

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 1 January 1557 and proved 19 December 1558, of Beatrice Bodley, whose grandson, Sir John Bodley of Streatham, was landlord of the Globe playhouse from 1601-1622, and whose daughter-in-law, Mercy (nee Collett), became the stepmother of Nicholas Brend (d. 12 October 1601), who leased the ground on which the Globe was built by lease dated 21 February 1599 to Richard Burbage (1568-1619), Cuthbert Burbage (1564/5-1636), William Kempe, Augustine Phillips (d.1605), Thomas Pope (d.1603) John Heminges (1566-1630) and William Shakespeare (1564-1616) of Stratford upon Avon (see TNA REQ 4/1/2).

FAMILY BACKGROUND

Although the testatrix is said to have been the daughter of John Sadler, merchant of London, her family has not been otherwise identified. See the Bodley pedigree in Bannerman, W. Bruce, ed., *The Visitations of the County of Surrey*, (London: Harleian Society, 1899), Vol. XLIII, p. 147 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationscoun01banngoog#page/n160/mode/2up>

In the will below the testatrix appoints as overseer her 'well-beloved brother, John Sadler'. John Sadler, Master of the Drapers' Company and alderman of London, made his will as 'John Sadler of Edelmeton [=Edmonton], Middlesex', on 28 June 1559. See TNA PROB 11/43/538. See also:

http://www.tudorplace.com.ar/Documents/aldermen_of_london.htm

The testatrix also leaves a bequest to her god-daughter, Marie Sadler, who later married the Merchant Taylor Thomas Kirton (buried 21 April 1601). See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, p. 504.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

The testatrix married William Bodley, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/28/311.

By William Bodley, the testatrix had a son and three daughters:

* **Francis Bodley** (d.1566), who married Mercy Collett. For the will of Francis Bodley, see TNA PROB 11/48/415. After Francis Bodley's death, his widow, Mercy, married Thomas Brend (d. 21 September 1598), father of Nicholas Brend, who leased the land on which the Globe theatre was built to William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon and other members of the Lord Chamberlain's Men. For the will of Thomas Brend, see TNA PROB 11/93/316.

For the financial transactions entered into in connection with the Globe playhouse by the testatrix' grandson, Sir John Bodley of Streatham, see TNA C 54/1682, mm. 10-11 and the other documents listed there.

* **Alice Bodley**, who married a London grocer, Lancelot Harrison, and according to the will below predeceased the testatrix. For Lancelot Harrison, see *A Booke of Entries*, (London, 1614), p. 135 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=sh80AQAAMAAJ&pg=RA6-PA135>

* **Katherine Bodley**, who married the London merchant, Vincent Amcotts.

* **Grissell Bodley**.

RM: T{estamentum} Beatricie Bodley

[f. 139r] In the name of God, Amen. The first day of January in the year of Our Lord Jesus Christ a thousand five hundred fifty and six and in the third and fourth years of the reigns of our Sovereign Lord and Lady Philip and Mary by the grace of God King and Queen of England, Spain, France etc., I, Beatrice Bodley of London, widow, late wife of William Bodley, late citizen and grocer of London, deceased, being whole of mind and memory, laud and praise be to Almighty God, make, ordain and dispose this my present testament and last will in manner and form following, that is to say:

First and principally I bequeath and recommend my soul into th' hands of my Maker, Saviour and Redeemer, trusting and faithfully believing through the merits of Christ's most precious passion my sins be clearly forgiven, my body to be buried in the parish of St Botolph's beside Billingsgate of London by the corps of my said late husband if I decease within the city, and if I decease out of this city then to be buried where it shall please God to take me;

And I will that all such debts and duties as I owe of right or in conscience to any person or persons shall within convenient time after my decease be well & truly contented and paid by mine executors under-named without delay or contradiction;

Item, I bequeath to and amongst the poorest people of Walthamstow in the county of Essex ten shillings;

Also I give and bequeath to and amongst the poorest people of Streatham in the county of Surrey ten shillings;

Item, I bequeath to my tenants of Whitecross Street without Cripplegate of London 10d(?) to every house;

Item, I bequeath to Marie Sadler, my god-daughter, a little mazer with a boss in it(?) weighing 5 ounces and a half;

Item, I bequeath to my son-in-law, Vincent Amcottes, and Katherine his wife, my daughter, £4 to make each of them a gown;

Item, I bequeath to the same Katherine, my [f. 139v] daughter, my best kirtle, a furred cassock of cloth or worsted, whether she will, my best bonnet and partlet;

Item, I bequeath to my son-in-law, Lancelot Harrison, and his wife £4 to make each of them a gown;

Item, I bequeath to Marie Harrison, my god-daughter, for her preferment forty pounds of good and lawful money of England to be delivered to her by my executors at the day of her marriage, if she do marry with the consent of her friends; if not, then to be delivered to her when my executors shall think best;

Also I bequeath to the said Marie Harrison 2 pair of fine sheets which be marked with her mark, a gilt cup of bell fashion weighing 25 ounces, 6 silver spoons with small apostles weighing 8 ounces and more, which cup and spoons remain in her father's hands;

More to her, a diaper towel 6 yards long, and more, a fine diaper napkin and a fine double rail;

And if she happen to decease before her marriage, then to remain to Ellis, her brother;

Item, I bequeath to Ellis Harrison, her brother, £6 13s 4d to be paid to him at his lawful age of 21 years, which doth remain in his father's hands;

And if he happen to decease before his lawful age, that then the said £6 13s 4d to remain to Marie, his sister;

Item, I give to the goodwife Birde a little gemew with a red stone;

Item, I bequeath to Nicholas Dowson at th' end of his years of apprenticeship 10s;

Item, I bequeath to Beatrice Hacker(?), my god-daughter, certain things as appeareth by a bill within them;

The residue of all my goods and chattels whatsoever they be after my debts paid, the costs of my burial done, and this my present testament and last will in all things fulfilled, wholly I give and bequeath to the said Francis Bodley, my son;

And of this my present testament and last will, all other heretofore by me made being void and of none effect, I make and ordain the same Francis my full and sole executor;

And overseers of the same I make and ordain my well-beloved brother, John Sadler, and my son-in-law, Vincent Amcottes.

This is the last will of me, the said Beatrice Bodley, made the day and year first abovesaid concerning all my messuages, lands and tenements hereafter expressed and mentioned, that is to say:

First & principally I will that my son, Francis, aforesaid, shall have my 2 messuages or tenements lying and being in the said parish of St Botolph's by Billingsgate, whereof thone is commonly called the Ball in the which John Sikellmore now doth inhabit, and thother is called the Bell, in the which I, the aforesaid Beatrice, now do inhabit and dwell;

And also all that my garden plot lying and being in St Katherine Colman parish by Aldgate of London now in the tenure and occupation of me, the said Beatrice;

And also all that my garden plot now in the tenure of Henry Gardyner;

To have and to hold all the same two messuages or tenements and gardens with th' appurtenances to the same Francis, my son, for term of his life;

And after his decease the same two messuages or tenements and gardens to remain to the Masters and Wardens of the Mystery of the Grocers of the city of London for the space of ten days;

And after the said ten days be expired, then the said messuages or tenements and gardens with th' appurtenances to remain to th' heirs of the body of the said Francis lawfully begotten;

And if it happen the said Francis to decease without issue of his body lawfully begotten, that then the said two messuages or tenements and gardens with th' appurtenances to remain to Vincent Amcottes and Katherine, his wife, and to th' heirs of the said Katherine lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue the remainder thereof to the heirs of Alice Harrison, my late daughter, of her body begotten;

Provided always and my will is that the said Vincent and Katherine, his wife, and their heirs in tail and such other persons after them to whom I have bequeathed the said two messuages or tenements in the parish of St Botolph's aforesaid by this my present will shall yearly pay and distribute from such time as that shall come into their hands and possessions forthwards forever unto poor people, whereas most need shall be, four pounds yearly of the rents, revenues and profits coming out of the said two tenements aforesaid;

Item, I give and bequeath to the same Vincent and Katherine, his wife, and to th' heirs of the same Katherine lawfully begotten, all that my garden plot now in the tenure and occupation of Thomas Howe;

And for lack of heirs of her body, then I will the same garden plot to remain to the said Francis Bodley, my son, and to his heirs forever;

Item, I give and bequeath to the said Vincent Amcottes and Francis Bodley, my son, all that my message or tenement lying and being at Bread Street corner of London;

To have and to hold the same message or tenement with th' appurtenances to the same Vincent and Francis during the term of 7 years next after my decease upon condition following, that is to say, that the said Vincent and Francis or their assigns shall pay or cause to be paid yearly during the said term of 7 years to the Masters & Governors of th' Hospital of Christchurch beside Newgate of London to the relief of the poor there the sum of forty shillings every year to be levied and received of the rents, revenues and profits of the said message or tenement at Bread Street corner;

And also that the same Vincent and Francis or their assigns shall pay or cause to be paid likewise to the Masters and Governors of th' Hospital in Southwark to the relief of the poor there yearly the sum of forty shillings during the said term of 7 years next after my decease, to be levied and received of the rents, revenues and profits of the said message or tenement at Bread Street corner aforesaid;

And also that the said Vincent and Francis shall pay or do to be paid to the poorest people of the parish of St Botolph's aforesaid yearly the sum of ten shillings during the said term of 7 years next after my decease to be levied and received of the rents, revenues and profits of the said message or tenement in Bread Street corner aforesaid;

And the overplus [f. 140r] of the said rent shall be bestowed by the said Vincent and Francis as they shall think best;

And after the said 7 years be expired, then I will the same message to remain to Francis Bodley, my son, and to his heirs forever;

Item, I will that John Siklemore and Agnes, his wife, shall have and enjoy the said house called the Golden Ball during their lives and the longer liver of them, to inhabit and dwell in and upon the same, and paying th' accustomed rent of four pounds by the year and keeping and bearing the reparations of the same, and that it shall not be lawful for the said John or Agnes to let or set the same house to any person or persons without the special licence or consent of the said Francis or his heirs;

In witness whereof to this my present testament and last will I have set to my seal the day and year first above-written. Per me, John Syklemore. Per me, Nicholas Hecker.

Probatum fuit suprascriptu{m} test{amentu}m coram Mag{ist}ro Henrico Cole legu{m} Doctore Curie prerogatiue Cant{uariensis} Custode siue Com{m}issario sede Archiep{isco}pali ib{ide}m tunc vacan{te} Decimo nono Die mens{is} Decembris Anno D{omi}ni Mill{es}imo quingen{tesim}o quinquagesimo octauo Iuramento ffrancisci bodley executoris in h{uius}mo{d}i test{ament}o no{m}i{n}ati Cui com{m}issa fuit admi{n}istrac{i}o om{n}i{um} et sing{u}lor{um} bonor{um} &c De bene et fideliter admi{n}strand{o} eadem Ac de pleno et fideli Inuentario bonor{um} conficiend{o} &c et illud exhibend{o} &c necnon de plano et vero compoto reddend{o} &c Ad sancta dei Eu{a}ngelia Iurat{i}

[=The above-written will was proved before Master Henry Cole, Doctor of the Laws, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury of the archiepiscopal seat there now vacant, on the nineteenth day of the month of December in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty eighth by the oath of Francis Bodley, executor named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well and faithfully administer the same, and to prepare a full and faithful inventory etc., and to exhibit the same etc., and also to render a plain and true account etc.]