

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 3 October 1633 and proved 5 May 1634, of Thomas Russell (1570-1634) of Alderminster and Rushock, to whom William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon bequeathed £5 and whom he appointed as an overseer of his will. See the will of William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon, TNA PROB 1/4 (original) and TNA PROB 11/127/771 (PCC copy).

See also the will, TNA PROB 11/130/512, of Francis Collins (d.1617), appointed jointly with the testator as overseer of the will of William Shakespeare.

By his second marriage, the testator was the stepfather of the diplomat, Sir Dudley Digges (1582/3-1639), and the poet and translator, Leonard Digges (1588-1635), whose commendatory verses appeared in the *First Folio* of Shakespeare's plays in 1623 and in the 1640 edition of his *Poems*:

*This Booke,
When Brasse and Marble fade, shall make thee looke
Fresh to all Ages.*

*Briefe, there is nothing in his wit fraught Booke,
Whose sound we would not heare; on whose worth looke
Like old coynd gold, whose lines in every page,
Shall passe true currant to succeeding age.*

TESTATOR'S KINSHIP WITH JOHN HANDFORD

In his will, dated 13 August 1616 and proved 17 October 1616, John Handford (1565 – 17 August 1616) of Woollas Hall in Eckington, Worcestershire, refers to the testator as his 'dear kinsman', and appoints him as one of his executors.

Hotson was unable to trace the relationship between the testator and John Handford, although he noted that Sir Arnold Lygon of Beauchamps Court, who appointed John Handford as his executor in 1612, referred to him as 'kinsman'. See Hotson, Leslie, *I, William Shakespeare*, (London: Jonathan Cape, 1937), pp. 283-8, and the will of Sir Arnold Lygon, TNA PROB 11/120/489.

It appears the testator and John Handford were third cousins, and were related through the Greville family. William Greville (d. 7 March 1513) of Arle Court in Cheltenham, Justice of the Common Pleas, son of Richard Greville of Lemington by a wife surnamed Herbert, had, by his wife, Margery, three daughters: Alice Greville, who married Robert Wye, Eleanor Greville who married Robert Vampage, and Margaret or Margery Greville (d.1542), who married Sir Richard Lygon (d. 20 March 1556) of Madresfield. See the will of William Greville, TNA PROB 11/17/358, and the Handford and Lygon pedigrees

in Phillimore, W.P.W., ed., *The Visitation of Worcester Made in the Year 1569*, (London: Harleian Society, 1988), Vol. XXVII, pp. 70, 91 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationcount02mundgoog#page/n85/mode/2upPhillimore>

Margery Greville and Sir Richard Lygon were the grandparents of the testator's mother, Margaret Lygon (d.1617), who married, firstly, Sir Thomas Russell (d.1574) of Strensham, and secondly, Sir Henry Berkeley (d.1601). See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, p. 22.

John Handford was the son of Thomas Handford (d.1606?) and Margaret Higford or Hugford (d. 8 or 18 November 1594), daughter of William Higford and Dorothy Vampage, daughter of Robert Vampage and Eleanor Greville.

Thus, the testator was a descendant of Margery Greville and Sir Richard Lygon, while John Handford was a descendant of her sister, Eleanor Greville, and Robert Vampage.

Some sources claim a closer relationship between the testator and John Handford, stating that in 1616 the testator's daughter, Elizabeth Russell (b.1604), married John Handford's eldest son and heir, Francis Handford (1602-1643). The marriage was annulled the following year. See Collingwood, Kate, *Great Comberton: A Landscape History*, (Rothersthorpe: Paragon Publishing, 2014), pp. 20-1 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=qvkiBQAAQBAJ&pg=PA21>

See also:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/52219527@N00/9270486130>

However the testator's two daughters by his first marriage died young (see below), and he had no issue by his second marriage. The Elizabeth Russell (b.1604) who married Francis Handford thus cannot have been the testator's daughter. Rather, it appears she was the testator's great-niece, i.e., the daughter of the testator's nephew, Sir Thomas Russell (1577 - 30 December 1632), and the granddaughter of the testator's half brother, Sir John Russell (1552-1593). See the will of Sir John Russell, TNA PROB 11/92/96, and the History of Parliament entry for the testator's nephew, Sir Thomas Russell (1577 - 30 December 1632) at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/russell-thomas-1577-1632>

Francis Handford maintained contact with the testator until the latter's death. See Hotson, *supra*, pp. 273-4. For further information concerning the testator's friendship with John Handford, see Hotson, *supra*, pp. 225, 283-8.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the testator's family background, see the Russell pedigree in Phillimore, *supra*, p. 119 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationcount02mundgoog#page/n133/mode/2up>

For the testator's family background, see also the will, TNA PROB 11/3/531, of John Throckmorton (d.1445) of Fladbury, Worcester, whose eldest daughter, Eleanor Throckmorton (c.1427-c.1483, married Robert Russell (d.1461?) of Strensham, by whom she was the mother of Robert Russell (d.1493), who married Joan de la Bere, the daughter of Sir Kynard de la Bere, and the grandmother of Robert Russell (d. 28 June 1502), esquire, of Strensham, who married Elizabeth Baynham (see below).

Testator's great-great-grandparents

The testator was the great-great-grandson of Sir Thomas Baynham (d. 16 February 1500) of Clorewell, Gloucestershire, by his second wife, Alice Walwyn (d. 10 or 22 October 1518), the only child of William Walwyn (d.1470).

Testator's great-grandparents

The testator was the great-grandson of Elizabeth Baynham, who married firstly Robert Russell (d. 28 June 1502), esquire, of Strensham, the son of Robert Russell and Elizabeth Throckmorton (c.1427-c.1483), and secondly, Sir Robert Throckmorton (d.1518). For the will of Elizabeth Baynham's first husband, Robert Russell (d. 28 June 1502), see TNA PROB 11/13/373. For the will of Sir Robert Throckmorton (d.1518), see TNA PROB 11/20/25.

For the Baynham family, see also the will of Sir Alexander Baynham (d. 25 September 1524), half brother of Elizabeth (nee Baynham) Russell Throckmorton, TNA PROB 11/21/469. See also the Baynham pedigree in Maclean, John, ed., 'The History of the Manors of Dene Magna and Abenhall', *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society for 1881-82*, Vol. VI, (Bristol, C.T. Jefferies), pp. 123-209 at pp. 184-5:

<http://archive.org/stream/transactionsbris06bris#page/184/mode/2up>

See also the Baynham pedigree in Maclean, John and W.C. Heane, eds., *The Visitation of the County of Gloucester Taken in the Year 1623*, (London: Harleian Society, 1885), Vol. XXI, p. 14 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationofcoun00inchit#page/14/mode/2up>

Testator's grandparents

The testator was the grandson of Sir John Russell (1493/4 – 15 August 1556) and Edith Unton, the daughter of Sir Thomas Unton of Wadley, Berkshire. See the will of Sir John Russell, TNA PROB 11/38/167, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/russell-john-i-149394-1556>

Testator's parents

The testator was the son of Sir Thomas Russell (d. 9 April 1574) of Strensham by his second wife, Margaret Lygon (d.1617), the daughter of William Lygon (d. 29 September 1567) and Eleanor Dennis, the daughter of Sir William Dennis of Dirham, Gloucestershire. See Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, p. 407. See also *Magna Carta Ancestry*, *supra*, Vol. III, p. 23.

For further details of the testator's family see the will of his father, Sir Thomas Russell (d. 9 April 1574) of Strensham, TNA PROB 11/57/83; the will of his mother, Margaret (nee Lygon) Russell Berkeley, TNA PROB 11/129/781; and the will of his half brother, Sir John Russell (d.1593), TNA PROB 11/92/96.

See also the will, TNA PROB 11/105/567, of Nicholas Saunders (d. 7 April 1605), esquire, uncle of the testator's half brother, Sir Maurice Berkeley (c.1577-1617). For Sir Maurice Berkeley, see also the History of Parliament entry at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/berkeley-sir-maurice-1577-1617>

b. c.1577,1 1st s. of Sir Henry Berkeley† of Bruton and Margaret, da. of William Lygon of Madresfield, Worcs. and wid. of Sir Thomas Russell† (d. 9 Apr. 1574) of Strensham, Worcs.; bro. of Sir Henry Berkeley.2 educ. Queen's, Oxf. 1590, aged 13, BA 1593; M. Temple 1594;3 vol. Cadiz expedition 1596;4 embassy, France 1598.5 m. by 1597, Elizabeth, da. of Sir William Killigrew I* of Hanworth, Mdx., 5s. 2da.6 kntd. 27 June 1596.7 suc. fa. 1601. d. 1 May 1617.8*

MARRIAGES AND ISSUE***Testator's first marriage***

The testator married firstly, at Bruton on 7 September 1590, Katherine Bampffield (d. by 1596), the daughter of Hugh Bampffield (d.1589), esquire, of North Cadbury, Somerset, and Cecily White of Fiddleford, Dorset.

Katherine Bampfield had a brother and two sisters:

-Sir William Bampfield (after 1568-1631) for whom see Hotson, *supra*, pp. 135-6, 203-6, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/bampfield-sir-william-1568-1631>

b. aft. 1568, 1 o.s. of Hugh Bampfield of North Cadbury, Som. and Cecily, da. of Thomas White† of Fittleford, Dorset. 2 m. Anne (d.1657), 3 da. of Daniel Kirton of Castle Cary, Som., wid. of Philip Bodenham (d. 3 Aug. 1599) of Fugglestone, Wilts., 1s. 3da. (2 d.v.p.). 4 suc. fa. 1589; 5 kntd. 12 May 1604? 6 bur. 22 Aug. 1631. 7

Following his mother-in-law's second marriage to the royal cofferer, Sir Robert Vernon of Mitcham, Surrey, which brought him potentially useful Court connections, Bampfield took up residence at Kingston-upon-Thames, conveniently close to Hampton Court palace.

Sir Robert Vernon (buried 20 September 1617) of Mitcham, Surrey, second husband of Sir William Bampfield's mother-in-law, Frances, widow of Daniel Kirton (d.1594), should not be confused with two namesakes. See the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/vernon-sir-robert-1576-163640>

For the will, proved 7 December 1624, of Sir William Bampfield's mother-in-law, Frances, see TNA PROB 11/144/608.

-Jane Bampfield (d.1627), who married firstly Thomas Chafin (d.1593) of Folke, Dorset, by whom she was the mother of Bampfield Chafin (1592-1644). See Hotson, *supra*, p. 60; the will of Thomas Chafin, proved 13 April 1593, TNA PROB 11/81/284; and the History of Parliament entry for Bampfield Chafin at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1604-1629/member/chafin-bampfield-1592-1644>

Jane Bampfield married secondly Sir George Trenchard (c.1548-1630), for whom see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/trenchard-george-i-1548-1630>

-Eleanor Bampfield, who married William Willoughby, the elder son of Henry Willoughby, esquire, of West Knoyle, Wiltshire. According to Hotson, Eleanor Bampfield's husband was the elder brother of Henry Willoughby, the author of *Willobie*

His Avisa (1594). See the *ODNB* entry for Henry Willoughby, and Hotson, *supra*, pp. 59-62, 68.

By Katherine Bampffield, the testator had two daughters:

* **Margaret Russell**, who died young.

* **Jane Russell**, who died young. See Hotson, *supra*, pp. 42, 44, 59.

Testator's second marriage

The testator married secondly, at Rushock, Worcestershire, on 26 August 1603, Anne St. Leger (1555-1636), who survived him, and was buried at Chilham on 20 January 1637. See Hotson, *supra*, pp. 210, 278:

Russell's wife survived him nearly three years. Her son, Dudley, buried her in Chilham Church on January 20, 1636/7, and placed this inscription on the tomb: 'Anne St. Leger, mother of Sir Dudley Diggs, knight, Master of the Rolls, a modest, humble, prudent, and religious matron, lieth here buried, Anno Domini 1636, aetat. suae 81'. It will be remarked that here is no hint of her second marriage.

Anne St Leger was the daughter of Sir Warham St Leger (1525?-1597) by Ursula Neville (d.1575), fifth daughter of George Neville, 5th Baron Bergavenny. See the *ODNB* entry for Sir Warham St Leger, and his will, proved 28 January 1598, TNA PROB 11/91/61; *Magna Carta Ancestry, supra*, Vol. II, p. 82, and Vol. III, p. 482; and Palmer, Alan and Veronica, *Who's Who in Shakespeare's England*, (New York: St Martin's Press, 1999), pp. 209-10, at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=6BK1Vu6pw84C&pg=PA209&dq=Thomas+Russell#v=onepage&q=Thomas%20Russell&f=false>

When she married the testator, Anne St Leger was the widow of Thomas Digges (c.1546 – 24 August 1595), the grandson of James Digges (c.1473-1540?), esquire, and the son of Leonard Digges (c.1515-c.1559), by whom she had three sons and three daughters, the testator's stepchildren:

-**Sir Dudley Digges** (1582/3–1639), aged twelve at his father's death, who in 1605 married Mary Kempe (baptized 1590, d.1631), daughter and coheir of Sir Thomas Kempe (d.1607) of Olantigh, near Wye, Kent, by his second wife, Dorothy Thompson. See *Magna Carta Ancestry, supra*, Vol. III, p. 277; Hotson, *supra*, p. 126; and the *ODNB* entry for Sir Dudley Digges.

-**Leonard Digges** (1588 – 7 April 1635), aged seven at his father's death, who was brought up in the testator's household, and whose commendatory verses appeared in the

First Folio of Shakespeare's plays (1623) and in the 1640 edition of his *Poems*. See Hotson, *supra*, p. 126, and the *ODNB* entry for Leonard Digges.

-**Margaret Digges** (1587 - September 1619), aged eight at her father's death, who married Sir Anthony Palmer (1566-1630); for his will, dated 28 August 1630 and proved 24 September 1630, in which he appoints Sir Dudley Digges as one of his executors, see TNA PROB 11/158/216. Her brother, Leonard Digges, dedicated his translation of Claudian to her. See Hotson, *supra*, pp. 126, 215-16, 237, 242, and the *ODNB* entry for Leonard Digges.

-**Ursula Digges**, aged thirteen months at her father's death. According to Hotson she was maintained for many years by the testator, and married twice. In 1627 the testator had one of her children under his care. See Hotson, *supra*, pp. 126, 265.

-**William Digges**, who died young.

-**Mary Digges**, who died young.

See the will of Thomas Digges, TNA PROB 11/86/204. For the Digges family, see also the will of Richard Sackville (d. 28 July 1524), TNA PROB 11/21/446.

ANNE DIGGES, FRANCIS BRACE, AND THE TESTATOR'S LEASE OF RUSHOCK (FORMERLY SUTTON STURMY)

Before the testator married Anne Digges (who was fifteen years older than he), she was courted by other suitors, one of whom, Edward Andrews, esquire, of Gray's Inn, attempted to defraud her. For her 1598 Star Chamber suit against Edward Andrews, see TNA STAC 5/D2/10, TNA E 112/22/47, and Hotson, *supra*, pp. 127-31.

Anne Digges was also courted by her neighbor in the parish of St Mary Aldermanbury, Francis Brace (d. 2 July 1599), who in 1574 had witnessed the will of the testator's father, Sir Thomas Russell (see his will, *supra*), and shortly thereafter had travelled on the continent at the same time as Oxford (see TNA E 157/1, f. 1).

During their courtship Francis Brace persuaded Anne Digges to sell some of her late husband's leases to pay his (Brace's) debts, and in return Brace assigned her his 'lease of the valuable manor of Rushock, Worcestershire', which was held of the Company of Merchant Taylors in London. See Hotson, *supra*, p. 132.

It appears the courtship was cut short by Brace's death. He was buried 14 July 1599 at St Mary Aldermanbury, the record being signed by the then churchwarden of the parish, and trustee of William Shakespeare and other members of the Lord Chamberlain's Men, William Leveson (d.1621). For William Leveson, see his will, TNA PROB 11/137/600. Although it is unclear how they were related to Francis Brace, it should be noted that members of the Brace family lived in Stratford upon Avon. See the will of Humphrey

Brace, dated 10 May 1591, TNA PROB 11/79/180. See also the will of Francis Brace's father, William Brace, TNA PROB 11/33/244.

Francis Brace appears to have been many years a widower when he courted Anne Digges. On 23 November 1562 he married Mary Purslow, the daughter of Robert Purslow (buried 31 December 1571) of Sidbury, Shropshire, and widow of Thomas Newport (d.1559) of Rushock, Worcestershire, by whom he had a son and three daughters:

(1) Thomas Brace, who in 1588 married Frances Freer, the daughter of William Freer of Oxford, but predeceased his father, leaving no male issue.

(2) Cecily Brace (d.1613), who married William Sheldon (buried 3 September 1626). See:

<http://earlywelshleigh.blogspot.com/2017/03/sheldon-family-history.html>

[William Sheldon] married Cicely the daughter of Francis Brace esquire of Doverdale near Droitwich, and they had at least 14 children. Cicely died in 1613, and Barnard informs us (p.104) that William moved to Haselor, a small village near Temple Grafton where his son Brace and his younger brother Baldwin lived, leaving his eldest son William to manage the Broadway estate. He was buried in Broadway on 3 September 1626, aged 62.

See also the Sheldon pedigree in Butler, A.T., ed., *The Visitation of Worcestershire 1634*, (London: J. Whitehead and Son, Limited, 1938), Vol. XC, p. 91:

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015039595650&view=1up&seq=107>

(3) Mary Brace.

(4) Margery Brace.

See *The Register of Sidbury, 1560-1812*, Shropshire Parish Register Society at:

<http://www.melocki.org.uk/salop/Sidbury.html>

For Francis Brace, see also the inquisitions post mortem taken after his death, TNA C142/325/186 and TNA C 142/350/51, and Grazebrook, H. Sydney, *The Heraldry of Worcestershire*, (London: John Russell Smith, 1873), Vol. I, p. 74 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=8IMBAAAQAAJ&pg=PA74>

In his will, TNA PROB 11/74/162, Francis Brace's father-in-law, Robert Purslow (buried 31 December 1571), esquire, appoints his son-in-law, John Wheeler, as one of his executors, which indicates a connection to both the Sheldon family and to Stratford upon

Avon. Jane Wheeler (d.1582), the daughter of John Wheeler of Droitwich, married firstly Baldwin Sheldon (buried 5 July 1548) of Broadway, Worcestershire, secondly John Combe (d.1550) of Stratford upon Avon, and thirdly Thomas Lewknor (d.1571), who thus became the stepfather of William Combe (buried 5 October 1610), who in 1602 sold land to William Shakespeare of Stratford (see SBTRO ER 27/1). Jane Wheeler appears to have been the daughter of John Wheeler of Droitwich and Elizabeth Acton, the daughter of William Acton of Acton, and the sister of Gilbert Wheeler (d.1580?), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/63/15. See also the Wheeler pedigree in Butler, A.T., ed., *The Visitation of Worcestershire 1634*, (London: J. Whitehead and Son, Limited, 1938), Vol. XC, p. 101 at:

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015039595650&view=1up&seq=117>

See also the Sheldon pedigree in Butler, *supra*, p. 91:

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015039595650&view=1up&seq=107>

See also:

<http://earlywelshleigh.blogspot.com/2017/03/sheldon-family-history.html>

Robert Purslow (1500?-1571) married Margaret or Margery Sparke, the daughter and heir of William Sparke of Bridgnorth, Shropshire, and East Greenwich, Kent, by whom he had three sons and five daughters:

-**Nicholas Purslow** (d. 8 August 1563), eldest son, who predeceased his father. See the inquisition post mortem taken after his death, TNA C142/142/79, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/purslow-%28purselaw%29-nicholas-1533-63>

-**John Purslow** (buried 13 March 1594), who married firstly, on 6 May 1566, Constance Newport (buried 27 January 1576), the daughter of Richard Newport (d.1565) of Hunningham, Warwickshire. See the will of Richard Newport, TNA PROB 11/48/318, and *Register of Sidbury*, *supra*. John Purslow married secondly, on 14 February 1576, Dorothy Blount, the daughter of Sir George Blount (d. 20 July 1581) of Kinlet, brother of Henry VIII's mistress, Elizabeth Blount. He is not mentioned in his father's will. For the controversy surrounding his second marriage to Dorothy Blount, see *Collections for a History of Staffordshire*, Vol. IV, (London: Harrison and Sons, 1883), p. 83 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=dD7QAAAAMAAJ&pg=RA1-PA83>

-**Francis Purslow**, who married a wife named Barbara.

-**Joyce Purslow**, who on 14 April 1561 married William Nash of Hanbury, Worcestershire. See *Register of Sidbury, supra*.

-**Anne Purslow**, who on 10 June 1567 married John Wheeler of Droitwich. See *Register of Sidbury, supra*.

-**Eleanor Purslow**, who married Humphrey Jennetts. See *Register of Sidbury, supra*.

-**Elizabeth Purslow**, who married Sir John Erpe of London.

-**Mary Purslow**, who married firstly Thomas Newport (d.1559) of Rushock, Worcestershire, and secondly, on 23 November 1562, Francis Brace (d. 2 July 1599). See the will of Thomas Newport (d.1559), TNA PROB 11/42B/695, and the Purslow pedigree in Rylands, John Paul, ed., *The Visitation of Shropshire Taken in the Year 1623, Part II*, (London: Harleian Society, 1889), Vol. XXIX, pp. 415-16 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationshrop01grazgoog#page/n142/mode/2up>

For the Purslow family, see also Purton, R.C., 'Some Account of Sidbury', *Transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological and Natural History Society*, 4th Series, Vol. III, (Shrewsbury: Adnitt and Naunton, 1913), pp. 109-120 at p. 112:

<https://archive.org/details/transactionsofsh43shro/page/n283>

As noted above, Mary Purslow's first husband was Thomas Newport (d.1559) of Rushock, who made his will 8 November 1559, leaving all his goods 'to Mary, my wife, and to my children'. He was the grandson of William Newport (d.1559), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/42B/459, and the son of George Newport (d.1558x60), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/43/258. As noted, after Thomas Newport's death, his widow, Mary, married Francis Brace.

William Newport (d.1559) appears to have been the uncle of Sir Richard Newport (d. 12 September 1570), owner of a copy of Hall's *Chronicle*, formerly Loan 61 in the British Library, containing annotations thought to have been made by Shakespeare. See Keen, Alan and Roger Lubbock, *The Annotator*, (London: Putnam, 1954). The volume is now at Eton College, Windsor. See the will of Sir Richard Newport, TNA PROB 11/53/456.

Although the testator and Anne Digges did not marry until 26 August 1603, they were living together in 1600, with her children, at the manor of Alderminster, Warwickshire, four miles from Stratford upon Avon. See Hotson, *supra*, pp. 203, 210. Under his father's will the testator had inherited a lease of Alderminster which would not expire until 1611 or 1612, and before the end of 1600 Anne Digges had given the testator control of the lease of the manor of Rushock which had been assigned to her by Francis Brace. In 1604 or 1605, the testator obtained a forty-year extension of the Rushock lease from the Merchant Taylors, assisted in his petition by a letter from Charles Blount, Earl

of Devonshire. See the will of William Leveson, TNA PROB 11/137/600; Hotson, *supra*, pp. 112-13, 131-3, 138, 161, 203, 211-13, and the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/brace-francis-1599>

The foregoing suggests a web of connections between the Russells, Francis Brace, Stratford upon Avon, and the London parish of St Mary Aldermanbury, where Thomas Digges, Francis Brace, John Heminges and Henry Condell all resided.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

For the testator's cousin, John Whittington, see the will of John Handford (d.1616), TNA PROB 11/127/794.

The testator's cousin, Thomas Copley the elder of Norton, can likely be identified with Thomas Copley of Bredon's Norton, who married Margaret Handford, daughter of John Handford (d.1616).

For the testator's executor, Francis Finch (c.1602-1677), to whom he bequeathed the residue of his estate, including his lease of Rushock, see Hotson, *supra*, p. 273:

During his residence at Hartlebury, Russell was a neighbor of the venerable Bishop of Worcester, Dr. John Thornborough (born 1551). The Bishop at an advanced age was under the medical care of Dr. John Hall, the executor whom Shakespeare had appointed Russell to supervise. It was no doubt at Hartlebury that Russell made the acquaintance of Francis Finch – a young gentleman, heir to Henry Finch, esquire, of Kempley, Gloucestershire. Finch married the Bishop's daughter, Jane. His own father died in 1631, and the childless Russell took a great fancy to the younger man. Friendship grew to a point where Russell planned to make Finch his heir.

See also the History of Parliament entry at:

<https://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1660-1690/member/finch-francis-1602-77>

See also:

'Kempley', in *A History of the County of Gloucester: Volume 12*, ed. A.R.J. Jurica (Woodbridge, 2010), pp. 196-222. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/glos/vol12/196-222> [accessed 2 December 2019]

William, Lord Grey, was granted livery of his inheritance in 1529 (fn. 164) and he conveyed the manor in 1551 to William Pigott (d. 1553). William's widow Margery (fl. 1579) (fn. 165) was succeeded in it by Anne, the daughter of her son Leonard Pigott.

Anne married in turn Samuel Danvers and Henry Finch (fn. 166) and with Henry, described at the turn of the century as of Little Horwood (Bucks.), (fn. 167) occupied a new manor house (Stone House) in Kempley. (fn. 168) Following Henry's death in 1631 and Anne's soon afterwards the manor passed to their son Francis. (fn. 169) Francis, who lived in Rushock (Worcs.), (fn. 170) incurred business debts (fn. 171) and in 1659 he broke up the estate. . . .

It may have been on the testator's recommendation that Francis Finch's father-in-law, John Thornborough (1551?–1641), Bishop of Worcester, sought medical treatment in 1633 from Dr John Hall, the son-in-law of William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon. Bishop Thornborough began his ecclesiastical career as chaplain to Henry Herbert, 2nd Earl of Pembroke, and 'was elected bishop of Worcester on 25 January 1617 at the suit of William, third earl of Pembroke'. After a scandalous divorce from his first wife, he married Elizabeth Bales or Baynes of Wilby, Suffolk, who, in 1616 'was obscurely implicated in the *cause célèbre* of James's reign, the poisoning of Sir Thomas Overbury.' See the *ODNB* entry; Lane, Joan, *John Hall and His Patients*, (Stratford upon Avon: Alan Sutton Publishing Limited, 1996), pp. 315-19; and *CSPD*, 1611-18, pp. 336, 338, 345 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=E1c4QAAMAAJ&pg=PA345>

See also *CSPD*, 1640-1, p. 337 at:

<https://archive.org/details/cu31924091770275/page/n379>

For William Warmestry (d.1640), Registrar of the Diocese of Worcester, and his wife, Cicill (d.1650), see Sherlock, Peter, *Monuments and Memory in Early Modern England*, (Aldershot, Hampshire: Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2008), p. 50 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=nCyoDQAAQBAJ&pg=PT63>

For John Stepkyn and his wife, Judith Atwood of Wolverley, Worcestershire, see Hotson, *supra*, p. 135.

TESTATOR'S LEASES

Testator's lease of Alderminster

On 3 December 1538 the abbot of Pershore leased the manor and parsonage of Alderminster to the testator's grandfather, Sir John Russell (1493/4 – 15 August 1556), who continued to hold the lease from the Crown after the dissolution of the Abbey. For the will of Sir John Russell, see TNA PROB 11/38/167.

The testator inherited the lease of Alderminster from his father after the expiration of a 21-year estate granted to the testator's mother. See the will of the testator's father, TNA PROB 11/57/83.

In 1560 Queen Elizabeth granted the manor to Sir Nicholas Throckmorton, who at his death in 1571 left it to his second son, Arthur Throckmorton (c.1557 – 21 July 1626), a friend of Oxford's. Thomas Russell thus became Arthur Throckmorton's tenant. See Rowse, A.E., *Raleigh and the Throckmortons*, (London: Mamillan & Co. Ltd., 1962), pp. 77, 99, 276-7, and the History of Parliament entry for Arthur Throckmorton at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1558-1603/member/throckmorton-arthur-1557-1626>

For the Russell lease of Alderminster and the grant of the manor to Sir Nicholas Throckmorton, see also:

'Parishes: Alderminster', in *A History of the County of Worcester: Volume 4*, ed. William Page and J W Willis-Bund (London, 1924), pp. 7-12. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/worcs/vol4/pp7-12> [accessed 2 December 2019].

According to a Chancery suit, TNA C 22/419/32, m. 3, when the testator married Anne Digges in 1603, the lease of Alderminster had eight or nine years left to run, i.e. until 1611 or 1612. About 1603 the testator sold the remainder of his term in the copyholds to Sir Arthur Throckmorton for £1400. He met with his stepson, Sir Dudley Digges, at Alderminster on 22 November 1610, at which time articles of agreement between them were drawn up in the presence of John Handford (d.1616). An account of this meeting appears to be found in a Chancery suit, TNA C 2/ChasI/R45/54, brought by the testator against Digges. According to Hotson, the testator was still living at Alderminster on 10 January 1611, but probably moved to Rushock not long after that date. See Hotson, *supra*, pp. 225, 284.

Testator's lease of Rushock

For the testator's lease of Rushock, see above.

LM: T{estamentum} Thoma [sic?] Russell Ar{migeri}

[f. 335v] In the name of God, Amen. I, Thomas Russell of Rushock in the county of Worcester, esquire, being weak in body but of perfect mind and memory, praise be God, do ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I give and bequeath my soul to Almighty God, and my assured hope and trust is that by the merits of his dear Son, my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, my sins shall be forgiven and I shall rest with him in bliss;

And for my body, I commend it to the next parish church where it shall please God to take from me my breath, and my corps to be interred to the liking of my executor;

And as for all my temporal estate which God in his mercy hath bestowed upon me, I dispose and give the same in manner and form following:

First I give and bequeath to the poor of the parish of Rushock and Chaddesley twenty pound which I desire and appoint my executor herein to be named to distribute according as it shall seem good to him in his discretion, the tenor and purpose of this my will herein being duly observed;

Item, I give and bequeath unto my beloved cousin, John Whittington of Notgrove, ten pound;

Item, I give and bequeath to my well-beloved cousin, Thomas Copley the elder of Norton, ten pound, both which ten pounds I desire should be put into several rings which I shall desire them to wear in my remembrance;

Item, I give to Cicill Warmestry, the wife of William Warmestry, esquire, my pointed diamond ring;

Item, I give and bequeath to my well-beloved friends, my cousin, John Stepkin, and Judith, his wife, ten pound to be bestowed upon two several rings which I shall entreat them to wear in remembrance of me;

Item, I give and bequeath to my servant, John Phipps, five hundred pounds;

Item, I give to my servant, Mary Palmer, one hundred pounds;

Item, I give and bequeath to Margaret Strapy one hundred pounds;

[f. 336r] Item, I give to Margaret Baker twenty shillings;

Item, I give to Mary Tolly twenty shillings;

All and every which said legacies so given and bequeathed in manner and form as aforesaid I do order and appoint my executor to pay within the space of twelve months next after my decease;

And whereas I have entered into bond to pay unto my wife, Anne Russell, one hundred pounds a year after my decease during the term of her natural life, now if my said wife will not by my letters be entreated to remit the foresaid hundred pounds a year towards

the payment of my debts and legacies, then my will [+is?] that the said hundred pound a year should be paid her according to the condition of the bond before named;

And as for the residue of my estate, as namely my land and the lease of my manor and farm of Rushock in the county of Worcester and all other leases to me belonging, and all my plate, jewels, linen, household stuff, corn, stock of cattle and all other my moveable goods whatsoever (my funeral expenses and all the said former legacies above-named and given and all my debts being discharged and satisfied), I give and bequeath unto my trusty and well-beloved friend, Francis Finch of Kempsey in the county of Gloucester, esquire, whom I do ordain, make and constitute my sole and only executor of this my last will and testament, desiring him to accept of the said residue as a token of my love and recompense for the care, pains and travail which he is to undertake in performance of this my last will and testament;

And I do hereby revoke and disannul all former deeds of gift and all former wills and legacies whatsoever made or given by me;

And my further desire is that my goods may be praised by my cousin, Thomas Copley the elder, and Ambrose Cooke;

In witness of all which premises I have hereunto put my hand and seal this third day of October 1633. Thomas Russell.

Sealed, delivered and published in the presence of Francis Baber, Edward Trotman, Richard Whittington, Arnold Hall, notary public, John Duing.

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum apud London Coram venerabili viro magistro Will{el}imo Mericke Legum doctore Surrogato venerabilis viri Domini Henrici Marten militis Legum etiam doctoris Curie Prerogatiue Cantuariensis magistri Custodis sive Commissarij legitime constituti Quinto die mensis Maij Anno Domini Millesimo Sexcentesimo Tricesimo Quarto Iuramento ffrancisci ffinch ar{migeri} executoris in huiusmodi testamento nominati Cui Com{m}issa fuit administratio omnium et singulorum bonorum Iurium et Creditorum dict{i} defuncti De bene et fideliter administrando eadem Ad sancta Dei Evangelia Iurat{i}

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Master William Merrick, Doctor of the Laws, Surrogate of the worshipful Sir Henry Marten, knight, also Doctor of the Laws, lawfully constituted Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the fifth day of May in the year of the Lord the thousand six hundred thirty-fourth by the oath of Francis Finch, esquire, executor named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same.]