

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 29 May 1514 and proved 1 July 1514, of Sir William Browne (d. 3 June 1514), Lord Mayor of London.

The testator was the son and heir of Sir John Browne, Lord Mayor of London in 1480, and the nephew of Sir William Browne, Lord Mayor of London in 1507. See Brown, James Roberts, 'Jno. and Wm. Browne, Sheriffs and Lord Mayors of London', *Notes and Queries*, Vol. V, 7th Series, (London: John C. Francis, 1888), pp. 151-3 at <http://books.google.ca/books?id=wWkEAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA151>.

The testator's mother was Anne Belwode, the sister of Thomas Belwode *alias* Belknap. See:

<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/GEN-MEDIEVAL/1998-07/0900964092>

The testator married firstly Katherine Shaa, daughter of Sir Edmund Shaa (d. 20 April 1488), Lord Mayor of London, and his wife, Julyan, by whom he had a son, William Browne, and a daughter, Julian Browne, who married Sir John Munday, Lord Mayor of London. For the will of Sir Edmund Shaa, see TNA PROB 11/8, ff. 95-9. For the will of Dame Julyan Shaa, see TNA PROB 11/10, ff. 170-1. For the will of the testator's daughter, Julian (nee Browne) Munday, see TNA PROB 11/27, f. 72.

The testator requests that a trental of Masses be said at the two Charterhouses in London and Sheen for the souls of his wife, Katherine, and the souls of her father and mother, Sir Edmund and Dame Julian Shaa, and bequeaths a gold ring to his wife Katherine's sister, 'Margaret Riche, widow', as well as 20 marks apiece to her children, Thomas Rich and Katherine Rich.

The testator married secondly, Alice Keble (d. 8 June 1521), the daughter of Henry Keble (1452-April 1517), Lord Mayor of London, and Joan Bryce, by whom he had, according to his will below, two sons, John (d.1570) and Matthew, and two daughters, Anne (d. 10 March 1582) and Elizabeth.

For the testator's second wife, Alice Keble (d. 8 June 1521), see:

<http://www.kateemersonhistoricals.com/TudorWomenK.htm>

For the testator's son, John Browne (d.1570), see:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/browne-john-ii-1513-70>.

For the testator's daughter, Anne Browne (d. 10 March 1582), see:

<http://www.kateemersonhistoricals.com/TudorWomenBrooke-Bu.htm>.

After the testator's death Alice (nee Keble) married, by February 1515, as his third wife, William Blount, 4th Baron Mountjoy, by whom she had a son, Charles Blount, 5th Baron Mountjoy, and a daughter, Catherine Blount (c.1518 - 25 February 1559), who married firstly Sir John Champenowne of Modbury, Devon, and secondly Sir Maurice Berkeley (1508 - 11 August 1581) of Bruton, Somerset. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., Vol. I, (Salt Lake City, 2011), pp. 336-7; and the entry for Catherine Blount at:

<http://www.kateemersonhistoricals.com/TudorWomenB-BI.htm>.

Alice (nee Keble) was buried at the Greyfriars, London.

'Master Doctor Shorton' mentioned in the will below would appear to have been Robert Shorton (d. 17 October 1535), for whom see the *ODNB* entry.

RM: Test{amentu}m Will{el}mi Browne Ald{e}r{man}i

In the name of God, Amen. The 29th day of the month of May the year of Our Lord 1500 and 14 and the 6th year of the reign of King Henry the 8th, I, William Browne, citizen & Alderman of the City of London, and now Mayor of the same City, being whole of mind and in good memory, laud and praising be unto Almighty God, make and ordain this my present testament in manner and form following, that is to wit:

First, I bequeath and recommend my soul unto Almighty God, to his Mother Our Lady Saint Mary, and to all the holy company of saints in heaven, and my body to be buried within the body of the church of Saint Thomas the Martyr called Acon of London at the pillar there where low evensongs be customably said;

And after my body so buried, then I will that all such debts as I owe unto any person or persons of right or of conscience be well and truly contented and paid;

And where I have remaining in my hands of the residue of the goods of Sir John Browne, knight, and of Dame Anne, late his wife, my father and mother, the sum of £526 13s 4d sterlings yet unbestowed, I will and charge mine executors hereunder named that the same sum of £526 13s 4d be disposed and distributed by my same executors in manner and form following, that is to wit, £40 thereof to the parish church of Saint Mary Magdalen in Milk Street of London towards the reparations of the same church according to the testament and last will of my said father;

Item, £100 thereof to the Chamberlain of the said City of London for the time being, to be delivered and paid unto him by my said executors within three years next after my decease, that is to say, £333 6s 8d, or in shorter time if conveniently it may be brought to

pass, to be applied and disposed by the said Chamberlain for and towards the common weal of the same City;

Item, £20 to be delivered and paid by my said executors to the same Chamberlain within a year next after my decease to be applied for th' avoiding of corrupt and noyous airs within the prison of Newgate of London as shall be thought most convenient by the Mayor and Alderman of the same City for the time being;

Item, £24 thereof to be delivered by mine executors, that is to wit, to every Alderman of the City of London 20s, to be bestowed by every such Alderman amongst the poor householders inhabiting within his ward to pray for my soul and the souls of my said father and mother, their children, benefactors' and good friends' souls;

Item, £50 to be applied by mine executors by th' advice of Master Doctor Shorton and of Master Doctor Belland, Prior of the Friars Augustines in London, or in default of them by th' advice of two such other Doctors and famous men such as mine executors shall think convenient, in giving exhibition unto well-disposed scholars being priests and students in Art or in Divinity at [+the?] Universities of Oxenford and Cambridge;

And I will that the same scholars be in number 5 persons unpromoted unto any benefice, and every of them have yearly during the space of 5 years, so always that if any of them within the same term of 5 years happen to decease or to be promoted unto any benefice, then I will that such another be elected and named in the room and stead of him or them so deceasing or promoted, and have the same exhibition in form abovesaid;

Item, I will that £20 of the said sum of £526 13s 4d be disposed by mine executors within three years next after my decease in shirts, smocks and sheets to be made of Normandy canvas, and to be distributed amongst the poor prisoners, poor householders and other poor and needy people within the City of London;

Item, other £20 thereof to be bestowed in garments to be made of frieze and cotton woollen cloth, to be given and distributed by my said executors in form abovesaid amongst the poor and needy people;

Item, other £20 thereof to be disposed and distributed by my said executors within three years next after my decease in redeeming of poor prisoners out of prison;

And I will that 20 mark of the foresaid sum be bestowed by my said executors in altar cloths, vestments and albs to serve in the said parish church of Saint Mary Magdalen for the altar there where my said father's priest doth sing and hereafter shall sing;

And the residue of the said sum of £526 13s 4d I will it be applied and disposed in purchasing of lands and tenements and rents within the City of London to be amortized unto the Warden and Commonalty of the craft or mystery of Mercers in London for the finding of a priest and keeping of an obit for my soul, the soul of Katherine, late my wife, my father, mother and benefactors' souls, and all Christian souls in the said church of

Saint Thomas the Martyr called Acon of London in manner and form as I have appointed or shall appoint by my testament and last will made or hereafter to be made of my lands and tenements;

And after the said sum of £526 13s 4d be fully disposed, deducted(?) and distributed in form above rehearsed, my debts which I owe paid, and my funeral expenses fully performed and done, I will that all my moveable goods, chattels, debts, wares, merchandizes and stuff whatsoever they be and wheresoever they may be found be truly and egally divided into three egall parts or portions by mine executors and overseer hereunder named;

Of the which 2 egall parts I bequeath one egall part to my most faithful and well-beloved wife, Dame Alice Browne, to and for her own [-own] proper use and behoof;

Another part thereof I bequeath unto my children, William, John, Matthew, Anne and Elizabeth, and if it happen my said wife to have any other child or children by me in time to come, then I will that the same child or children between her and me of our two bodies hereafter to be gotten be partner or partners in the same portion as well and as effectually as they were here rehearsed by name;

And if it happen any of my said children to decease before he cometh to the age of 20 years, not married nor professed, then I will that his part or their parts so deceasing be disposed and egally divided amongst the other of them [f. 104v] surviving;

And the 3rd egall part or portion of my said movable goods, chattels, debts, wares, merchandizes and stuff I reserve towards myself, therewith to perform and fulfil my legacies and bequests and other charges hereafter specified, that is to wit:

I bequeath thereof to the high altar of the parish church of Saint Dionis in London where now I am a parishes for my tithes and oblations forgotten or withholden, if any such be, in discharging of my soul and conscience 10s;

Item, I bequeath to the parish church of Saint Peter in Cornhill of London for like cause 10s;

Item, I bequeath to the works of the body of the same parish church of Saint Dionis 100 mark, and to the works of the body of the said parish church of Saint Peter's £10;

Item, I bequeath to the sustentation of the brotherhood of Saint Peter founded in the same parish church of Saint Peter 20s;

Item, I bequeath to the church of Saint Thomas aforesaid for my burying there to be had and to th' intent that the same Master and Brethren there pray specially for my soul and the souls above rehearsed £10;

Item, I bequeath to every of the Four Orders of Friars in London 26s 8d to th' intent that they bring my body to my burial if I happen to decease within the City of London, and over that I will that every of the said 4 Orders of Friars shall for the same keep a solemn dirge and Mass of Requiem for my soul in every of their convent churches as soon as it may conveniently be done after my decease, praying specially for my soul, the soul of the said Katherine, late my wife, my father and mother['s] souls, and all Christian souls, and that every father or warden of the said 4 places assign one of their well-disposed brethren as soon as they may goodly after my decease, every of them to say in th' honour of the 5 Wounds of Our Lord Jesus a Mass according to the same as it is ordained by the church, praying devoutly for the souls above rehearsed;

Item, I bequeath to the 2 Charterhouses at London and at Sheen 40s, to either of them 20s, desiring to have a trental to be said and done in either of the same houses, and to pray specially for my soul, the soul of Katherine, late my wife, the souls of my father and mother and of Sir Edmund Shaa, Dame Julian, his wife, and for all other my benefactors' souls in every of the said Masses;

Item, I bequeath in every of the spitals called Elsing Spital, Saint Mary Spital and Saint Bartholomew Spital towards the refreshing and repairing of the bedding and lodging of the poor people there in such stuff as by mine executors shall be thought most necessary 20s;

Item, I bequeath to the 4 lazar-houses next adjoining to the City of London 26s 8d, that is to wit, to every of the same houses 6s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to the common use of the Fellowship of Mercers of London a great goblet garnished of silver gilt of the value of £28 sterlings;

Item, I bequeath to the marriage of 60 well-disposed maidens £20, that is to say, to every of them 6s 8d, and I will it be not given by favour to any maiden but only of charity whereas most need is;

Item, I bequeath to every of the prison-houses of Newgate, Ludgate, the Marshalsea and the King's Bench 20s to be bestowed for the poor prisoners therein detained in ob loaves of bread as far-forth as it will extend;

Item, I bequeath to my cousin, Katherine A' Lee, to pray for my soul 40s;

Item, I bequeath to my cousin, John West, mercer, a ring of gold of the value of 20s, and to my cousin, his wife, another gold ring of the value of 40s;

Item, to my godson, William West, their son, £3 6s 8d;

Item, to John West, brother of the same William West, 40s;

Item, I bequeath of [sic?] my cousins, Isabel Pyke, William Browne the younger, son of William Browne th' elder, late Alderman, and Richard Fermer, grocer, Margaret Riche, widow, and to Erasmus Forde, mercer, a ring of gold of the value of 20s;

Item, I bequeath to 40 poor householders dwelling in the parishes of Saint Mary Magdalen in Milk Street aforesaid, Saint Peter's in Cornhill, and Saint Dionis where I now dwell, after the discretion of mine executors, 40s, that is to wit, to every householder of them 12d;

Item, I bequeath to my cousin, Thomas Rich, 20 mark, and to his sister, Katherine, other 20 mark;

Also I will and charge my said executors that they give, pay and deliver of my goods weekly from the day of my decease during the term of 5 years then next ensuing unto two couples of poor householders, that is to say, 2 men and their 2 wives being of good conversation, the one couple of them to be inhabited in the parish of Saint Dionis and that [sic?] other in the parish of Saint Mary Magdalen, to either couple of them 7d weekly to pray for my soul and the souls above rehearsed;

Item, I will that mine executors, as soon as they may conveniently after my decease, do ordain 4 trentals of Masses for my soul, the souls of my father and mother, and of Katherine, late my wife, and all other my good friends' souls, this to be done at the Crouched [=Crutched] Friars within 3 months next after my decease;

Item, I bequeath to my cousin, Master Frysell, Prior of Rochester, five marks;

Item, I bequeath to Dan Thomas Lowrynge, monk of Saint Albans, to pray for my soul, 10s;

Item, I bequeath to the Father of Syon to dispose at his pleasure for my soul 20s;

Item, I bequeath to either of the two houses of Observants at Greenwich and at Canterbury 40s, to be disposed for them in bread, victual, fuel or in any other thing according to their desire, they to say and sing a solemn dirge and Mass of Requiem in either of their said houses, and also a trental of Masses in either of their same houses and pray specially for the [sic?] soul and for the souls of all my good friends above specified;

Item, to John Thomas and Alice, his wife, to either of them a black gown cloth such as by mine executors shall be thought convenient;

Item, I bequeath to John Tilford, sometime porter at the Leadenhall, to pray for my soul 13s 4d;

Item, I bequeath [f. 105r] to John Roberts, my servant, 10 marks, and to every other of my covenant servants, as well men as women, being in service with me the time of my decease, taking wages of me, before the time of mine office of Mayoralty of London, as

much money over and above his or her wages as the same wages amounteth unto in one whole year;

Item, I bequeath to Thomas Sutton, mine apprentice, £10, and to Henry Paret, mine apprentice, £4, and to every other of my servants which were in my service before my said office and yet continue in the same, taking no wages of me, to pray for my soul 20s;

Item, I bequeath to every of the children of mine uncle, Thomas Belwode, being on live the time of my decease 40s;

Also I will that mine executors see unto my servant John Sarawey, and give him such reward of my goods as he shall reasonably deserve in making of his account and ordering of my goods;

Item, I bequeath to be distributed amongst my poor kinsfolks on my father[‘s] side in Northumberland by th’ advice of Master Doctor Shorton 40 mark;

Item, I bequeath to th’ exhibition of poor scholars in the Universities of Oxenford and Cambridge and specially to th’ exhibition of my poor kinsmen, if there be any such, that will dispose themselves to be clerks and to study in holy Divinity or intend the same study whereby the faith of Christ may be increased, £40;

Item, I bequeath to Richard Baker, late my servant, 40s, and to Elizabeth Osborn 20s, and I forgive to Thomasine Parker all such money as she oweth me, and I bequeath unto her 20s;

Item, I will that mine executors bestow for me in the amending of noyous highways near the City of London or elsewhere there as it shall be thought most needful by the discretion of my same executors £40;

Item, I bequeath to the said Dame Alice, my wife, of my said portion £100, and I will that the [+said?] Alice, my wife, have the custody and keeping of my children procured and gotten between her and me, that is to wit, of John, Matthew, Anne and Elizabeth, as long as my same wife will give them meat, drink and their learning or finding [+at?] school, they being within age and unmarried, and as to other costs, as clothing and other things necessary and requisite, I will mine executors see them found with my goods and with the revenues of my lands and tenements in the county of Essex unto the time William Browne, my son, come to his lawful age of 21 years, and then and from thenceforth I will my said children begotten between the said Dame Alice, my wife, and me have their exhibition of my goods remaining in th’ hands of mine executors;

And I will that my said executors from the time of my decease forthward during the nonage of the said William Browne, my son, have and perceive all the rents, revenues and profits coming and growing of all my said lands and tenements in the county of Essex except wood sales, and the same rents, revenues and profits to bestow and apply in manner and form following, that is to wit:

First to see the maintaining of my same lands and tenements duly and sufficiently repaired in all things needful, and that my said children have their convenient exhibition and finding of the said rents and revenues, and in this behalf I require the said Dame Alice, my wife, and all mine executors that my said children be put forth to learn virtue and conning, which I account of all riches most sovereign;

Item, I will and bequeath to every of mine executors for their costs to oversee all my said lands and tenements in the county of Essex during the nonage of my said son, William, or of any other of my children which shall happen to inherit my lands in his stead, 40s yearly to be retained in their own hands of the said rents and revenues;

The residue of all the said rents and revenues of my said lands and tenements which shall grow during the nonage of the same William Browne, my son, I give and bequeath wholly to the same William to pray for my soul;

And it if happen the same William, my son, to decease before his lawful age of 21 years, then I will that the said residue of the rents and revenues of all my said lands and tenements in the said county of Essex be egally divided amongst all my children then overliving;

Item, I give and bequeath unto the said Dame Alice, my wife, all mine estate and term of years which I have for to come of and in all my messuage with th' appurtenances wherein I now dwell, provided alway that the same Dame Alice, my wife, suffer mine executors to have their free liberty within my said messuage with free entry and issue into and from the same for the praising, dividing and disposing of my goods and stuff there being according to the true meaning and tenor of this my testament during one whole year next ensuing after my decease;

Item, I bequeath to Sir Thomas Tyrrell, knight, £20, and to my Lady, his wife, 20 marks;

Item, I bequeath to my daughter, Julian, now wife of John Munday, citizen and Alderman of London, as much of my goods as the portion of any other of my children of my movable goods, chattels and debts shall amount unto after the custom of the City of London, deducting always thereof the sum of 400 marks for the 400 marks which I have given and delivered to the said John Munday in marriage with my same daughter, Julian;

Item, I bequeath to my father-in-law, Henry Keble, Alderman, a chain of gold of the value of £30 and a toothpick with a little chain of gold longing thereto to th' intent it may please him to be one of th' executors of this my present testament;

Item, I bequeath to the said John Munday and my daughter, Julian, his wife, to th' intent it may please the same John Munday to be another executor of this my present testament, 100 marks;

And to Robert Blagge, one of the Barons of the King's Exchequer, to th' intent it may please him to be another of th' executors of my same testament, 40 marks;

Item, I bequeath [f. 105v] to Sir Thomas Lovell, knight, to th' intent it may please him to be one of th' overseers of mine executors of this my testament £10;

And to Richard Broke, serjeant at law, for like intent, other £10;

Item, to the said John West, mercer, for the same intent, 5 mark;

And to John Hosyar, mercer, for like intent, £5;

Item, I bequeath to the said Master Doctor Shorton to be one of th' assistance of my said executors in the executing of this my present testament and in other business concerning the same, £10;

Item, to Nicholas Leveson, late my servant, for like intent, £10;

And to Morgan Williams, scrivener, for the same intent, other £10;

And the residue of all my part and portion of my movable goods, chattels and debts, whatsoever they be, after my debts which I owe paid, my funeral expenses fully done, and the legacies contained in this my present testament and all other things concerning the same fully performed and done, I will it be divided into two egall parts or portions, whereof I bequeath one egall part to the said William Browne, my son, and that other egall part thereof I will it be divided and egally departed between all mine other children of my body and of the body of the said Dame Alice, my wife, between us begotten, the which I freely give them with my blessing, beseeching Almighty God to give them grace to increase in virtue so that they may use my bequests to the honour of Almighty God and to the weal of my soul and increase of their merits;

And of this my present testament I make and ordain mine executors the said Henry Keble, John Munday, aldermen, and Robert Blagge, one of the Barons of the King's Exchequer, and my son, William Browne;

And their overseers of the same I make and ordain the said Sir Thomas Lovell, knight, Richard Brooke, sergeant at law, John West and John Hosyer, citizens and mercers of London;

In witness whereof to this my present testament I have set my seal, given the day and years above rehearsed.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascripti defuncti h{ab}entis dum vixit & mortis sue temp{or}e bona & debita in diuersis dioc{esibus} Cant{uariensis} prouinc{ie} Coram

d{omi}no apud Lamehith primo die mensis Iulij Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingentesimo xiii^o Iurament{o} Executorum in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento no{m}i{n}ator{um} Ac approbat{um} et insinuat{um} &c Et com{m}issa fuit admi{n}istracio o{mn}i{um} & singulorum bonorum & debitorum d{i}c{t}i defuncti prefatis Executorib{us} De bene & fidel{ite}r admi{n}strand{o} Ac de pleno & fideli In{uenta}rio citra festum s{an}c{t}i Petri Aduinc{u}la prox{imum} futur{um} exhibend{o} necnon de plano & vero compoto reddend{o} Ad s{an}c{t}a dei Eu{a}ngelia in debita iur{is} forma Iurat{is}

[=The testament of the above-written deceased, having while he lived & at the time of his death goods & debts in divers dioceses of the province of Canterbury, was proved before the Lord at Lambeth on the first day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 14th by the oath of the executors named in the same testament, and probated and entered etc., and administration was granted of all & singular the goods & debts of the said deceased to the forenamed executors, sworn on the Holy Gospels in due form of law to well & faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full & faithful inventory before the feast of Saint Peter ad Vincula next to come, and also to render a plain & true account.]