

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 4 September 1513 and proved 11 July 1518, of William Bedell, Treasurer to Henry VII's mother, Margaret Beaufort (1443-1509), Countess of Richmond. See the brief biography of the testator in Jones, Michael K. and Malcolm G. Underwood, *The King's Mother*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992), p. 269 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=dV4NDnis7yQC&pg=PA302&lpg=PA302&dq=%22Bedell%22+%22Cheshunt%22&source=bl&ots=_vkqDpDJbZ&sig=D1GdPLxuDIJ6eJTpJG9bseevdJk&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CC8Q6AEwBGoVChMIy7vcgNWlyAIV0KKICh14sQ5d#v=onepage&q=%22Bedell%22%20%22Cheshunt%22&f=false

Margaret, Countess of Richmond, married, as her third husband, Henry Stafford, second son of Humphrey Stafford (1402-1460), 1st Duke of Buckingham. Margaret, Countess of Richmond, was granted the wardship of Edward Stafford (1478-1521), 3rd Duke of Buckingham, and according to Harris, the testator was one of twelve retainers in the latter's household at Thornbury who wore the Duke's livery and received annuities during the years 1515-17. See Harris, Barbara J., *Edward Stafford, Third Duke of Buckingham, 1478-1521*, (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1986), pp. 93, 279.

Little is known of the testator's family. In the will below he mentions his brother, Richard, and his sisters living in Writtle, Essex. For the Bedell family of Writtle, see Clogy, Alexander, *Memoir of the Life and Episcopate of Dr. William Bedell*, (London: Wertheim, Macintosh & Hunt, 1862), p. 2 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=XuxeAAAACAAJ&pg=PA2&lpg=PA2&dq=%22Richard+Bedell%22+%22Essex%22&source=bl&ots=zxo6LZ7OFd&sig=zOLCYtU9AXo5EXBfZHPf_MQghV0&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CCUQ6AEwAmoVChMIicSr1PyIyAIViCqICh08QA-U#v=onepage&q=%22Richard%20Bedell%22%20%22Essex%22&f=false

About 1506 the testator married Cecily Greene (d. 11 May 1521), who became the daughter and heir of Sir Robert Greene after her brother, Edward Greene (b.1471), died without issue on 14 January 1493. Cecily was 26 years of age at the time of her brother's death, and was thus born about 1467. See the pedigree of Greene in Cass, *infra*, and the pedigree of Burbage of Hayes Park Hall in Armytage, George John, ed., *Middlesex Pedigrees as Collected by Richard Mundy*, (London: Harleian Society, 1914), Vol. LXV, p. 79 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/middlesexpedigre65mund#page/80/mode/2up>.

See also:

'Parishes: Cheshunt', in *A History of the County of Hertford: Volume 3*, ed. William Page (London, 1912), pp. 441-458 <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/herts/vol3/pp441-458>.

At the time she married the testator, Cecily Greene had been twice widowed. For the Latin will of her first husband, William Burbage, dated 27 August 1497 and proved 25 December 1497 by Cecily as executrix, see TNA PROB 11/11/300. By William Burbage, Cecily had a son and heir, Thomas Burbage (d.1560), and according to the Burbage pedigree, two other sons, Richard Burbage, who died without issue, and Anthony Burbage, who married a wife surnamed Machell, by whom he had a son, Robert Burbage, who married Margery Pakington, the daughter of the London merchant Humphrey Pakington (for his will, see TNA PROB 11/38/212), and Catherine Burbage, who married Robert Acton.

Shortly after William Burbage's death, Cecily married William Craythorne, to whom she was married by 3 February 1498. See TNA CP 25/1/294/80, No. 73 at:

http://www.medievalgenealogy.org.uk/fines/abstracts/CP_25_1_294_80.shtml.

On 28 July 1509, the testator was made bailiff of Cheshunt and keeper of the park there. See Hewerdine, Anita, *The Yeomen of the Guard and the Early Tudors*, (London: I.B. Tauris, 2012), p. 196 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=kSeEw68die8C&pg=PA196&lpg=PA196&dq=%22Bedell%22+%22Cheshunt%22&source=bl&ots=p9fcogCgxl&sig=O6aFgQuRBkGld8-fDq2huJuuBH0&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CCcQ6AEwAmoVChMIy7vcgNWlyAIV0KKICh14sQ5d#v=onepage&q=%22Bedell%22%20%22Cheshunt%22&f=false>.

It seems likely that these appointments were related to the fact that Cecily had inherited properties in Cheshunt, including the site of Lord Burghley's future manor of Theobalds. See TNA C 54/583, Nos. 18-19 and TNA C 54/662, No. 8 on this website.

Through her eldest son, Thomas, Cecily was the grandmother of Robert Burbage (d.1575), who sold his manor of Theobalds to Oxford's father-in-law, Lord Burghley, who built his mansion of Theobalds on the site, and of Eleanor Burbage (d.1574), who married the Italian master of fence, Rocco Bonetti (d.1587), alluded to in Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* ('the very butcher of a silk button'). For the will of Robert Burbage (d.1575), see TNA PROB 11/57/448. For Eleanor Burbage, see the will of her third husband, Oliver St John, TNA PROB 11/53/192.

See also the pedigree in Cass, Frederick Charles, *Monken Hadley*, (Westminster: J.B. Nichols and Sons, 1880), p. 128 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=OfTfAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA129&lpg=PA129&dq=%22Burbage%22+%22Hayes%22&source=bl&ots=tHF6tDp6Nb&sig=XC_Y6oRVJjRV3o_6oBE0B6R8ShE&hl=en&sa=X&ei=9XsAVdXhNM3ToATzy4LIDA&ved=0CCEQ6AEwATgK#v=onepage&q=%22Burbage%22%20%22Hayes%22&f=false.

For the date of death of the testator's wife Cecily Greene Burbage Craythorne Bedell, see her inquisition post mortem, TNA C 142/80/11.

For the burial of the testator and his wife in Westminster Abbey, see:

<http://www.westminster-abbey.org/our-history/people/william-bedell>.

Here lieth buried William Bedell Esquier late Treasurer to my Lorde Cardinall Archbishoppe of Yorke and Chancellor of England, and Cicely his wife, which William deceased the 3 of July 1518.

LM: Test{amentu}m Will{el}mi Bedell

[f. 61v] In the name of God, Amen. I, William Bedell{es}(?), whole of body and perfect of mind, thanked be Our Lord, make this my last will and testament in manner and form hereafter following:

First I bequeath my soul to God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, and to the most [-and] pure Virgin Mary, Mother unto our Saviour Christ Jesus, and to all the holy saints of heaven;

And my most sinful and wretched body to be buried at the lower end in my Lady's chapel at Westminster called Scala Celi if I die at London or Cheshunt, and if it be my fortune to die elsewhere, then to be buried as it shall please mine executors if it should be too chargeable the same to be brought to Westminster;

Also I will that immediately after my decease to have an honest priest to sing for my soul there that my said wretched body shall be buried by the space of a whole year, and the said priest to be bound to say every day during the said year placebo and dirge with *De profundis clamaui* for my soul and for all those souls that I am most bound to pray for;

Also I will that immediately after my decease to have an honest priest to sing in my Lady's chapel at Westminster called Scala Celi for my soul and for the souls of my Lady Margaret, Countess of Richmond, my father and mother, my wife's, and all those souls that I am most specially bound to pray for, and for all Christian souls by the space of 7 years, and the same priest to say 3 days in the week placebo and dirge for my soul and theirs, and to have for his stipend every year during the said term of 7 years £6 13s 4d;

Also I will that a cup of gold weighing 52 ounces and also my two great chains of gold weighing by estimation 37 ounces be sold immediately after my decease by mine executors, and the money of the same to be distribute[d] and given discretely unto poor people and in other charitable alms-deeds most requisite for the soul of my most singular good Lady, Margaret, Countess of Richmond, by whom I had all that I have;

Also I will that my land in Fobbing in the county of Essex remain unto my wife during her life, and afterward to be sold by mine executors, and the money thereof to be disposed for my soul and my friends' souls above specified;

Also I will that all such lands and tenements in Watlington that I recovered of John Roys(?) and his wife [f. 62r] by fine remain to my said wife, and she to dispose it at her pleasure;

Also I will that all such my feoffees as be enfeoffed in all such lands and tenements with th' appurtenances in Cheshunt, Waltham Cross and Wormley in the county of Hertford, which lands and tenements my wife did give unto me and to mine heirs, do make release again of all the same lands and every parcel thereof unto my said wife, and she to dispose the same as it shall please her in as large and ample wise as ever she did give it me without any let of mine heirs or of any other person or persons, the said gift to her before given to me notwithstanding;

Also I will that the Horne and all other lands and tenements that I have purchased in Cheshunt and Waltham Cross remain unto my wife for term of her life, and after her decease to be sold by mine executors and the money to be disposed as aforesaid;

Also I give unto Cecily, my wife, in plate of the best to the value of £40;

Item, I give to her of my best wethers five hundred;

Item, 8 oxen and 12 beasts;

Item, I give to her all my stuff of household;

Item, to John Hungate in plate to the value of 10 marks;

Item, I give to the 4 orders of friars in London, to every of the places 20s to sing for me 4 trentals to be done immediately after my decease;

Item, I will that all manner of poor people that shall resort unto my burial have every of them to pray for my sinful soul 1d;

The residue of all my goods, whatsoever they be, my debts paid and my legacies delivered, I leave to Cecily, my wife, whom I make sole mine executrice to dispose the same goods to the most profit of my sinful soul as truly and lovingly as she would I should do for her if she were in case like, whom I trust above all creatures;

Also I will that Ralph Bapthorp have my standing cup of silver and gilt with the cover of Our Lady and Saint Christopher in the top;

Also I will that Jane (blank) have in money and plate to the value of £20 towards her marriage if she be ordered and ruled by my said wife, or else not;

In witness hereof I have written this foresaid will & testament with mine own hand and set to my seal the 4th day of September anno regni Regie Henrici octavi quinto;

Also I make Master Robert Shorton overseer of this my said testament and last will;

Item, I will that the Commandry of Stanford which I have of my Lord of Saint John's under chapter seal for years remain unto my foresaid wife during all my said years;

Item, the tenement in Writtle which my sisters dwell in that my mother did give unto me after the decease of John Browne, my father-in-law [=step-father?], I will that it remain unto my brother Richard's second son, and for fault of him unto the third son, and so from one to another, and for lack of such heirs to be sold by mine executors;

Item, I give unto my sister Anne one hundred sheep to be delivered her by mine executors.

Probatum fuit testamentum supradicti defuncto [sic?] habentis &c Coram domino apud Lambeth xj^o Die mensis Iulij Anno Domini Millesimo quingentesimo xviii^o Iuramento Cecilie Relicte & executrici in huiusmodi testamento nominatim Ac approbatum & insinuatum Et commissum fuit administrationi omnium bonorum & debitorum dicti defuncti prefate executrici De bene & fideliter administratione Ac de pleno & fideliter Inuentario citra festum sancti Bartholomei Apostoli proximum futurum exhibendo Necnon de plano & vero compoto reddendo Ad sancta dei evangelia Iurat

[=The testament of the abovesaid deceased having etc. was proved before the Lord at Lambeth on the 11th day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 18th by the oath of Cecily, relict & executrix named in the same testament, and probated & entered, and administration was granted of all the goods & debts of the said deceased to the forenamed executrix, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well & faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full & faithful inventory before the feast of Saint Bartholomew the Apostle next to come, and also to render a plain & true account.]