

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 23 March 1559 and proved 8 September 1559, of William Newport of Rushock, Worcestershire, uncle of Sir Richard Newport (d. 12 September 1570), owner of a copy of Hall's *Chronicle* containing annotations thought to have been made by Shakespeare. The volume was formerly Loan 61 in the British Library, and is now in the hands of a trustee, Lord Hesketh. See Keen, Alan and Roger Lubbock, *The Annotator*, (London: Putnam, 1954).

For the will of the testator's father, John Newport (d. October 1512), esquire, of High Ercall, Shropshire, see TNA PROB 11/18/166. The testator's mother was Alice Swynnerton, the daughter of Sir Thomas Swynnerton.

For the testator's brothers and sisters, see the will of his father, *supra*. The testator's eldest brother, Thomas Newport, was the father of Sir Richard Newport (see above), the owner of a copy of Hall's *Chronicle* thought to have been annotated by Shakespeare. For the will of the testator's brother, Thomas Newport, see TNA PROB 11/34/176.

The name of the testator's wife is not given in the will below. However the will states that she was buried in the chancel of the church of Saint Cassian in Chaddesley Corbett.

One source states that she was Philippa Boteler, the daughter of William Boteler (c.1450-1509?) and Jane Bachecote, the daughter of John Bachecote of Droitwich. She had two brothers: the elder, John Boteler of Droitwich, married Katherine Blount of Sodington, the daughter of Peter Blount and Anne Cornwall, while the younger, George Boteler, married Mary Throckmorton, the daughter of Richard Throckmorton (d.1547) of Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire, son of Sir Robert Throckmorton (d.1518x20). See the will of Sir Robert Throckmorton, TNA PROB 11/20/25; and Stallard, Jon M., *Butler of Droitwich 1300-1700*, pp. 50-64 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=RYoMXDQdlFEC&pg=PA56&lpg=PA56&dq=%22George+Newport%22+%22Droitwich%22&source=bl&ots=5tdpNN67EG&sig=Ym99bPL5hOmCLuDkB5SMH4Me9i8&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiQjeGF1vLJAhUK5GMKHfHFAisQ6AEIJzAC#v=onepage&q=%22George%20Newport%22%20%22Droitwich%22&f=false>.

The Boteler pedigree records the marriage of William Newport and Philippa Boteler, but appears to place the marriage in the wrong generation. See Phillimore, W.P.W., ed., *The Visitation of Worcestershire 1569*, (London: Harleian Society, 1888), Vol. XXVII, p. 30 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationcount02mundgoog#page/n45/mode/2up>.

In the will below, the testator names two sons:

* George Newport, eldest son and heir, for whose will, dated 18 December 1558 and proved 24 April 1560, see TNA PROB 11/43/258. For a lawsuit by George Newport against the testator which states that George Newport had married Elizabeth Blount, the sister of Thomas Blount, esquire, see TNA C 1/1041/30-31. The testator bequeaths his lease of Rushock to George's son, Thomas Newport (d.1559), for whose will, dated 8 November 1559 and proved 29 November 1559, see TNA PROB 11/42B/695. It thus seems likely that George Newport predeceased the testator, and that the testator's heir was his grandson, Thomas Newport (d.1559), who survived the testator for less than a year, and perhaps for only a few weeks. As noted above, the testator's brother-in-law, John Boteler of Droitwich, is said to have married Katherine Blount, the daughter of Peter Blount of Sodington and Anne Cornwall, and it would appear from the lawsuit, *supra*, that George Newport married Katherine Blount's sister, Elizabeth Blount. See Phillimore, *supra*, pp. 17 and 22 (although in the pedigree on p. 17 his name is erroneously given as 'Thomas' Newport).

* Robert Newport, whom the testator appoints as his executor, and who, according to the will below, married and had issue.

The testator also mentions a daughter, Margaret Crokar, who may be the Margaret Crowker who was a defendant, together with Robert Newport, in a lawsuit brought by John Croker, senior. See TNA C 4/41/49.

The testator names as one of his executors a Margaret Newport, whose relationship to the testator is unclear.

Mary Bedell, mentioned in the will below, is also mentioned in the will of the testator's son, George, *supra*, as a 'cousin'. Fulke Newport is also mentioned in both wills, as is Thomas Moulton/Multon (the latter in both cases being referred to as the testator's servant).

For further details concerning the testator's lease of Rushock, which was held of the Company of Merchant Taylors, see the will, TNA PROB 11/165/424, of Thomas Russell (1570-1634), overseer of the will of William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon; and

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/worcs/vol3/pp203-205#h3-0002>.

See also Clode, Charles M., *The Early History of the Guild of Merchant Taylors, Part II*, (London: Harrisons and Sons, 1883), p. 35 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=WBY5AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA35&lpg=PA35&dq=%22merchant+Taylors%22+%22Rushock%22&source=bl&ots=bguJ-UB2Ei&sig=gsqUEHJzeeh3mv0QibMQTb--HcE&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj8nvTAifPJAhUOxGMKHTuJBZcQ6AEIITAB#v=onepage&q=%22merchant%20Taylors%22%20%22Rushock%22&f=false>

LM: T{estamentum} Will{el}mi Newporte

In n{o}m{i}n{e} Dei amen. Anno D{omi}ni M{i}l{lesim}o CCCCclvijio die vero mensis Marcij vicesimo tercio, I, William Newport of Rushock, generosu{s}, being in perfect mind and memory, make my last will and testament in this manner and form following:

First I bequeath my soul to God Almighty and to his Mother, St Mary, and to all the holy company of heaven, and my body to be buried by my wife in the chancel of Saint Cassian in Chaddesley Corbett;

Item, I bequeath to St Mary house of Worcester 12d;

Item, I bequeath to the maintenance of the service of God in my parish church of Rushock 6s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to Robert Newport, my son, 6 fats of Cassyes, the which he holdeth now of me by indenture, and also two fats of mine own, the which he holdeth of me also by indenture, and also my second best chamber;

Item, I bequeath to my son Robert's children £20 evenly to be divided amongst them;

Item, I bequeath to Thomas Newport, my son George's son, the best chamber in my house and 6 oxen and 6 kine, with a wain and a plough and that that belongeth to them, & a gelding;

Item, I bequeath to Fulke Newport two fats walling, to him and his heirs forever;

Item, I bequeath to John Newport [ADDED IN MARGIN: George Newport's] son, ten marks in money or in cattle;

Item, I bequeath to Margaret Newport, George Newport's daughter, £20;

Item, I bequeath to Elizabeth Newport, Mary Newport, Anne Newport and Jane Newport, £20 evenly to be divided amongst them;

Item, I bequeath to William Ap{er}en(?) £10;

Item, I bequeath to Thomas Multon, my servant, the house that he dwelleth in during his natural life, and also the meadow that he occupieth;

Item, I bequeath to Richard Ambiclar(?) 10s;

Item, I bequeath to William Williams 10s;

Item, I bequeath to every one of my women servants now dwelling with me 6s 8d;

Item, I bequeath to every one of thother of my menservants being above twenty years of age 6s 8d;

Item, I ordain and make Robert Newport, my son, and Margaret Newport that now dwelleth with me my true and lawful executors of this my last will and testament;

Item, I bequeath to Margaret Crokar, my daughter, 6 kine;

Item, I bequeath to Thomas Newport, son and heir to George Newport, my farm of Rushock during his life, and after his life to his heirs male;

Item, I forgive Mary Bedyll [=Bedell] all debts which she oweth to me;

Item, I bequeath to Margaret Paynter, Christian Parkes, Alice Parkes [+and?] Elizabeth Hakeshawe, to every one of these 13s 4d;

Hijs testibus: John Hygyns, clerk and parson there, John Hutton, Thomas Multon, with other.

Probatum fuit suprascriptum Testamentum Coram Mag^{ist}ro Waltero Haddon Legum Doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cantuariensis Custod^e siue Commissario sede Archiepiscopi iam vacante octavo die mensis Septembris Anno domini Mill^{es}imo quingen^{tes}imo quinquagesimo nono Iuramento Justinian Kydd procuratoris Margarete Neuport exec^{utoris} in h^{uius}modi testamento no^miⁿat^e Cui comissa fuit ad^{ministracio} etc Ac de pleno In^{uenta}rio etc Res^{er}uata p^{otes}tate Roberto Nueport executori etiam &c cum venerit Deinde Secundo die mens^{is} octobris Aⁿⁿo 1559 p^{re}d^{ic}to Comissa fuit consimilis administratio bonor^{um} etc Dⁱc^to Roberto Nueporte ex^{ec}utori De bene etc Ac de plene In^{uenta}rio etc Iurat^o

[=The above-written testament was proved before Master Walter Haddon, Doctor of the Laws, Keeper or Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury of the Archiepiscopal seat now vacant, on the eighth day of the month of September in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred fifty-ninth by the oath of Justinian Kydd, proctor of Margaret Newport, executor named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted etc., and a full inventory etc., with power reserved to Robert Newport, executor also etc. when he shall have come, and after, on the second day of the month of October in the year 1559 aforesaid, a similar grant of administration of the goods etc. was made to the said Robert Newport, executor, sworn to well etc., and [+to prepare] a full inventory etc.]