

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 2 September 1547 and proved 17 April 1548, of Ellis Bodley, parson of St Stephen's, Walbrook, situated next to the London residence of the Earls of Oxford, great-uncle of Sir John Bodley of Streatham, landlord of the Globe playhouse from 1601-1622. For Sir John Bodley's role as landlord of the Globe, see TNA C 54/1682, mm. 10-11.

The testator was the son of Richard Bodley (d.1491), grocer of London, and Joan Warde of Hinxworth, whose brother, John Warde, was Lord Mayor of London in 1485. For the will of Richard Bodley, see TNA PROB 11/9/28. The testator's father, Richard Bodley, was of the same family as the founder of the Bodleian library, and bore the same coat of arms, 'Gules, five martlets argent on a chief indented or three crowns azure'. See the coat of arms and pedigree in Barron, Caroline M. and Anne F. Sutton, eds., *Medieval London Widows 1300-1500*, (London: The Hambledon Press, 1994), pp. 208, 211 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=uc3RLXFANoMC&pg=PA211&lpg=PA211&dq=%22Nicholas+Leveson%22+%22William+Strete%22&source=bl&ots=91-CgadHEH&sig=Z2EpsIAd2E-DdqOcyE5Ta2znd-w&hl=en&sa=X&ei=hSZqVNTMIsevogSemICQAg&ved=0CB8Q6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%22Nicholas%20Leveson%22%20%22William%20Strete%22&f=false>

For the wills of the testator's brother, Thomas Bodley (d.1537), vicar of South Weald, Essex, see TNA PROB 11/27/81 and TNA PROB 11/26/118.

For the will of the testator's brother, William Bodley, see TNA PROB 11/28/311.

For the will of the testator's nephew, Francis Bodley (d.1566), father of Sir John Bodley of Streatham, landlord of the Globe playhouse, see TNA PROB 11/48/415.

The testator was a first cousin of Dionyse (nee Bodley) Leveson (d.1560), grandmother of William Leveson (d.1621), one of two trustees employed by William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon and other members of the Lord Chamberlain's Men in the allocation of shares in the ground lease of the Globe Theatre in 1599. For the will of Dionyse Bodley Leveson, see TNA PROB 11/43/645. For the will of William Leveson (d.1621), see TNA PROB 11/137/600. In the will below, the testator bequeaths Dionyse a gold ring:

Item, I bequeath to my cousin, Dionyse Leveson in Lime Street, and to my cousin Butler by the stocks and to each of them a gold ring of 13s 4d apiece.

For Dionyse Bodley Leveson's coat of arms, which indicates that she, too, was of the same family as the founder of the Bodleian Library, see 'Nicholas Leveson' in *Proceedings of the Evening Meetings of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, Session 1871*, (London: J.B. Nichols and Sons, 1872), pp. 46-55 at p. 46 and 55:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=6hEVAAAAQAAJ&pg=RA1-PA55&lpg=RA1-PA55&dq=%22gules+five+martlets+argent%22+%22Bodley%22&source=bl&ots=-OuodjcieN&sig=uZKxMVWSbxq3_kMyILKxf9Vw_7s&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CCEQ6AEwAWoVChMI3JbEoMjDyAIViy-ICh3NogZs#v=onepage&q=%22gules%20five%20martlets%20argent%22%20%22Bodley%22&f=false.

RM: T{estamentum} Elizei Bodley cl{er}ici

[f. 35r] In the name of God, Amen. The second day of September in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred forty and seven and in the first year of our Sovereign Lord Edward the Sixth by the grace of God King of En[g]land, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, and in earth Supreme Head of the Church of England and Ireland, I, Ellis Bodley, parson of Saint Stephen's in Walbrook in [-in] London, and also parson of Beckenham in the diocese of Rochester in Kent, being in whole and good mind, thanks be God, make and ordain this my present testament and last will in manner and form following:

First, I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my Redeemer and Maker, to Our Blessed Lady the Virgin Saint Mary, and to all the saints in heaven, and my body to be buried within the parish church where it fortune me to decease, my body borne by 4 poor folks, the[y] to have 8d apiece for their labours;

Item, I will that seven of the poorest householders of the parish of Saint Stephen's and seven other of the poorest householders of Saint Botolph's parish nigh Billingsgate, each of them to have twenty pence apiece, and to other poor persons of Walbrook ward and Saint Botolph's ward by Billingsgate 4d apiece to the sum of 53s 4d;

Item, I give and bequeath to 20 of the poorest householders of the parish of Beckenham, to each of them half a bushel wheat and a bushel rye, and also to 13 other of the poorest of them thirteen pence apiece in the honour of God, Our Lady and the 12 Apostles, and to other poor people two pence apiece to the sum of six shillings eight pence;

And to seven poor maidens next there to be married in the said parish of Beckenham twenty pence apiece in the honour of God and Our Blessed Lady;

Item, I will and bequeath to the building of the old work of Paul's four shillings;

Item, I will that if any part of my brother's testament, Mr Thomas Bodley, be found not fulfilled, as I trust to God shall not duly be proved by anybody, my executors to fulfil it in any wise above all things;

Item, I will the plate concerning Francis Bodley, my brother William's son, given unto him by my said brother vicar, Master Thomas Bodley, which remaineth in my Lady Askew's keeping, be given to him in due time according to my brother's testament;

And likewise the portions of all his sisters remaining in my hands that is not delivered already, to be delivered at their marriage day or when they come to th' age of eighteen years;

Item, I will all such plate of mine remaining in my sister Gresham's hands to be divided to the said Francis and his 3 sisters, Katherine, Alice and Grissell Bodley, equally to be divided amongst them, saving a dozen of spoons which I will and bequeath to my said sister Gresham;

Also I will and bequeath to Katherine Bodley my short scarlet gown, a salt of silver and parcel gilt, half a dozen spoons, and a nut of silver and gilt with a cover, besides the portion aforenamed of the plate aforesaid;

Item, I bequeath to Andrew Hubbard, sometime my servant, [f. 35v] a featherbed, a bolster, a mattress, a covering, a pair of sheets, a pair of blankets, a brass pot, a cupboard at Beckenham, two candlesticks, a gridiron, a spit and a frying pan;

Item, I bequeath to John Chamber my gown furred with black lamb which I do wear at Beckenham, my best doublet, and my short frock;

Item, I bequeath to every godchild at London and at Beckenham that beareth my name, to each of them three shillings four pence;

Item, I will that my executors shall provide to give to every house of the parish of Saint Stephen's and Saint Botolph's at Billingsgate 3 spice-cakes and 3 buns according to their discretion, and other of my friends and kinfolks more largelier and plentiful to give;

Item, I will that my waiting servant shall have ten(?) shillings besides his quarter's wages;

Item, I will that every household servant serving me at Beckenham to have every one of them five shillings besides their quarter's wages;

And my woman servant there five shillings in money and an old gown that lieth on her bed, and the tawny to be delivered to John Hall of Lewisham that laid them to me to pledge long ago;

Item, I give and bequeath to my Lady Askew for a token to pray for my soul a ring of gold that I have ready made, and my best horse, the best cow that I have, a quarter of wheat, and half a quarter of rye;

Item, I give and bequeath to my sister Gresham a ring which I do wear customable, and to my brother, her husband, a ring of gold of forty shillings;

Item, I give and bequeath to my sister Bodley at Billingsgate a hoop of gold which was my father's, and a horse;

Item, I give and bequeath to my cousin, Edmund Askew, and to Richard, his brother, and to each of them a gold ring of 20s apiece;

Item, I bequeath to Emme, Edmund Askew's daughter, and my god-daughter, twenty shillings;

Item, I bequeath to Christopher my godson, Richard Askew's son, twenty shillings;

Item, I bequeath to my cousin, Dionyse Leveson in Lime Street, and to my cousin Butler by the stocks and to each of them a gold ring of 13s 4d apiece;

Item, I bequeath to Sir Henry Cockes my furred frock and a pottle pot, a candlestick, and a chair next the door in my parsonage at London;

Item, I bequeath to Sir Richard my short gown;

Item, I bequeath to William Sherneforde a bed furnished and forty shillings in money when he is out of his years;

Item, I will and bequeath all the land and tenements that I have at Streatham or anywhere else to my cousin, Francis Bodley, and his heirs;

The residue of all my goods, stuff of household at London and Beckenham, chattels, debts, movable and unmovable unbequeathed, my debts and funerals paid, I give and bequeath to my brother's four children aforesaid;

And I ordain and make my executors of this my present testament and last will my cousin, Lawnslott Haryson, grocer, to whom I give for his painstaking 2 kine, ten sheep, a horse, a bed furnished, and my black gown lined with damask, and my loving sister, Beatrice Bodley;

And I make my overseer of this my present testament and last will my cousin, John Marshe of Milk Street, and I give to him for his labour a purse of velvet with the rings of silver and gilt, and to my cousin, his wife, a ring of gold of twenty shillings;

In witness whereof I have subscribed this my present testament and last will with mine own hand and sealed with my seal, these being present. By me, James Stretell. By me, Harry Blower.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum testamentum Coram D{omi}no Cantuarien{sis} Archie{pisco}po apud London xvijo Die mensis Aprilis Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingentesimo xlvijjo iuramento Lanceloti Haryson et Beatricis Bodleye ex{ecutorum} In h{uius}mo{d}i testamento nominatorum Ac approbatum et insinuatum Comissaq{ue} fuit administracio o{mn}i{u}m et sing{u}lorum bonoru{m} Iurium et creditorum D{ic}tu{m} defunctum et eius testamentum qualitercunq{ue} concernen{tium} prefatis executoribus de Bene et fideliter administrand{o} eadem Ac de pleno et fideli Inuentario exhibend{o} Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ng{e}lia Iurat{is}

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury at London on the 17th day of the month of April in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred 48th by the oath of Lancelot Harrison and Beatrice Bodley, executors named in the same testament, and probated and entered, and administration was granted of all and singular the goods rights and credits concerning the said deceased and his testament whatsoever to the forenamed executors, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to exhibit a full and faithful inventory.]