

SUMMARY: The document below is a notice dated 28 January 1573 from Sir Lionel Duckett (d.1587), then Lord Mayor of London, containing the interrogatories and depositions of witnesses on behalf of Sir William More (1520-1600) of Loseley in his controversy with Henry Poole (d.1580) over property in the Blackfriars which had been granted to Margaret Neville Cheyney Poole as her jointure by her first father-in-law, Sir Thomas Cheyney, in his will (see TNA PROB 11/42B/105). The premises which comprised Margaret Poole's jointure are identified in the interrogatories and depositions as the dining parlour of the friars/Joyner fence school and the butler's lodging/Bywater house. Oxford, John Lyly and the Italian master of fence, Rocco Bonetti (d.1587) later had leases of the dining parlour of the friars/Joyner fence school (see Folger MS L.b.352). In 1601 the butler's lodging/Bywater house was included in premises sold to Richard Burbage and Cuthbert Burbage (see Folger MS L.b.357).

For the arbitration award dated 4 February 1573 by which Anthony Browne (1528-1592), 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Montagu, and John Apsley decided the controversy between Sir William More and Henry Poole, see Loseley MS No 1396, Award.

For further details of the controversy between More and Poole, see also the will of Henry Poole, TNA PROB 11/62/182.

According to the depositions below, a cluster of facilities which included the kitchen, brewhouse, buttery, butler's lodging and a dining parlour for the friars was situated in the west block of the Blackfriars prior to the dissolution. Exact locations are not supplied in the depositions, but the witnesses attest that these facilities were all 'hard by' or 'handsome to' each other, and Edward Muschamp deposes that the butler had to pass through his lodging (the Bywater house) to reach the brewhouse.

After the dissolution, according to Thomas Hale, the butler's lodging/Bywater house was occupied consecutively by Thomas Phillips (for two years), Thomas Blagrove and Lawrence Bywater, with Phillips also having the use of the friars' dining parlour/Joyner fence-school to store wood in. For Thomas Blagrove (1522 – 18 June 1590), acting Master of the Revels from 1573 to 1577, see:

[http://www.berkshirehistory.com/bios/tblagrove\\_revels.html](http://www.berkshirehistory.com/bios/tblagrove_revels.html).

For Sir Thomas Cawarden (c.1514–1559), see the *ODNB* entry:

*In 1550 he became steward of Hampton Court and was granted the site of the London Blackfriars, to which he removed the revels office from Warwick Inn. He turned the parish church of St Anne's (part of the Blackfriars complex) into a store for tents, having ordered the parishioners to remove the sacrament over the altar before he did so himself.*

The modern-spelling transcript below was prepared from the original-spelling transcript in Feuillerat, Albert, *Blackfriars Records*, (Oxford University Press: Malone Society, 1913), 41-5 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/collectionspt102malouoft#page/40/mode/2up>.

To all Christian people to whom this present writing shall come or that shall see, hear or read, Lionel Duckett, alderman, Lord Mayor of the city of London, send greeting in Our Lord God everlasting;

Forasmuch as amongst divers others the great and manifold deeds & works of pity & charity the witnessing & declaration of the truth in all matters of questions, ambiguities & doubts is not to be accounted the least, but rather as a chief virtue & mean whereby the truth adumbrate and many times suppressed for a season doth rather appear and is brought forth into the light & knowledge of men is with the chiefest to be embraced, exalted and commended:

I, therefore, the said Lord Mayor, signify & declare unto all your Honours and Worships to whom it shall appertain and to every of the same that the days of the date of these presents hereunder written then did appear and come personally into the Queen's Majesty's court holden before me, the said Lord Mayor, and my brethren, the aldermen, in the utter chamber of the Guildhall of the said city these deponents hereunder named, which upon their own free will without any manner of coaction or constraint upon their corporal oaths upon the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God then and there taken exactly and severally examined by our common clerk of the said city by our commandment and appointment upon certain interrogatories to them ministered, senden [sic for 'sayen?'] and deposen as followeth, the which interrogatories and depositions hereafter word for word do ensue:

Interrogatories to be ministered to witnesses to be examined on the part and behalf of William More, esquire:

1 Inprimis, whether do you know the house or place wherein William Joyner or his assigns keepeth now a school of fence within the precinct of the late Blackfriars alias the Friars Preachers within the city of London, and how long you have known the same;

2 Item, whether do you know a little house or tenement within the said precinct now in the tenure of Lawrence Bywater having chalices & singing cakes [=the wafer used in the celebration of the Mass] painted in the window of the same house, and ceiled above with wainscot, and how long you have known the same;

3 Item, whether the said house or place wherein the said William Joyner or his assign doth now keep the same school of fence was always used since this examinant's remembrance by the friars themselves to their own proper use for a parlour, and never let out or inhabited by any other person or persons until the said house of friars was dissolved or surrendered;

4 Item, whether the said little house or tenement wherein the said Lawrence Bywater doth now dwell was not always a lodging for a friar that was a butler of the said friar or friars preachers during this examinant's remembrance until the said house of friars was dissolved or surrendered as aforesaid, and not let out to any person or inhabited by any person so long as the said friars stood.

Edward Muschamp of Newington in the county of Surrey, gentleman, aged 59 years or thereabouts, sworn and examined the day and year abovesaid on certain interrogatories to him ministered on his said oath deposeseth and saith as followeth:

1 To the first interrogatory he saith he doth very well know the house or place wherein William Joyner or his assign keepeth now a school of fence within the precinct of the late Blackfriars alias the Friars Preachers within the city of London, and hath known the same by the space of forty years, for he saith he was brought up of a child with one John Clerk, a proctor of the Arches dwelling in St Gregory's parish at the south door of Paul's.

To the second interrogatory he saith he knoweth well a little house or tenement within the said precinct now in the tenure of Lawrence Bywater having chalices & singing cakes painted in the window of the same house and ceiled about with wainscot, and hath known the same about forty years past.

To the third interrogatory he saith the said house wherein the said William Joyner or his assign doth now keep the said school of fence was always used since this examinant's remembrance by the friars themselves to their own proper use for a parlour where commonly the friars did use to break their fast, for that it stood near the buttery of the said house, and never let out or inhabited by any other person or persons until the said house of friars was dissolved or surrendered that ever this examinant could perceive.

To the fourth interrogatory this examinant saith that the said little house or tenement wherein the said Lawrence Bywater doth now dwell was always a lodging for a friar that was a butler of the said friars or friars preachers during this examinant's remembrance, and saith that the said butler did commonly go through the said little house to the brewhouse which stood hard by that, and this he remembereth to be so used until the said house of friars was dissolved and surrendered, and not let out to any person or persons or inhabited by any other person than for the butler's lodging whilst the said friars stood that ever this examinant could perceive, for he saith the same two rooms were so necessary for the daily use of the friars that they could not conveniently be spared.

xxijo Die Novembris 1572 [=22<sup>nd</sup> November 1572] Annoq{ue} xvto Elizabeth Regine Richard Lichfield, Sergeant at Mace [=an inferior executive officer carrying a mace as a badge of office] attending on the Lord Mayor of the city of London, aged threescore and four years or thereabouts, sworn and examined the day & year abovesaid on certain interrogatories to him ministered, on his said oath deposeseth & saith as followeth:

1 To the first interrogatory he saith he doth very well know the house and place wherein William Joyner now or lately kept a school of fence within the precinct of the late Blackfriars of London, and hath known the same above 40 years past, which room he saith is ceiled above with wainscot.

2 To the second interrogatory he saith he well knoweth a little house within the precinct of the said late friars now in the tenure of Lawrence Bywater having chalices [+and?] singing cakes painted in the window of the said [+house?], and ceiled above with wainscot, and hath also known the same above 40 years past.

3 To the third interrogatory he saith that the said house and place wherein the said William Joyner now or lately kept the said school of fence was always since this examinant's remembrance used and occupied by the friars themselves to their own proper use as a parlour to dine and sup in, and never let out or inhabited by any other person until the said house of friars was dissolved and surrendered, & saith that the buttery which they commonly used stood fast by the said room, and the said parlour stood so handsome to the buttery and the kitchen and brewhouse that it could not without great inconvenience be spared from the use of the said friars.

4 To the fourth interrogatory he saith the said little house wherein the said Lawrence Bywater doth now dwell was always during his remembrance a lodging for a friar that was a butler of the said friars until the said house of friars was dissolved as aforesaid, and not let out to any person or inhabited by any other person so long as the friars stood, which little room this examinant saith stood so handsome to the buttery, parlour & brewhouse that of all other rooms it was meetest for that purpose, and could not be spared from that use.

xxiijo Die Ianuarij 1572 [=23<sup>rd</sup> January 1573] Annoq{ue} xvto Elizabeth Regine Thomas Hale, Sergeant at Arms to the Queen's Majesty, and Groom of her Highness' Tents, Hales [sic for 'toils'?] and Pavilions, aged 66 years or thereabouts, sworn and examined the day and year abovesaid on the behalf of William More, esquire, on his said oath deposeth and saith as followeth:

That in the beginning of King Edward the 6<sup>th</sup> time the King gave to Sir Thomas Cawarden, knight, so much of the dissolved house of the Blackfriars in London as was then in the King's hand to give, and saith that the said Sir Thomas Cawarden had the use of the same in the time of King Henry the 8<sup>th</sup> by reason of his office, being Master of the Tents, at which time one Thomas Phillips, being then Clerk of the Tents and sometime his servant, dwelt in a little house in the precinct of the said [Black]friars by the appointment of the said Sir Thomas Cawarden, in which house at this present one Bywater dwelleth, which little house hath in the glass window chalices and singing cakes painted;

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And the said Phillips by the said Sir Thomas Cawarden's appointment had th' use of one other house in the said [Black]friars wherein lately one Joyner kept a school of fence, and then used to lay wood in the same, as a waste room, for to spend in his house;

Moreover he saith that about the beginning of King Edward's time, and when the same was given unto the said Sir Thomas Cawarden, the said Phillips continued the possession of the said two houses under the said Sir Thomas Cawarden, as he remembereth, about two years after Mr Cawarden's grant, and then the said Sir Thomas Cawarden removed the said Phillips from the said little house into another house in the said [Black]friars called the Ankers [=Anchor's], and after removing of the said Phillips, as this examinant remembereth, the said Mr Cawarden placed in the said little house where Bywater dwelleth one Mr Blagrove, Clerk of the Tents, & saith he did never hear or perceive but the said 2 houses were to the said Sir Thomas Cawarden to dispose at his pleasure at all times after the King's grant to him, and saith that during all his time Sir Thomas Cheyney nor any for him had nothing to do in the said two houses that ever he did perceive, and yet he saith he knew the same 2 houses above 30 years past.

In faith and testimony whereof I, the said Lord Mayor, the common seal of mine office of mayoralty of the said [+city?] at the desire of the said William More, esquire, to these presents have caused to be put. Written at the city of London the 28<sup>th</sup> day of January in the 15<sup>th</sup> year [=28 January 1573] of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc.

Stapleton