

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 24 October 1532 and proved 12 December 1532, of John Salter of Newport, Chief Justice of North Wales, who is mentioned in the will of John Newport, grandfather of Sir Richard Newport (d.1570/1), owner of a copy of Hall's *Chronicle* in the British Library containing annotations thought to have been made by Shakespeare. As indicated below, the testator had numerous connections with the Newport, Corbet and Pakington families, and with the family of Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham (d.1612).

The testator married Elizabeth Ottley, the daughter of Thomas Ottley the elder and his third wife, Anne Scriven.

The testator's only daughter and heir, Jane Salter, married Thomas Chetwynd (d.30 September 1555) of Ingestre, Staffordshire, after whose death Jane Salter married, as her second husband, Sir William Sneyd (d.1571), the grandfather of Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham (d.1612). Moreover Jane Salter's daughter by her first marriage, Mary Chetwynd, married Elizabeth Trentham's maternal uncle and Oxford's trustee, Ralph Sneyd (b. circa 1527, d. 15 August 1620), the eldest son and heir of Sir William Sneyd (d.1571). Chancery proceedings (see TNA C 1/888/2) indicate that the testator's widow, Elizabeth (nee Ottley) Salter, married, as her second husband, William Yonge, who is likely related to the Giles Yonge who was a co-purchaser, together with Ralph Sneyd (b. circa 1527, d. 15 August 1620) and Oxford's wife, Elizabeth Trentham (d.1612), of King's Place in Hackney in 1597 (see TNA C 66/1476). See the pedigree of Chetwynd of Ingestre in William Salt Archaeological Society, eds., *Collections for a History of Staffordshire: The Heraldic Visitations of Staffordshire in 1614 and 1663-4*, Vol. V, Part II, p. 81, and the pedigree of Sneyd in Burke, John, *A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Landed Gentry*, Vol. II (London: Henry Colburn, 1847), pp. 1259-60, both available online.

In his will John Salter mentions his kinsman John Corbet of Leigh, whose first wife was Margaret Blount (daughter of Sir Thomas Blount), whose niece, Elizabeth Blount (c.1500–1539x41), was the mistress of King Henry VIII and the mother of the King's illegitimate son, Henry Fitzroy (1519-1536). John Corbet of Leigh married, as his second wife, Jocosa/Joyce Pakington, the sister of Humphrey Pakington (1502-1556), grandfather of Humphrey Martyn, the addressee of the *Langham Letter* describing Leicester's entertainment of Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth in the summer of 1575. See the pedigree of Corbet of Leigh in Grazebrook, George, ed., *The Visitation of Shropshire*, Part I (London: Harleian Society, 1889), p. 142, available online. The will of Humphrey Pakington (1502-1556) contains a bequest to 'my brother-in-law, Mr John Corbet, esquire' (see TNA PROB 11/38, ff. 150-1).

Thomas Ottley, mentioned as a trustee in the testator's will below, appears to have been Thomas Ottley the younger of Pitchford, Shropshire, the nephew of the testator's wife, Elizabeth (nee Ottley) Salter. Thomas Ottley the younger married Katherine Corbet. Thomas Astley, another trustee mentioned in the will, was likely related to Elizabeth Salter's sister, Jane or Joan Salter, who married Richard Astley (b. circa 1460, d.1531) of

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Patshull, Staffordshire (see Richardson, *Plantagenet Ancestry* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 2004), p. 46).

Ralph Leighton, also mentioned as a trustee in the will, appears to have been the Ralph Leighton of Cotes, Shropshire, who married Anne (nee Trentham) Leighton, the great-aunt of Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham (d.1612). Ralph Leighton's parents were John Leighton of Cotes and Jane Salter, the daughter of John Salter of Wrockwardine.

RM: Testamentum Iohannis Salter

In the name of God, Amen. The 24<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year of our Lord God a thousand five hundred 32, and in the 24<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Henry the 8<sup>th</sup>, I, John Salter, esquire, being sick in my body and whole in mind and of good remembrance, giving laud praise to God, make and declare this my testament and last will in manner and form following, that is to say, as well concerning the disposition of my lands and tenements as of my moveable goods and chattels:

First, I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my Maker and Redeemer, and my body to be buried in the parish church of Newport at the foot of the marble stone which lieth upon the body of my father, as near to th' end of the altar of Saint Thomas as conveniently may be;

And I bequeath to my curate there, in recompense for my tithes, offerings and other duties forgotten by me, my best beast, whether it be ox or cow;

Also I bequeath to every of the covents of the monasteries of Lilleshall, Buildwas, Hamonde and Saint Thomas the Martyr besides Stafford 6s 8d, and to Wombridge 3s 4d;

Also I bequeath to the cathedral church of Lichfield 12d, and to Coventry 12d;

Item, I will that mine executors do pay to the cathedral church of Lichfield four marks in money, the which was bequeathed by one Doctor Dogett [=Docket?], sometime canon resident in Sap and prebendary in the said church of Lichfield;

And whereas I lately by my deed sealed and signed with my name and hand have enfeoffed my brother, Sir Roger Salter, clerk, and other my kinsmen, that is to say, John Corbet of Leigh, Thomas Ottley, esquires, Thomas Astley and Ralph Leighton, gentlemen, of and in my chief mese-place in Newport in the which I now dwell [+and] of and in all my lands and tenements with th' appurtenances in Newport or elsewhere in the county of Salop, to have to them and their heirs to the use and behoof of me and my wife for term of our lives and the longer of us living without impeachment of waste, and after our deceases to the use of the heirs males of the body of me, the said John Salter, begotten, and for default of such issue then my said feoffees and their heirs to stand and

be seised after the death of me and my said wife in the one half of my said lands and tenements, whereof my said chief mese-place with all lands, pastures, meadows, fish-pools belonging to the same, that is to say, two leasows or pastures called the Hawill crofts with meadows adjoining and belonging to the same, a parcel of meadow which I purchased of William Rowton, two pastures, one of them called the Spring and another pasture adjoining to the same lying between the said Spring and the said pasture called the Hawill crofts, a pasture lying before the gates of my said chief mese-place, and of all the burgages lying in length from th' end of the lane called Beanmares lane unto the mills of the town of Newport, I will to be parcel, to th' use of Thomas Chetwynd and Jane, his wife, my daughter and of the heirs of the body of the said Jane by the said Thomas begotten, and for default of such issue to th' use of the right heirs of me, the said John;

Item, I bequeath to Margaret, my daughter, one hundred marks of lawful money of England, and I give to the same Margaret my best standing cup gilt;

Item, I will that my said daughter, Margaret, have to her part as much lands in valure pound and pound like as my daughter Jane hath, as well pastures as other, that be not appointed to Thomas Chetwynd, my son-in-law;

Item, I will that Elizabeth, my wife, have Lyndore, and if it fortune the same Elizabeth to depart this world or the years be expired, that then the residue thereof to remain unto Margaret, my daughter;

Item, I give to Thomas Chetwynd and Jane, his wife, a plain standing cup of silver and gilt;

Moreover, I bequeath to my brother, Richard Salter, my tawny gown furred with fox;

Item, to Roger Maxfelde, a black gown furred with black lamb;

Item, to the same Roger, a cow;

Item, to the same Roger, a doublet of black velvet;

Item, to Thurstone, my clerk, my gown lined with black camlet, and my jerkin of black velvet;

The residue of my goods, moveable and unmovable, not bequeathen I give and bequeath to Elizabeth, my wife, and to Edward Leighton, clerk, whom I make mine executors of this my testament and last will, they to dispose them for the health of my soul and all Christian souls by their wisdoms and discretions as my trust is in them;

And I make overseer of this my last will and testament Sir William Branthwayte, clerk, and I give to the same Sir William my jacket of velvet;

Item, I will and bequeath to the church of Newport 10s yearly to be paid out of a certain mese-place being and lying in Sambrook in the tenure and holding of William Howell, in the which mese stand enfeoffed Roger Salter, clerk, John Corbet of Leigh, Thomas Ottley, esquires, Thomas Astley and Ralph Leighton, gentlemen, to be made sure to the same church as can be devised by learned counsel, and the same ten shillings to be for to maintain a lamp burning over me night and day in the honour of the Blessed and Holy Sacrament of the altar forever;

Item, I will that certain arable land and meadow in the holding of Gerveys Tronian of the yearly value of 6s 8d, in the which stand feoffed Roger, John, Thomas, Thomas and Ralph aforesaid, be made as sure as can be devised by learned counsel to have an obit kept forever in the church of Newport for my soul, Elizabeth my wife's soul, and all Christian souls;

These witness: Gabriel Astley, Roger Maxfelde, gentlemen, and other.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum Coram Magistro Ricardo Gwent Decretorum doctore Prerogative ecclesie xpi Cantuariensis sede Archiepiscopali ibidem vacante commissario xijo die mensis Decembris Anno Domini Millesimo quingentesimo xxxijo Iuramento magistri Edwardi Leighton personaliter presentis et Elizabeth Relicte in persona eiusdem Edwardi executorum in huiusmodi testamento nominatorum Ac approbatum et insinuatum Et commissa fuit administracio omnium & singulorum bonorum Iurium & creditorum dicti defuncti prefatis executoribus De bene & fideliter administrando Ac de pleno & fidei Inventario secundo Die post festum sancti Blasij Episcopi proximum futurum exhibendo Necnon de plano & vero compoto reddendo Ad sancta Dei Euangelia Iuratis

[=The above-written will was proved before Master Richard Gwent, Doctor of the Decrees(?), Commissary of the Prerogative Church of Christ of Canterbury, the archiepiscopal seat there being vacant, on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of the month of December in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 32<sup>nd</sup> by the oath of Master Edward Leighton, personally present, and Elizabeth, relict, in the person of the same Edward, executors named in the same testament, and probated and registered, and administration was granted of all & singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased to the forenamed executors, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well & faithfully administer, and to exhibit a full & true inventory on the second day after the feast of Saint Blaise, bishop, next to come, and also to render a plain and true account.]