

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 26 January 1625 and proved 12 April 1625, of John Jackson, gentleman, of Wing, Buckinghamshire.

TESTATOR'S CONNECTION TO SHAKESPEARE

The testator acted as one of three trustees in the indenture by which William Shakespeare (1564-1616) of Stratford upon Avon purchased a dwelling-house or tenement and plot of ground in the precinct of the Blackfriars on 10 March 1613. For information concerning the testator and other trustees, the vendor, Henry Walker (d.1616), and the witnesses to the indenture, see Hotson, Leslie, *Shakespeare's Sonnets Dated*, (London: Rupert Hart-Davis, 1949), pp. 111-40, 207-17. For the will of Henry Walker, see TNA PROB 11/128/230.

For a facsimile of the purchasers' copy of the indenture, 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 indenture by which William Shakespeare purchased the Blackfriars gatehouse mentions Mathy Bacon (d.1639) of Gray's Inn, his mother, Anne (nee Blackwell) Bacon, and his maternal grandfather, William Blackwell (d.1570?). Mathy Bacon was the son of Thomas Bacon of Lavenham (d.1577), Sergeant of the Acatry to Queen Mary, and bailiff of the 16th Earl of Oxford's manor of Lavenham, by his wife Anne (nee Blackwell) Bacon. For the will of William Blackwell, see TNA PROB 11/52/400. For the will of Thomas Bacon, which mentions leases held by him from both Oxford and from his father, the 16th Earl, see TNA PROB 11/59/473. For the will of Mathy Bacon, see TNA PROB 11/180/622.

From London Metropolitan Archives CLC/522/MS03738, *supra*:

. . . part of which said tenement is erected over a great gate leading to a capital messuage which sometime was in the tenure of William Blackwell, esquire, deceased, and since that in the tenure or occupation of the right honourable Henry, now Earl of Northumberland;

And also all that plot of ground on the west side of the same tenement which was lately enclosed with boards on two sides thereof by Anne Bacon, widow, so far and in such sort as the same was enclosed by the said Anne Bacon

Which said dwelling-house or tenement and other the premises above by these presents mentioned to be bargained and sold the said Henry Walker late purchased and had to him, his heirs and assigns forever of Mathie Bacon of Gray's Inn in the county of Middlesex, gentleman, bearing date the fifteenth day of October in the year of Our Lord God one thousand six hundred and four.

The testator was appointed overseer of the will of Thomas Savage (d.1611), 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, and Hotson, *supra*, p. 134). For the will of Thomas Savage, proved 26 October 1611, see TNA PROB 11/118/302.

MARRIAGE

The testator's wife, Jane, was the widow of Jacob James, who 'was said to have brought him the best part of an estate of £8000' (see Hotson, *supra*, p. 209). For the will of Jacob James, dated 30 January 1613 and proved 25 August 1613, in which the testator is left a bequest of £5, see TNA PROB 11/122/166. After the testator's death, his widow married Richard Crane of Leckhamstead, Buckinghamshire (see Hotson, *supra*, p. 211).

According to Hotson, Thomas Jackman, gentleman, of Wing Buckinghamshire, a witness to the will below, married Marie James, the testator's eldest stepdaughter. See Hotson, *supra*, p. 211, and the will of Thomas Jackman (d.1630), TNA PROB 11/158/492.

John White, mentioned in the will below, was an Eastland merchant trading to Prussia, and chamberlain of Hull in 1598 (see Hotson, *supra*, p. 233).

LM: T{estamentum} Iohannis Jackson

In the name of God, Amen. I, John Jackson of the city of London in the parish of St Thomas the Apostle in the ward of the Three Cranes Vintry, gentleman, being in perfect health both in body and mind and in good and sound remembrance (thanks be given therefore to Almighty God), do make & ordain this my last will and testament the six and twentieth day of January in the year of Our Lord God one thousand six hundred twenty and four in manner and form following:

Inprimis, I bequeath my soul into the hands of God Almighty, my Creator, assuredly trusting and confidently hoping and believing to be saved by the merits and precious

blood of Jesus Christ, my Redeemer, not doubting thereby to have full forgiveness of my sins and in the heavenly kingdom life everlasting, and as for my body, to be buried within St. Andrew's Church in the Wardrobe as my executrix shall dispose of;

Item, I give to Easter [=Esther?] White, the daughter of John White, one hundred pounds to be paid on the day of her marriage or within one half year then next after;

Item, I give to every one of my household servants at the time of my death forty shillings apiece;

Item, I give to my most loving wife all my houses, tenements and lands in the town of Kingston upon Hull viz., one tenement in the high street now in the occupation of Bartholomew Richardson, tailor, and other three tenements situate in Whitefriar Gate with closes thereunto adjoining during her natural life, and after her decease to John Lockwood and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten and to be begotten, and for default of such issue to Peter Lockwood and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten and to be begotten, and for default of such issue I give the same houses, lands and tenements to Easter White and to her heirs and assigns forever;

All the rest of my goods and chattels moveable and unmovable, leases, debts, rents to me in any wise now due or hereafter to be due, my debts, legacies and funerals discharged, I do give and bequeath unto my most dear and kind wife, Jane Jackson, whom I do by these presents make my executrix of this my last will and testament;

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year above-written. John Jackson. Sealed, subscribed and published to be the last will and testament of the with[in]-named John Jackson in the presence of us, Thomas Jackman, Gilbert Daues(?), Richard Jones.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum apud London coram venerabili viro d{omi}no Henrico Marten milite legum d{o}c{t}ore Curie Prerogative Cantuariensis mag{ist}ro Custode sive Comissario l{egi}time Constituto duodecimo die mensis Aprilis Anno d{omi}ni millesimo sexcentesimo vicesimo quinto Iuramento Jane Jackson relicte dicti defunct{i} et executricis in huiusmodi testamento nominat{e} Cui Comissa fuit administratio omniu{m} et singulorum bonorum iurium et Creditorum dicti defuncti de bene et fidel{ite}r administrando eadem ad sancta dei Evangelia coram Barnardo Jones et Guliellmo Prickett Cl{er}icis vigore Comissionis &c Iurat{e}

[=The above-written testament was proved at London before the worshipful Sir Henry Marten, knight, Doctor of the Laws, lawfully constituted Master, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the twelfth day of the month of April in the year of the Lord the thousand six hundred twenty-fifth by the oath of Jane Jackson, relict of the said deceased and executrix 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 before Barnard Jones and William Prickett, clerks, by force of a grant etc.]