in common during the said term of years demised by the said Nicholas Brend as aforesaid, as the said defendants do take it.

See also Corrigan, Brian Jay, *Playhouse Law in Shakespeare's World* (Cranbury, NJ: Associated University Presses, 2004), pp. 64-71, available online.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

According to Honigmann, the testator was the son of Geoffrey Savage and Jenett Hesketh, who were married on 9 August 1551 (see Honigmann, E.A.J., *Shakespeare: The 'Lost Years'*, 2nd ed., (Manchester University Press, 1998), p. 85.

The testator leaves to his youngest son a house then in the occupation of John Heminges, for whom the testator had acted as a trustee in 1599:

Item, I give, devise and bequeath unto the said John, my youngest son, my house and messuage with all and singular th' appurtenances in Addle Street in the parish of Saint Mary in Aldermanbury in London wherein Mr John Heminges, grocer, now dwelleth

TESTATOR'S OVERSEERS

The testator appoints as one of his overseers John Jackson (d.1625), one of the three trustees involved in William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon's purchase of the Blackfriars gatehouse on 10 March 1613. For the will, dated 26 January 1625 and proved 12 April 1625, of John Jackson, gentleman, of Wing, Buckinghamshire, see TNA PROB 11/145/489.

For a facsimile of the purchasers' copy of the indenture by which Shakespeare purchased the Blackfriars gatehouse, Folger MS Z.c.22(45), signed by Henry Walker, see the Shakespeare Documented website at:

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

For a facsimile of the vendor's copy, London Metropolitan Archives CLC/522/MS03738, signed by Shakespeare, Johnson and Jackson, see the Shakespeare Documented website at:

<http://www.shakespearedocumented.org/exhibition/document/shakespeare-purchases-blackfriars-gatehouse-copy-bargain-and-sale-signed-buyers>

The other overseer appointed by the testator, 'Mr Doctor Lister', would appear to be Edward Lister (1557-1620), a parishioner of St Mary Aldermanbury, and the elder brother of the physician Sir Matthew Lister (bap. 1571, d. 1656), who was physician to Mary, Countess of Pembroke, and was rumoured to have been secretly married to her.

From the *ODNB*:

Lister, Edward (1557–1620), physician, son of William Lister and brother of Sir Matthew Lister, was born at Wakefield, Yorkshire, and educated at Eton College. In 1575 he was elected a scholar of King's College, Cambridge, where he graduated BA in 1580, MA in 1583, and MD in 1590. He was elected a fellow of the College of Physicians on 30 September 1594, was chosen as censor six times, and was treasurer from 1612 to 1618. He was physician-in-ordinary to Queen Elizabeth and to James I.

Lister lived in the parish of St Mary Aldermanbury, London, and married Anne (d. 1613), widow of his fellow collegian, John Farmery, on 27 February 1593 in the parish church. Lister died on 27 March 1620 in Aldermanbury, and was buried in the same church.

For further information on Thomas Savage, see Hotson, Leslie, *Shakespeare's Sonnets Dated* (London: Rupert Hart-Davis, 1949), pp. 125-7.

RM: T{estamentum} Thome Savage

In the name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost, in whose name I was baptized and in whom only I believe to be saved, Amen. I, Thomas Savage, citizen and goldsmith of London, being sick in body but of perfect mind and memory (praised be God) do ordain and make my testament containing my last will as followeth:

First I bequeath my soul into thy hands, O God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Thou hast first made me, and thou hast given thy Son to become man, who died for my sins and for

the sins of the people. O Father, for this thy Son's sake, have mercy upon me. O Lord Jesus Christ, thou Son of God, which hast bought me with thy precious blood by one oblation sufficientie [sic?] for all, I believe in thee. O Christ, God and man, have mercy upon me, and be thou my merciful Mediator for me to God, thy Father, that I may be saved. O Holy Ghost, coequal with the Father and the Son, have mercy upon me. Work thy divine power in me through thy grace in sanctification. Draw me unto Jesus Christ, that I may find favour and be saved, Amen.

Secondly, concerning my body, that I bequeath unto the earth from whence it came;

Thirdly, I will that all such debts and duties which I owe of right and good conscience to any person or persons to be truly contented and paid;

Item, I do hereby declare and my will, intent and meaning is that all my goods, chattels, leases, plate, jewels, rings, chains, bracelets, money and whatsoever else (my debts and funerals being paid and discharged) shall be equally divided into three parts according to the ancient and laudable custom of the City of London, that is to say, one third part I give unto Alice, my loving wife, one other third part thereof I give to such and so many of my children as shall not have been advanced by me at the time of my decease, and my full intent and meaning is that my eldest son, Richard Savage, shall have no part or orphanage or portion of any of my said goods or chattels whatsoever for that I have already in my lifetime fully advanced him of my said goods and chattels, and the other third part of my said goods and chattels, which is commonly called the dead man's part, I will shall be and remain unto my executor hereunder named for and towards the performance and payments of such legacies and bequests as are given and bequeathed in this my last will and testament;

And as concerning the disposition of my messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments within the City of London or elsewhere, I do give, devise and dispose of the same in manner and form following:

And first I give, devise and bequeath unto my said son, Richard Savage, all that my messuage or house with th' appurtenances in the parish of Saint Olave's in Silver Street in London wherein Mr William Parson [=Pierson?], goldsmith, now inhabiteth, to have and to hold the same house with th' appurtenances unto him, my said son Richard Savage, and to his heirs of his body lawfully begotten or to be begotten, and for default of such issue, then to remain and come unto Thomas Savage, my second son, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten or to be begotten, and for default of such issue, then to remain to my other two sons, George Savage and John Savage, and to the several heirs of their two bodies begotten, and for default of such issue then to the right heirs of me, the said Thomas Savage, forever;

Item, I give, devise and bequeath unto Alice, my wife, all that my messuage or house with th' appurtenances wherein I now dwell situate in Great Wood Street in the parish of Saint Alban in Great Wood Street in London, to have and to hold unto my said wife and to her assigns for and during the term of her natural life without spoil or waste to be done

by her according to a former conveyance thereof to her in that behalf made, and the reversion or remainder thereof I give, devise and bequeath unto my younger sons, Thomas Savage and George Savage, and to the heirs of their two bodies severally begotten, and if either of them shall happen to die without issue of their bodies, then the part or portion of him so dying without issue to remain and be to the survivor of them and to the heirs of the body of the survivor of them lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue then to remain, come and be to the said Richard Savage and John Savage, my sons, and to the heirs of their several bodies lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue then to the right heirs of me, the said Thomas Savage, forever;

Item, I give, devise and bequeath unto the said John, my youngest son, my house and messuage with all and singular th' appurtenances in Addle Street in the parish of Saint Mary in Aldermanbury in London wherein Mr John Heminges, grocer, now dwelleth, to have and to hold unto him, my said son John, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue then the remainder thereof to come and remain to the rest of my said sons, Richard Savage, Thomas Savage and George Savage, and to the heirs of their several bodies begotten, and for default of such issue then to remain to the right heirs of me, the said Thomas Savage, forever;

Item, I give, devise and bequeath unto Elizabeth Savage, my daughter, my house and messuage with the appurtenances situate in Addle street in the parish of Saint Alban in Wood Street in London wherein Mr John Wotton, gentleman, now dwelleth, to have and to hold the same unto my said daughter, Elizabeth Savage, and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue then to remain, come and be unto my abovesaid four sons, Richard Savage, Thomas Savage, George Savage and John Savage, and to their heirs forever;

And whereas Thomas Chappell of London, stationer, John Rowden of London, weaver, William Adderley of London, Merchant Taylor, and William Tribecke of London, plumber, by indenture under all their hands and seals bearing date the thirtieth day of May last past before the date of this my present last will and testament did, for the consideration in the said indenture expressed, grant, bargain, sell, enfeoff and confirm unto me, the said Thomas Savage, my heirs and assigns, forever all that messuage or tenement called the George with all shops, cellars, sollars, chambers, rooms, gardens, lights, yards, easements, commodities and appurtenances whatsoever to the said messuage or tenement belonging or in any wise appertaining situate, lying and being in the parish of Saint Sepulchre's, London, then or then late in the tenure or occupation of one Arthur Strangwayes, together with four other messuages or tenements then-to fore being or being termed four shops adjoining to the said messuage called the George, with their and every of their appurtenances, as in and by the said indenture amongst divers other covenants, clauses, articles and sentences therein contained more plainly and at large it doth and may appear, now my will and mind and meaning is and I do give, devise and bequeath all that the said messuage or tenement called the George with all shops, cellars, sollars, chambers, rooms, gardens, lights, yards, easements, commodities and appurtenances whatsoever to the said messuage or tenement belonging or in any wise appertaining situate, lying and being as aforesaid in the parish of Saint Sepulchre's,

London, now or late in the tenure or occupation of the said Arthur Strangwayes, together also with the said four other messuages or tenements heretofore being or being termed four shops adjoining to the said messuage called the George with their and every of their appurtenances unto the parson and churchwardens of the parish church of Saint Alban in Great Wood Street in London and to their successors parson and churchwardens of the said parish church of Saint Alban forever, for and towards the reparation of the said parish church of Saint Alban and for and towards the providing, finding, amending and repairing of the goods and ornaments belonging to the same parish church, to have and to hold the said messuage or tenement called the George with th' appurtenances, together also with the said four other messuages or tenements adjoining as aforesaid to the said messuage called the George with their and every of their appurtenances unto the said parson and churchwardens and to their successors parson and churchwardens of the said parish church of Saint Alban in Great Wood Street in London and for the uses aforesaid forever, in as large, ample and beneficial manner to all intents and confirmations as I, the said Thomas Savage, my heirs or assigns, might, could, should or ought to have enjoyed the same by force of the above-mentioned indenture or by any other ways or means whatsoever;

Item, I give unto the children of Christ's Hospital in London four pounds in money, to be paid to them within one month next after my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the poor people in the parish of Saint Alban in Wood Street aforesaid the sum of forty shillings, to be distributed unto them at the discretion of the parson and churchwardens of the same parish for the time being within one month next after my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the poor people of the town of Rufford in the parish of Croston in the county of Lancaster where I was born the sum of forty shillings, to be distributed amongst them at the discretion of my brother-in-law John Palmer, Thomas Spencer, Thomas Awty(?) and Hugh Watkinson, or so many of them as shall be then living at the time of my decease, or if they shall be dead at the time of my death, then to be distributed to and amongst the same poor people at the discretions of the churchwardens of the parish church of Croston aforesaid for the time being within two months next after my decease;

Item, I give and devise to the worshipful Company of Goldsmiths in London, where I myself am a free member, one spout-pot of silver white, to weigh thirty ounces or thereabouts, and more to the same Company I give the sum of eight pounds in money to make them a supper, to be paid and delivered unto them by my executor at the day of my burial;

Item, I give and bequeath to my mother, Jenett Savage, the sum of ten pounds, to be paid her within two months next after my decease, if she be then living;

Item, I give unto my two sisters, Cecily Peacock and Katherine Palmer, to each of them the sum of five pounds, to be paid them within six months next after my decease, if they be then living;

Item, I give unto my brothers-in-law, John Palmer and Ambrose Peacock, to each of them twenty shillings to make each of them a ring of gold if their wives be then living, to be paid them within six months next after my decease;

Item, I give and bequeath to Thomas Peacock, my sister Cecily's son, in money three pounds, and to each of his brothers and sisters twenty shillings apiece, to be paid them within six months next after my decease;

Item, I give, devise and bequeath unto my cousin, Francis Savage of Rufford, the sum of forty shillings, to be paid unto him within six months next after my decease, and to each of his children twenty shillings apiece, to be paid them within six months next after my decease or to their father for their use;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my cousin Hesketh, widow, late the wife of Thomas Hesketh of Rufford, the sum of twenty shillings, to be paid her within six months next after my decease, if she be then living;

Item, I give, devise and bequeath unto my mother-in-law, Mrs Wotton, widow, three pounds to make her a ring of gold to wear for my sake, and also I give and bequeath unto my sister, Sara Flint, three pounds in money to make her likewise a ring withal, to be paid them within one month next after my decease;

Item, I give unto my fellows, the sea-coal-meters of the City of London which shall be at the time of my decease in money three pounds to make them a dinner, to be paid them immediately after my decease;

Item, I give, devise and bequeath unto my cousin, Anne Leland, the sum of three pounds and a mourning gown;

Item, I give unto Mary Partridge, my servant, a mourning gown;

Item, I do ordain, nominate and appoint my trusty friend, Robert Hill, citizen and Merchant Taylor of London, the full and sole executor of this my present last will and testament, and I do give and bequeath unto him in recompense of his pains to be taken in and about the execution of this my will the sum of ten pounds, and I desire and earnestly request him, my said executor, to see this my will performed to the best benefit of my children which shall be orphans at the time of my decease according to my trust reposed in him;

Item, I desire my very loving friends, Mr Doctor Lister and Mr John Jackson, to be my overseers, and to be aiding to my said executor in the performance of this my will, and I

give and bequeath unto each of my said overseers three pounds apiece to make each of them a ring of gold to wear in remembrance of me;

All the rest and residue of all and singular my goods, chattels and debts whatsoever and wheresoever I give, devise and bequeath unto and amongst my children part and part like, the said Richard Savage, my son excepted;

And my will and mind further is that if the said Richard Savage, my son, shall within the space of seven days next ensuing after my decease seal and as his act and deed deliver in due form of law unto my said executor such and so good and sufficient a release and discharge of all such claim and demand as he hath or pretendeth to have of, in and to my goods, chattels and debts or any part thereof, either by the custom of the City of London or otherwise, as by my said executor or by his counsel learned in the law shall be devised, advised or required, that then and in such case and upon that condition and not otherwise, I do release, acquit and discharge my said son, Richard Savage, of and from all such debts, sum and sums of money whatsoever which he oweth unto me by band, bill, speciality or by any other ways or means whatsoever;

And I do hereby utterly revoke and make void all former wills, testament, codicils, legacies, bequests and executors whatsoever by me at any time heretofore made, given, named or appointed, and my will and meaning is that these presents only shall stand in force and be taken for my true last will and testament and none other or otherwise;

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, given the third day of October Anno Domini one thousand six hundred and eleven and in the ninth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King James etc. By me, Thomas Savage. Sealed, subscribed, pronounced and declared by the said Thomas Savage to be his last will and testament on the day and years above-written, the word 'eight' being first amended in the second sheet of this present will in the presence of us. The handwriting of 34h8 G9472 John Grome. Humphrey Dyson, notary public.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram Magistro Ed{mund}o Pope legum doctore Surrogato venerabilis viri D{omi}ni Iohannis Benet militis legum etiam Doctoris Curie Prerogative Cantuariens{is} Magistri Custodis siue Commissarij legitime Constituti vicesimo sexto die Mens{is} Octobris Anno D{omi}ni millesimo sexcentesimo vndecimo Iur{amen}to Roberti Hill executoris in eodem testamento nominat{i} Cui commissa fuit Administrac{i}o bonor{um} Iurium et Creditorum d{i}c{t}i defuncti De bene et fideliter administrand{o} &c ad sancta Dei Evang{elia} Iurat{i} ex{aminatur}

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before Master Edmund Pope, Doctor of the Laws, Surrogate of the worshipful Sir John Bennet, knight, also Doctor of the Laws, lawfully constituted Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the twenty-sixth day of the month of October in the year of the Lord the

thousand six hundred eleventh by the oath of Robert Hill, executor 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. Examined.]

vicesimo tertio die mensis Novembris Anno D{omi}ni 1626 emanavit com{m}issio Petro ffantrat marito Elizabethe ffantrat filie n{atu}ralis et l{egi}time d{ic}t{i} defuncti h{ab}entis &c ad administrand{um} bona iura et credita d{ic}t{i} def{uncti} iuxta tenorem test{ament}i ipsius defuncti p{er} Rob{er}tum Hill ex{ecuto}rem in hu{ius}mo{d}i no{m}i{n}atum (iam etiam demortuum) non plene ad{ministra}ta De bene &c iurato

[=On the twenty-third day of the month of November in the year of the Lord 1626 a grant issued to Peter Fantrat, husband of Elizabeth Fantrat, natural and legitimate daughter of the said deceased, having etc., to administer the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased according to the tenor of the testament of the same deceased by Robert Hill, executor named in the same testament (now also dead), not fully administered, sworn to well etc.]