

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 24 July 1548, of Thomas Newport, father of Sir Richard Newport (d.1570), owner of a copy of Hall's *Chronicle* in the British Library containing annotations thought to have been made by Shakespeare. In his will Thomas Newport mentions an indenture entered into with Sir Thomas Bromley, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, father-in-law of his son, Sir Richard Newport (d.1570), to provide for payment of his debts and the preferment in marriage of his daughters Ursula, Katherine and Elizabeth. The youngest daughter, Elizabeth, later married John Pakington, and was the aunt of Humphrey Martyn, the addressee of the *Langham Letter* describing Leicester's entertainment of Queen Elizabeth at Kenilworth in the summer of 1575. At the time of the making of his will Thomas Newport had six sons (Richard, Robert, Reginald, Thomas, Edmund and Andrew) and three daughters (Ursula, Katherine and Elizabeth). Richard survived him as his heir. Robert was appointed as one of his executors, but died between the making of the will on 24 July 1548 and the date of probate, 11 June 1551. For Reginald's will, see PROB 11/44, f. 263. Thomas appears to have entered the service of Robert Devereux, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Essex. For the will of Edmund Newport, see PROB 11/98, ff. 88-9. Nothing further seems to be known of Andrew. It would also appear that a seventh son was born after Thomas Newport made his will on 24 July 1548, since his son and heir, Sir Richard Newport (d.1570) mentions in his own will a brother named Hugh (see PROB 11/53, f. 290).

RM: Testamentum Thome Newporte

In the name of God, Amen. The 24<sup>th</sup> day of July in the year of Edward the Sixth by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, and of the Church of England and also of Ireland immediately under God Supreme Head, the second [=1548], I, Thomas Newport of High Ercall in the county of Salop, esquire, make my demise of testament and last will concerning my lands in manner and form following:

First, according to the power and authority that I have in ye indenture of covenant of marriage betwixt me and Thomas Bromley, knight, made for twenty pounds of my lands towards the payment of my debts and advancement of my daughters in marriage, I, the said Thomas Newport, do give, devise and grant parcel of my lands, tenements and hereditaments called Bickmarsh set, lying and being in the county of Warwick to the clear yearly value of twenty pounds unto Andrew Corbet, knight, Richard Corbet and Raynold Gwilliams, esquires, to them and their assigns during such term and years as they of the profits and revenues ensuing and coming of the same lands and tenements shall have perceived and taken the full sum of two hundred marks, which sum of two hundred marks I, the said Thomas Newport, do will and devise shall be employed and converted to the advancement and marriage of my daughters Ursula & Katherine, each of them one hundred marks apiece, and if it fortune the said Ursula and Katherine to die before she shall be married, then I devise and will the said two hundred marks to her that shall survive, to the

advancement of her marriage, and if it fortune the said Ursula and Katherine to die before they be married, then I devise and will the said two hundred marks to th' advancement of marriage of Elizabeth, my daughter;

Furthermore I, the said Thomas Newport, do devise and will all the residue of my said lands in Bickmarsh aforesaid and in the said county of Warwick amounting to the sum of four pounds withness(?) all my lands and tenements, rents, hereditaments, services with th' appurtenances set, lying & being in Newport in the county of Salop to the clear yearly value of six pounds, all which said lands amount in th' whole unto the sum of ten pounds, I devise and give unto my younger sons Thomas, Edmund and Andrew Newport, to them and their assigns during their natural lives, and the longest liver of them rent free from mine heir & heirs for th' advancement and living of each of them;

And furthermore I, the said Thomas Newport, do will and devise that if this present testament & last will be broken by mine heir or heirs hereafter of any entailment of the lands so devised or otherways whereby my said children cannot enjoy this my devise according to my last will, then I, ye said Thomas Newport, do further will, devise and give unto the said Andrew Corbet, Richard Corbet, Raynold Gwilliams, Thomas Newport, Edmund and Andrew Newport as much of the other lands, tenements and hereditaments set, lying and being in Ercall, Walton and Shrewsbury with their appurtenances in the county of Salop as shall amount to the clear yearly value of thirty pounds, to be taken and chosen by the said Andrew, Richard, Raynold, Thomas, Edmund and Andrew in all my said lands, to be employed to the same intents, devises, wills and considerations aforesaid, and in like estate, condition & degree as the said former lands so devised unto them or every of them was given, willed or devised, and after by my said heir or heirs evicted or otherwise taken away;

And as concerning my testament and last will of all my goods and chattels, reals and personals, I, the said Thomas Newport do bequeath and give to Elizabeth Newport, my daughter, to the preferment of her in marriage or otherwise to be used at her pleasure, the sum of one hundred pounds to be levied and taken of all my said goods and chattels;

The residue of all my said goods both reals and personals, my debts being paid, I give and bequeath to Robert Newport and Reginald Newport, my sons;

And of this my present testament and last will I ordain and make my Lady Dame Elizabeth Corbet, my mother-in-law, and Raynold Corbet, my brother-in-law, and Robert Newport, my son, my executors.

In witness whereof unto this my present last will and testament I have set my seal and subscribed my name the day & year above-written.

Thomas Newport

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Probatum fuit testamentum coram domino Cantuariensis Archiepiscopo apud london xj die Mensis Iunij Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo quinquagesimo primo Iuramento Reginaldi Newport procuratoris domine Elizabeth Corbet et Reginaldi Corbet Executorum in huiusmodi testamento nominatorum quibus commissa fuit administracio omnium bonorum &c dicti defuncti De bene &c Ac de pleno Inuentario &c exhibendo ad sancta dei Euangelia Iuratis Roberti Newport alter executor(?) demortui

[=The testament was proved before the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury at London on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the month of June in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-first by the oath of Reginald Newport, proctor of the Lady Elizabeth Corbet and Reginald Corbet, executors appointed in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all the goods etc. of the said deceased, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc., and to exhibit a full inventory etc., Robert Newport, the other executor, having died.]