

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, who 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. See Folger MS Z.c.22(45) (purchaser's copy) and London Metropolitan Archives CLC/522/MS03738 (vendor's copy). 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, ff. 221-3.

Mathy or Matthew Bacon of Gray's Inn and his mother, Anne Bacon, are both mentioned in the indenture by which William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon purchased the Blackfriars property and in which the testator acted as trustee. Mathy Bacon was the son of Thomas Bacon of Lavenham (d.1577), bailiff of the 16th Earl of Oxford's manor of Lavenham, and his wife Anne (nee Blackwell) Bacon. 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, ff. 271-2. For the will of Mathy or Matthew Bacon, see TNA PROB 11/80, ff. 413-14.

Jackson 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, p. 209). For the will of Jacob James, in which the testator is left a bequest of £5, see TNA PROB 11/122, ff. 83-4. After the testator's death, his widow married Richard Crane of Leckhamstead, Buckinghamshire (see Hotson, p. 211).

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

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, p. 134). For the will of Thomas Savage, see TNA PROB 11/118, ff. 155-7.

For the will of Thomas Jackman (d.1630), one of the witnesses to the testator's will, who married Mary James, the daughter of the testator's wife, Jane (James) Jackman, see TNA PROB 11/158, f. 286.

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}

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[=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.]