

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 7 July 1544 and proved 14 April 1546, of William Arden of Park Hall, said to have been a second cousin of William Shakespeare of Stratford's mother, Mary Arden, although this relationship has never been definitively established.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

In the will below, the testator refers to lands which he purchased of his grandfather's younger son, John Arden:

Inprimis, I bequeath and give to my youngest son, Francis Arden, all my purchased land which I purchased of my grandfather's younger son, John Arden, and another piece lying within the lordship of Saltley.

The testator's grandfather, John Arden (c.1460-1526), the eldest son of Walter Arden (c.1437 – 5 August 1502) of Park Hall and Eleanor Hampden, the daughter of John Hampden of Hampden, Buckinghamshire, is said to have been an esquire of the body to Henry VII. He married Alice Bracebridge, daughter of Richard Bracebridge of Kingsbury, Warwickshire. John Arden's 'younger son', John Arden, is said to have died without issue in the same year as his father, 1526. One of John Arden's sisters, Elizabeth Arden, married Walter Leveson of Wolverhampton, Staffordshire. See Kingsley, Nick, 'Arden of Park Hall and Longcroft Hall' at:

<http://landedfamilies.blogspot.ca/2015/06/170-arden-of-park-hall-and-longcroft.html>.

Although the testator's grandfather is referred to in modern sources as 'Sir John Arden', in his will, dated 4 June 1526, he describes himself as 'esquire'. In his will he mentions his deceased wife (Alice Bracebridge), his current wife, Elizabeth, his sons Thomas and John, and his daughters, Geys Braylys (wife of Thomas Bralis), Katherine Muklowe, Margaret Kambur, and his 'daughter Brown'. See TNA PROB 11/22/155.

As indicated in the will below, the testator's father was Thomas Arden (d. 5 February 1563). The testator predeceased his father by

The testator's mother was Mary Andrew (1481?-1548), the daughter of Thomas Andrew (d.1530) of Charwelton and Harlestone, Northamptonshire, son of Thomas Andrew of Sawbridge, Warwickshire, and Charwelton, by Joan Clarell, the daughter of Richard Clarell of Edgcote, Northamptonshire. Thomas Andrew (d.1530) was Sheriff of Northamptonshire in 1502, and married firstly Emma Knightley (d. 11 April 1490), the daughter of Richard Knightley of Fawsley, Northamptonshire, by whom he was the father of Thomas Andrews (d. 2 July 1541), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/28/577, and secondly, in 1495, Elizabeth Pulteney, the daughter of John Pulteney and sister of Sir Thomas Pulteney of Misterton, Leicestershire. By his wife Anne or Agnes Newport, the daughter of Robert Newport of Sandon, Hertfordshire, Thomas Andrews (d. 2 July

1541) was the father of Ursula Andrews, who married Thomas Bushell (d.1558) of Long Marston, Gloucestershire (now Warwickshire), grandfather of the 'Mr Bushell' named in Richard Quiney's letter dated 25 October 1598 to William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon (see SBTRO ER 27/4). For the Andrew pedigree see Kingsley, Nick, 'Andrews alias Andrew of Charwelton, Winwick, Harlestone and Denton, Baronets' at:

<http://landedfamilies.blogspot.ca/2014/08/138-andrews-alias-andrew-of-charwelton.html>.

For Thomas Bushell's marriage into the Andrew family, see also the will of Thomas Bushell, TNA PROB 11/42A/53; and Maclean, John and W.C. Heane, eds., *The Visitation of the County of Gloucester Taken in the Year 1623*, (London: Harleian Society, 1885), Vol. XXI, p. 240 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=Ru0_AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA240

See also the pedigree of Arden, *infra*, and:

http://www.belnapfamily.org/John_Belknap_Descendants.htm

For the marriage of Thomas Andrew and Emma Knightley, see also *History, Topography and Directory of Northamptonshire*, 2nd ed., (London: Whittaker and Co., 1874), p. 394 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=NRAHAAAQAAJ&pg=PA394>

For the testator's background, see also Stopes, Charlotte Carmichael, *Shakespeare's Family*, (London: Elliot Stock, 1901), pp. 175-6 at:

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/26315/26315-h/26315-h.htm>

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

The testator married Elizabeth Conway, the daughter of Edward Conway (d.1547) and his wife, Anne Burdett, daughter of Richard Burdett. The John Conway to whom administration of the will below was granted was their son, John Conway (d. 22 July 1553) of Ragley Hall, Warwickshire, uncle of Edward Arden (d.1583) of Park Hall. See:

<http://www.dianneelizabeth.com/Surname/Harley/conway.html>

For the pedigrees of Anne Burdett and Edward Conway, see also <http://fabpedigree.com/s076/f027047.htm>

Richard Burdett's father, Thomas Burdett was beheaded in 1477, after which a contest arose concerning his estates, including the manor of Arrow in Warwickshire, between Richard Burdett, who was Thomas Burdett's son by his first wife, Agnes Waldeif, the

daughter of John Waldeif, from whom he was divorced in 1444 because of nearness of kindred, and Sir John Burdett (died c.1530), Thomas Burdett's son by his second wife, Margaret Rodney, the daughter of John Rodney. Ultimately the estates were divided between the daughter and heiress of Richard Burdett (who was granted Arrow), and Thomas Burdett (d.1536), esquire, of Bramcote, Warwickshire, son and heir of Sir John Burdett (died c.1530). Thomas Burdett (d.1536), married firstly Mary Throckmorton, the daughter of Sir Robert Throckmorton (c.1451-1518), and secondly a wife named Joyce, who survived him and married George Grayneville. Thomas Burdett (d.1536) was succeeded by his son, Robert Burdett (d. 11 January 1549), whose name in the PCC copy of his father's will is written as both 'Albert' and 'Gilbert'. For the will of Robert Burdett (d. 11 January 1549), proved in the consistory court at Lichfield on 31 December 1549, see SRO B/C/11. Robert Burdett married Elizabeth Cokayne, the daughter of Sir Thomas Cokayne (d.1537) of Ashbourne, Derbyshire. Robert Burdett's heir was his son, Thomas, to whom the historian Raphael Holinshed (c.1525-1580) left all his worldly goods. See the will of Sir Robert Throckmorton, TNA PROB 11/20/25; the will of Sir John Burdett, proved 12 May 1530, TNA PROB 11/23/279; the will of Thomas Burdett (d.1536), TNA PROB 11/27/86; the will of Raphael Holinshed, TNA PROB 11/63/199; and Burke, Bernard, *A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Peerage and Baronetage*, 42nd ed., (London: Harrison, 1880), pp. 176-7 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=u6IaAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA176>

For Thomas Burdett (d.1536), see also:

'Parishes: Polesworth', in *A History of the County of Warwick: Volume 4, Hemlingford Hundred*, ed. L F Salzman (London, 1947), pp. 186-198 <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/warks/vol4/pp186-198> [accessed 7 November 2015].

For the marriage of Robert Burdett (d. 11 January 1549) and Elizabeth Cokayne, see also Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. I, p. 526 and Vol. III, p. 57 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=8JcbV309c5UC&pg=PA526&lpg=PA526>

For Robert Burdett, see also the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/burdett-robert-1510-49>

For Richard Burdett, see also Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. III, p. 172 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=8JcbV309c5UC&pg=RA2-PA172>

Joyce Montfort married firstly Richard Burdett, Esquire, of Arrow, Warwickshire, son and heir of Thomas Burdett, Esquire, by his first wife, Agnes, daughter of John Waldeife.

They had two sons, Thomas and Robert, and one daughter, Anne (wife of Edward Conway). His widow, Joyce, married, secondly, as his second wife, Hugh Conway (or Conwey), Knight, Treasurer of Ireland, Treasurer of Calais, Sheriff of Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire, 1500-1, and, in right of his first wife, of Sutton Courtenay, Berkshire, Hillesden and Waddesdon, Buckinghamshire, Lymington, Hampshire, etc., son of John Conway, esquire, of Bonrhyddan, Flintshire, by his first wife, Ellen, daughter of Edward Minshull, esquire. They had no issue. He married firstly before March 1489/90 Elizabeth Courtenay, daughter of Thomas Courtenay, knight, 13th Earl of Devon, 6th Lord Courtenay, by Margaret, daughter of John Beaufort, K.G., 1st Earl of Somerset. . . . Sir Hugh Conway left a will proved 26 August 1519. . . . His widow Joyce died testate before 24 November 1542.

According to the will below, the testator had two sons and eight daughters:

* **Edward Arden**, eldest son and heir. He was ‘hanged, drawn, and quartered at Smithfield on 20 December 1583’ (see the *ODNB* article). He married Mary Throckmorton (d.1603), the daughter of Sir Robert Throckmorton (d.1581). For the will of Sir Robert Throckmorton, see TNA PROB 11/63/176. For Edward Arden’s children, see ‘Arden of Park Hall and Longcroft Hall’, *supra*.

* **Francis Arden** of Pedmore, who was arrested in 1583 with his elder brother, Edward Arden.

* **Anne Arden**, who married John Barnesley of Barnesley Hall in Worcestershire.

* **Ursula Arden**.

* **Bridget Arden**, who married Hugh Massey of Crosley in Cheshire;

* **Barbara Arden**, who married Richard Neville (d. 27 May 1590), the nephew of Oxford’s relation, John Neville (1493-1543), 3rd Baron Latimer, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/29/303. From the *ODNB*:

Neville, John, third Baron Latimer (1493–1543), nobleman, was born on 17 November 1493, the eldest son and heir of Richard Neville (c.1467–1530), second baron, and Anne, daughter and heir of Sir Humphrey Stafford of Grafton, Worcestershire, and Blatherwyk, Northamptonshire. The poet William Neville was one of his many younger brothers; William's dealings with a magician in 1532 hint at tensions between John and himself. By 1520 John Neville had married Dorothy, daughter of Sir George de Vere and sister of John de Vere, fourteenth earl of Oxford. Dorothy died on 7 February 1527 and on 20 June 1528 her husband obtained a licence to marry Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Edward Musgrave of Hartley, Westmorland, and Edenhall, Cumberland. Finally, in the summer of 1534 he took as his third wife Katherine (1512–1548), daughter of Sir Thomas Parr of Kendal, Westmorland, and widow of Sir Edward Borough. . . . Latimer died in London on 2 March 1543 and was buried in St Paul's Cathedral. In his will, dated 12 September 1542 and proved 15 March 1543, he provided for his wife, family, and servants. His son

John inherited the Latimer barony; and, on 12 July 1543, his widow, Katherine, became Henry VIII's sixth wife.

For Richard Neville, 2nd Baron Latimer, and his wife, Anne Stafford, both descendants of King Henry II, see Richardson, Douglas, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, p. 386.

As noted above, the poet William Neville was the brother of John Neville, 3rd Baron Latimer. From the *ODNB*:

Neville, William (b. 1497, d. in or before 1545), poet, was born on 15 July 1497, the second son of Richard Neville, second Baron Latimer (c.1467–1530), and his wife, Anne, daughter of Sir Humphrey Stafford; his brother was John Neville, third Baron Latimer (1493–1543). He married before 1 April 1529, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Giles Greville, with whom he had a son, Richard, and two daughters, Mary and Susan. In his youth Neville may have been in the household of Cardinal Wolsey. . . . In 1532 Neville was accused of treason by one Thomas Wood, who alleged that he had prophesied the death of Henry VIII and claimed that he would become earl of Warwick. . . . He appears to have died in or before 1545, when his estate is known to have been in the possession of his son, Richard. . . . Neville is the author of an allegorical dream vision, 'The Castell of Pleasure', in which a dreamer, Desire, is led by Morpheus to the eponymous castle. . . . Copies survive in editions by Henry Pepwell of 1518 and Wynkyn de Worde, probably of 1530.

For William Neville's father-in-law, Sir Giles Greville (d. 1 April 1528), who married, as his second wife, Rose (d. 27 August 1525), the widow of William Clopton (d. 29 May 1521), owner of New Place, later purchased by William Shakespeare of Stratford-upon-Avon, see TNA C 54/843, mm. 12-15.

As noted above, William Neville's son, Richard Neville (d. 27 May 1590) of Penwyn and Wyke Sapie, Worcestershire, married the testator's daughter, Barbara Arden. After the death of his first cousin, John Neville, 4th Lord Latimer, in 1577, Richard Neville (d. 27 May 1590) claimed the Latimer barony, as did his son Edmund after him. See Cokayne, George Edward, *The Complete Peerage*, Vol. XII, Part II, (London: St Catherine Press, 1959), pp. 560-3; Stopes, Charlotte Carmichael, *Shakespeare's Warwickshire Contemporaries*, (Stratford Upon Avon: Shakespeare Head Press, 1907), pp. 101, 103, 123-4 (who cites TNA SP 12/168/12, 10 February 1584); the Wikipedia articles on William Neville and Richard Neville, 2nd Baron Latimer, edited by the author of this website; and the pedigree of Arden at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/fivegateways/alphabetical-index-a/arden>

The lands entailed by John Neville, 3rd Baron Latimer, to his son and heir, John Neville (d.1577), 4th Baron Latimer, who died without surviving male heirs, were eventually divided among the latter's four daughters and co-heirs, Katherine (1545/6-1596), Dorothy (1548-1609), Lucy (c.1549-1608), and Elizabeth (1545x50-1630), who married,

respectively, Henry Percy (c.1532-1585), 8th Earl of Northumberland; Thomas Cecil (1542-1632/3), 1st Earl of Exeter; Sir William Cornwallis (c.1551-1611) of Brome; and Sir John Danvers (1540-1594) of Dauntsey. The eldest son and heir of Sir John Danvers (1540-1594) of Dauntsey and Elizabeth Neville (1545x50-1630), Sir Charles Danvers (c.1568-1601), was attainted and executed in 1601 for his part in the Essex rebellion, as a result of which the lands which he inherited from both his father and his mother escheated to the Crown. Several of Oxford's extant letters describe his involvement on the Queen's behalf in the Danvers escheat case, and the lands which had descended to Sir Charles Danvers from the Lords Latimer are specifically referred to in a letter written by Oxford to his brother-in-law, Sir Robert Cecil, in January 1602 (see CP 181/99).

* **Joyce Arden**, who married John Ladbrooke.

* **Jane Arden**.

* **Ursula Arden** (again).

* **Frances Arden**.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

The Arden pedigree indicates that Francis Waferer, who witnessed the will below as 'ffraunces Wafferer', was the testator's brother-in-law, the husband of the testator's sister, Mary Arden. See Fetherston, John, ed., *The Visitation of the County of Warwick in the Year 1619*, (London:Harleian Society, 1877), Vol. XII, pp. 73, 181-2 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationcount01britgoog#page/n96/mode/2up>

A Francis Waferer was a witness to the indenture entered into at Oxford's rooms at Greenwich on 25 June 1574 by which Oxford granted Edmund Yorke a 42-year lease of his manor of Tilbury juxta Clare. See ERO D/DCw T46/52.

In the Arden pedigree at p. 73, the testator's sister, Cecily Arden, is said to have been the wife of 'Henry Shirley of Woodbrough'. However, in the Arden pedigree on p. 181, Cecily Arden is said to have been the wife of 'Henrico Stirley de Woodborowe' in Nottinghamshire.

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationcount01britgoog#page/n206/mode/2up>

For Henry Strelley of Woodborough, see:

<http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/woodboroughheritage/chapteriii-thelordsofwoodborough.html>

Wills mentioned in the Torre MSS at York:

"13 Nov. 1558. Henry Shirley of Woodborowe in Com Notts Esqre made his will (proved 28 Sep. 1568), giving his soul to God Alm: his Creator and Redeemer, and to all saints, and his body to be buried in the close of S. Swithin's in Wodborowe upon the S. side of ye Chancell."

Extracts from the Woodborough Registers.

1547. Mary Strelley, the daughter of Henry Strelley, gent. was baptized the xxx day of April, anno prædicto.

1550. Jane Strelley, the daughter of Henry Strelley, gent, was baptised the xxx day of October, anno prædicto.

It thus appears that the testator was allied through his sister's marriage to the Strelleys of Nottinghamshire, which may be significant in that Margaret Strelley married Nicholas Brend (d. 10 October 1601), who leased the ground on which the Globe was built by lease dated 21 February 1599 to William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon and others (see TNA REQ 4/1/2):

for the said gardens and grounds whereupon the said playhouse & galleries were afterwards builded were demised & letten by the said Nicholas Brend by his indenture of lease tripartite bearing date in or about the 21st day of February in the 41st year of the reign of the late Queen Elizabeth [=21 February 1599] unto Cuthbert Burbage, Richard Burbage, William Shakespeare, the said Augustine Phillips, Thomas Pope, the said John Heminges, one of the said defendants, and William Kempe, to have and to hold the one moiety of the said garden plots and ground to the said Cuthbert Burbage and Richard Burbage, their executors, administrators & assigns, from the feast of the birth of Our Lord God last past before the date of the said indenture [=25 December 1598] unto the end & term of 31 years from thence next ensuing [=24 December 1629] for the yearly rent of seven pounds & five shillings, and to have & to hold the other moiety of the said garden plots & grounds unto the said William Shakespeare, Augustine Phillips, Thomas Pope, the said John Heminges, one of the said defendants, & William Kempe, their executors, administrators & assigns, from the said feast of the birth of Our Lord God then last past before the date of the said indenture unto the said full end & term of 31 years from thence next ensuing for the like yearly rent of seven pounds & five shillings.

For the will of Nicholas Brend, see TNA PROB 11/98/348.

T{estamentum} Will{el}mi Arden

In the name of God, Amen. The seventh day of July in the six and thirty year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord Henry the Eight by the grace of God King of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, and Supreme Head of the Church of England and Ireland here in earth immediately under Christ, I, William Arden, being of right good mind and memory, make my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, which hath redeemed it through the precious blood of his son, Jesus Christ, and my body to be buried within the parish church chancel of Saint Bride's in Fleet Street within the suburbs of London;

Inprimis, I bequeath and give to my youngest son, Francis Arden, all my purchased land which I purchased of my grandfather's younger son, John Arden, and another piece lying within the lordship of Saltley;

Item, I bequeath and give unto my said son, Francis, my lease which I have taken of my Lord Ferris [=Ferrers] for the term of 31 years which also lieth within the lordship of Budbrooke, so that he come to his full age, and during his nonage the profits thereof to be taken up by mine overseers to the use of my daughters, to be divided by the said overseers among them by equal portions;

And if happen the said Francis to die without issue of his body lawfully begotten, then I will my eldest son and heir, Edward Arden, when he cometh to his full age, to enjoy the said purchased lands and lease to him and his heirs;

Item, I bequeath to the said Francis six pounds thirteen shillings four pence, to be paid yearly during the term of his natural life by the hands of my eldest son, Edward Arden, when he cometh to his lands;

Item, I bequeath and give to my eight daughters, Anne Arden, Ursula Arden, Bridget Arden, Barbara Arden, Joyce Arden, Jane Arden, Ursula Arden and Frances Arden, the whole yearly rent that my farmer beareth me for my two and twenty kie during his term of years, and after that to be set by mine overseers to the most profit [] they shall think best;

Item, I bequeath and give to every of my foresaid daughters four pounds of sterling money towards their marriages, to be levied upon the lands of my heirs;

Item, I bequeath and give unto my daughter, Joyce Arden, a gown, a kirtle, a French hood which lieth in my coffer at home;

Also I bequeath and give to my daughter, Bridget Arden, a gown which I took to Mistress Wodsthaf{es} [=Woodstaff's?] of [] to sell, and if it be sold, the said Bridget to have the money thereof;

Also I bequeath my brother, Edward Arden, my black satin coat, and my cloak laced upon the shoulder;

Also I bequeath my black coat edged with satin to Robert Harris;

Also I bequeath Thomas Eoson(?) my black cloak;

Also I bequeath my long gown edged with velvet to my father, Thomas Arden, in recompense of the money which he loaned(?) me, whom I make the overseer of this my will with my father-in-law, Edward Conway;

All the rest of my goods both movable and unmovable neither bequeathed I give unto my son, Edward, whom I make my whole and sole(?) executor. Witness hereof Christopher Drey and Francis Waferer and John Taylour, vicar of Saint Bride's;

Item, I bequeath to Francis Waferer my three geldings, he paying to Fulwode [=Fulwood?] 39s. By me, William Arden. Witness me, Francis Waferer.

Quartodecimo die mensis Aprilis Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingentesimo quadragagesimo [sic] sexto enanauit [sic] commissio Iohanni Conway avunculo Edwardi Arden filij dicti defuncti et executoris in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento nominati iam minori etate constituti ad administrand{um} bona dicti defuncti duran{te} minoritate eiusdem Edwardi &c de bene et fideliter administrand{o} eadem ac de pleno et fidei Inuentario &c exhibend{o} &c necnon de plano et vero comp{ot}o reddend{o} ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{i}

[= On the fourteenth day of the month of April in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred forty-sixth a grant issued to John Conway, uncle of Edward Arden, son of the said deceased and executor named in the same testament, now underage, to administer the goods of the said deceased during the minority of the same Edward etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to exhibit a full and faithful inventory etc., and also to render a plain and true account.]