

SUMMARY: The document below is the last will and testament, dated 13 March 1559 (will of lands) and 1 August 1560 (will of goods) and proved 20 December 1560, of Dionyse Leveson (d. 2 December 1560), grandmother of William Leveson (d.1621), who acted as trustee to the Lord Chamberlain's Men, including William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon, in the allocation of shares in the ground lease of the Globe Theatre in 1599. For the will of the testatrix' grandson, William Leveson (d.1621), see TNA PROB 11/137/600.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the Bodley pedigree, see 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>

For the testatrix' coat of arms, which indicates that she was of the same family as the founder of the Bodleian Library, see Sutton, *supra*, p. 208, and '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>

The testatrix was the daughter of Thomas Bodley (d.1492) and Joan Leche (d.1530), daughter of Denis Leche of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire. Her brother, John Leche, was vicar of Saffron Walden from 1489-1521. For the will of the testatrix' father, Thomas Bodley, see TNA PROB 11/9/374. For Joan Leche, see her will, TNA PROB 11/23/272, and the Wikipedia article edited by the author of this website.

After the death of the testatrix' father, the testatrix' mother married Sir Thomas Bradbury (d.1510), who was Lord Mayor of London in 1509. For the will of Sir Thomas Bradbury, see TNA PROB 11/16/90.

Sir Thomas Bradbury's sister, Philippa Bradbury, married John Josselyn of High Roding, Essex, auditor to John de Vere (1442-1513), 13th Earl of Oxford, and one of the executors of the Earl's will. See Sutton, *supra*, p. 211. For the will of John Josselyn, see TNA PROB 11/22/61. For the will of Philippa Bradbury Josselyn, dated 15 October 1530, see ERO D/ABW 21/8.

The testatrix had two brothers and a sister:

* **James Bodley** (will dated 27 October 1514), mercer of Saffron Walden, who married Joan Strachey, the daughter of Thomas Strachey of Saffron Walden. See Sutton, *supra*, p. 227. By Joan Strachey, James Bodley had a daughter, Joan Bodley (d.1584), who

married Guy Crafford (d.1533). For the will of Guy Crafford, see TNA PROB 11/36/76. For Joan Bodley Crafford, see her will, TNA PROB 11/67/367, and:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=646

* **John Bodley**, a monk at St Albans, who had died by 1522.

* **Elizabeth Bodley** (d. between 1526-30), who married William Tyrrell of South Ockendon, Essex, grandson of Sir Thomas Tyrrell (d. 28 March 1477) of Heron. For the will of Sir Thomas Tyrrell, see TNA PROB 11/6/417. By William Tyrrell, Elizabeth Bodley had two sons, Humphrey Tyrrell (d.1549), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/32/613, and John Tyrrell, who died without issue, and three daughters, Mary, Elizabeth and Anne. In the will below the testatrix refers to her 'cousin, Anne Tyrrell'. The testatrix' will below indicates that Anne Tyrrell married firstly a husband surnamed Parkyns, and secondly a husband surnamed Barrett, by whom she had a son, William Barrett, for whom the testatrix makes special provision in the will below.

The testatrix was a first cousin of William 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.1603?), 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). For the will of William Bodley, see TNA PROB 11/28/311.

The testatrix was also a first cousin of Ellis Bodley, parson of St Stephen's, Walbrook. See Sutton, *supra*, p. 211, and the will, TNA PROB 11/32/83, dated 2 September 1547 and proved 17 April 1548, of Ellis Bodley in which he bequeaths gold rings to 'my cousin, Dionyse Leveson', and 'my cousin Butler':

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.

The testatrix was also related by marriage to Sir William Butler, Lord Mayor of London in 1515, whose first wife was the testatrix' first cousin, Isabella Bodley, sister of William Bodley, *supra*. See Sutton, *supra*, p. 234, and the will of Sir William Butler, proved 11 February 1534, TNA PROB 11/25/123, in which he refers to the testatrix as 'my cousin'. See also the will, TNA PROB 11/48/64, of Edward North (c.1504-1564), 1st Baron North, whose second wife, Margaret Butler (d. 2 June 1575), was the niece of Sir William Butler. See also the will of Margaret Butler, TNA PROB 11/57/602.

For the testatrix, see also:

http://www.tudorwomen.com/?page_id=646

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

The testatrix married Nicholas Leveson (d. 20 August 1539), by whom she had eight sons and ten daughters. For his will, see TNA PROB 11/27/552.

In the will of the testatrix' husband, four sons, John, Thomas, Nicholas and William, and five daughters Grisell, Joan (or Jane), Alice, Mary and Dionyse are mentioned.

Only three sons and three daughters were living when the testatrix made her will:

* **Thomas Leveson** (d.1576), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/58/397. He married Ursula Gresham, to whom the testatrix bequeaths £10 for a jewel in the will below.

* **Nicholas Leveson** (d.1568), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/50/162.

* **William Leveson** (d.1593), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/82/143.

* **Alice Leveson** (d. 8 April 1561), who married Sir William Hewett (d. 25 January 1567), Lord Mayor of London, by whom she had a daughter, Anne Hewett, who married Sir Edward Osborne (d. 4 February 1592). See his will, TNA PROB 11/49/81, and:

<http://www.rotherhamweb.co.uk/h/whewett.htm>

See also the *ODNB* entries, and Waters, Robert Edmond Chester, *Genealogical Memoirs of the Extinct Family of Chester of Chicheley*, (London: Robson and Sons, 1878), Vol. I, pp. 225-30 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/genealogicalmem01wategoog#page/n262/mode/2up>

* **Mary Leveson** (living 1581) who married Edmund Calthorpe, brother of Sir Martin Calthorpe (d.1589), Lord Mayor of London. See 'The Visitation of Norfolk in the Year 1563, Vol. II', in *Norfolk Archaeology*, Vol. XII, (Norwich: Agas H. Goose, 1895), p. 442 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=ioc9AAAAIAAJ&pg=PA442>

* **Dionyse Leveson**, who married a husband surnamed Street.

The testatrix was predeceased by three daughters:

* **Grisell Leveson**, who married John Sadler, Master of the Drapers' Company, and alderman of London. See:

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

John Sadler made his will, in which he left the testatrix 'a ring of fine gold', as 'John Sadler of Edelmeton [=Edmonton], Middlesex', on 28 June 1559. See TNA PROB 11/43/538.

* **Jane Leveson**, second wife of Ralph Davenant (d.1552), whose children the testatrix mentions in the will below. See his will, TNA PROB 11/36/30, which contains bequests to the testatrix and several members of the Leveson family, and his inquisition post mortem at 'Inquisitions: 1 & 2 Philip and Mary (1553-55)', *Abstracts of Inquisitiones Post Mortem for the City of London: Part 1* (1896), pp. 126-135, at:

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=65873>

* **(blank) Leveson**, who married a husband surnamed Vaughan, whose daughter, Dionyse Vaughan, is mentioned in the will below as the testatrix' god-daughter. A William Vaughan, draper, witnessed the 1568 will of the testatrix' son, Nicholas Leveson.

For further particulars of the testatrix' family see Overall, W.H., 'Notes on Two Monumental Brasses in the Church of Saint Andrew-Under-Shaft, Leadenhall Street', in *Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society*, Vol. IV, pp. 287-96 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=qzYGAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA288>

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

For the testatrix' friend, Sir John Southcote (d. 18 April 1585), see the History of Parliament entry at:

<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1509-1558/member/southcote-john-ii-151011-85>

See also the pedigree of Southcote in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex*, (London: Harleian Society, 1878), Vol. XIII, p. 491 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=JyjuAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA491>

The testatrix' friend, Lady Dorothy Brooke, was Dorothy (nee Gatacre), the second wife of Sir Robert Broke (d.1558), judge, legal writer, and Speaker of the House of Commons. See the *ODNB* entry for Sir Robert Broke.

The testatrix' friend, 'Lady Dormer of London', was Katherine (nee Dallam) Collier Pakington Dormer, the widow of Sir Michael Dormer, Lord Mayor. For her will, see TNA PROB 11/46/47.

The testatrix' friend and 'cousin, Joan Crafford, was Joan Strachey, the daughter of the testatrix' brother, James Bodley (d.1514), mercer of Saffron Waldon, Essex, by his wife, Joan Strachey, the daughter of Thomas Strachey of Saffron Waldon. She married Guy Crafford (d.1533), esquire, by whom she had several children. See the pedigree in Sutton, *supra*; the will of Guy Crafford, TNA PROB 11/36/76; and the will of Joan (nee Strachey) Crafford, TNA PROB 11/67/367, in which she leaves a bequest to her son-in-law, Thomas Colshill, who is also mentioned by the testatrix in the will below.

For the testatrix' brother-in-law, James Leveson, see his will, TNA PROB 11/31/655. The testatrix' executor, Edward Leveson, would appear to be James Leveson's son of that name.

The testatrix' friend and overseer, Henry Plankney, had licence to marry Katherine Johnson on 27 November 1545. See Armytge, George J., ed., *Allegations for Marriage Licences Issued from the Office of the Archbishop of Canterbury at London 1543 to 1869*, (London: Harleian Society, 1886), Vol. XXIV< p. 5 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=UyW2dmm1108C&pg=PA5>

He was a kinsman of Henry Plankney (d.1535), Merchant of the Staple and Mayor of Calais, for whose will see TNA PROB 11/25/376.

RM: T{estamentum} Dionisie Leveson

[f. 463r] In the name of God, Amen. The first day of August in the year of Our Lord God 1560 and in the second year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc., I, Dionyse Leveson, widow, late the wife of Nicholas Leveson, late citizen & mercer of the city of London and Merchant of the Staple, whose soul Jesus pardon, being of good and perfect memory, laud and praise be therefore unto Almighty God, do make & ordain this my present testament and last will in manner and form following, that is [f. 463v] to wit:

First and principally I give and recommend my soul unto Almighty God, my Maker and Redeemer, and to Our Blessed Lady St Mary, and unto all the holy company of heaven;

And my body to be buried in the parish church of Saint Andrew Undershaft in the city of London aforesaid in the middle aisle of the same church at the end of the pew that I commonly use to kneel in;

Item, I will that my body be not cered, but enclosed after a convenient manner within a coffin of boards, and so buried as abovesaid by the discretion of my executors;

And I will that my said executors shall provide and buy to occupy at my burial one dozen of staff-torches with such other lights as they shall think meet and convenient and as the time shall then require;

And I bequeath to 12 poor men and householders dwelling within the parish of Saint Andrew Undershaft, to every one of them a black gown, price 5s the yard;

And my will is that my executors shall have all the parishioners of the said parish of St Andrew Undershaft at my dwelling-house in Lime Street in London, as well the poor as other, within 2 days next after my burial, and there shall make to them a convenient dinner;

Item, I bequeath to 16 poor widows dwelling in the said parish of St Andrew Undershaft to pray for my soul 16 black gowns at 5s the yard, and also I bequeath to every of the said poor widows one ell of linen cloth at 2s the ell to make every of them a kerchief;

Item, I bequeath towards th' exhibition of poor scholars in the University of Cambridge where my sons late went to school £6 13s 4d, the same to be bestowed and distributed by the discretion of my executors within one year next after my decease;

Also I give and bequeath towards th' exhibition of poor scholars in the University of Oxford £6 13s 4d, the same to be likewise bestowed and distributed by the discretion of my executors within the said one year next after my decease;

Item, I bequeath unto the reparation and amending of the highways at Islington and here about London £20, which sum of £20 I will shall be bestowed accordingly by the discretion of my executors within one year next after my decease;

Also I bequeath £6 13s 4d to be distributed for my soul by my executors within one year next after my decease unto the discharging out of prison of such poor prisoners which shall then remain in Newgate and the 2 Counters in London only for their fees;

Item, I bequeath £6 13s 4d to be distributed amongst the poor householders of the said parish of St Andrew Undershaft by the discretion of my executors at Easter, Whit Sunday and Christmas next after my decease, that is to wit, to every of the said householders 4d at a time;

Item, I give and bequeath to the poor people of St Bartholomew's Spital £6 13s 4d to be paid within one year next after my decease to the governors of the same house;

Item, I give and bequeath 20s to be distributed in alms amongst the poor householders of the parish of Halling in Kent within one month next after my decease, and other 20s to be likewise distributed unto the poor householders of Cuxton parish in Kent;

Item, I bequeath to every of these wives underwritten dwelling in Cuxton aforesaid an ell of linen cloth, price 3s 4d the ell, to make every of them a kerchief, that is to wit, Baynard's wife, Lyndall's wife, Cosens' wife the younger and late wife of Richard Allett;

Item, I will that my executors shall upon my costs and charges keep my house in London for all my servants with meat and drink for them one month next after my decease, or else unto they do otherwise provide for themselves;

Item, I will that no black gowns be given for me unto any other person than unto the poor people above expressed and unto certain other hereinafter named in this my present last will and testament, that is to say, unto my friend John Southcote, serjeant at law, and unto my executors of this my last will and testament and to their wives, [f. 464r] and unto the other of my children and their husbands and wives, unto every of which persons and to my said executors and their wives and also my other children, their husbands and wives, I bequeath a black gown cloth, the price to be 16s the yard or thereabouts;

And I bequeath to every of my household servants in London being in my service at the time of my decease a black gown cloth of 9s price the yard;

And I bequeath 2 coat cloths of the same cloth, the one to Thomas Sheppard and thother to John Alday, and also I bequeath to either of them 2 10s to pray for my soul, summa 20s;

Item, I bequeath to my neighbour, Mr Swallow, and to his wife, to either of them a honest black gown cloth;

Item, I bequeath to Henry Edis and his wife, to either of them a black gown cloth;

And to all other my tenants in Lime Street, to every of them a black coat cloth;

Item, I bequeath to Henry Allen the younger a black coat cloth and 20s in money;

Item, I bequeath to Byrden Hayes, John Byddyll, Romney and to old Nayle, my tenants, to every of them a coat cloth of 9s the yard, and to every of them 3s 4d in money;

And I will that 4 of my said tenants shall bear my body to church;

Also I bequeath to John Fallowfelde, my apprentice, £20 to be employed by my executors in wool or fell at the next shipping after my decease unto the use of my said apprentice if there be any shipping within one month next after my decease; if not, then my said executors to deliver the said sum of £20 to the said John Fallowfelde within one month next after my decease to bestow to his most advantage;

Item, I bequeath to my cousin Coldewell and Dionyse, his wife, to either of them a black gown cloth;

Item, I bequeath unto my cousin, Anne Butler, £10 to be paid to her at the day of her marriage;

Item, I bequeath unto Thomas Hewett, cloth-worker, Edward Osborne, and to Lewes the tailor dwelling within Aldersgate in London, to every of them a gown cloth;

Item, I give and bequeath to Mrs Fisher a black gown cloth of the value of 20s, and 10s in money;

Item, I give and bequeath to William Barrett, son of my cousin, Anne Tyrrell, sometimes Parkyns' wife, deceased, £20, the same to be delivered immediately after my decease by my executors to my son, William Leveson, to keep for the said William until he come to his full age of 21 years;

And I will that from and immediately after my decease my said son, William Leveson, shall find the said William [Barrett] meat, drink, learning and all other necessaries during his minority, and also I will that my executors shall pay to my said son, William Leveson, towards the finding of the said William [Barrett] yearly after my decease until he, the said William [Barrett] shall accomplish th' age of 14 years, five pounds;

And I will that when he, the said William [Barrett], shall accomplish th' age of 14 years, that then my said son, William Leveson, shall take him to his apprentice, and bring him up in such trade of merchandise as my said son, William Leveson, now useth;

And when the said William [Barrett] shall come forth of his apprenticeship or accomplish th' age of 21 years, then my said son, William Leveson, his executors, administrators or assigns, shall bestow in wool or fell to and for the only use of the said William [Barrett] the said sum of £20;

And if it happen the said William [Barrett] to decease before he shall come to and accomplish th' age of 21 years, then as now and now as then I will that the said £20 shall be divided amongst the children of my son, William [f. 464v] Street and of my daughter Dionyse, his wife;

And I bequeath to Dionyse, the girl of my kitchen, 40s to be paid to her the day of her marriage if she keep herself honest and true;

Also I bequeath to Robert Allen, tailor, and Joan, his wife, to either of them a black gown cloth of the value of 20s;

Item, I bequeath to every of these persons next hereafter written a plain ring of gold of the value of 40s to wear for a remembrance of me, that is to wit, to my son, William Hewett, my son, Edmund Calthorpe, my son, William Street, and my said friend, John Southcote, to my sons Thomas Leveson, Nicholas Leveson and William Leveson;

Also I bequeath unto every of my daughters a ring of gold of the value of 30s for a like remembrance;

Also I will and bequeath unto every of those my loving friends hereafter written a ring of [-of] gold of the value of 30s, that is to wit, unto the Lady Dorothy Broke, late wife of Sir Robert Broke, knight; to the Lady Dormer of London; to my cousin, Jane Crafford; to my cousin, Thomas Colshill and to his wife, either of them a ring; to the wife of Allen Wood of Snodland, deceased; to my gossip Hewett, brother to my son [=son-in-law], William Hewett; and Edward Osborne;

Also I will that all and every the rings above bequeathed be made like flat hoops and with convenient speed immediately after my decease, and to be given at my month's mind at the farthest, and that within every of the said rings be engraven *See ye forget not me*;

And I bequeath to every of my children's children living at the day of my decease £10 towards their marriages, except Anne Hewett and Dionyse Vaughan, and also except the children of my son, Thomas Leveson, and except my daughter Davenant's children, unto every of which Davenant's children I give a gold ring of 30s, and also I bequeath unto every of the children of my said son, Thomas Leveson, now being born £20 apiece;

And my will is that if it happen any of my said children's children to whom I have given £10 apiece as is aforesaid to die or decease before their lawful ages of 21 years or days of marriages, that then the survivor or survivors of them, being brothers or sisters or brother or sister to them deceased, shall have and enjoy their parts so deceased equally among them to be divided;

Also I bequeath to my god-daughter, Anne Hewett, one hundred marks to be paid to her by my executors at the day of her marriage;

Item, I bequeath to Dionyse Vaughan, my god-daughter, £40;

Also I give and bequeath to my god-daughter, Dionyse Calthorpe, daughter to my daughter, Mary Calthorpe, over and besides the £10 to her bequeathed, £60 to be delivered to her at the day of her marriage or at th' age of 18 years by the discretion of mine executors, and John Fallowfeeld, my servant, to keep the same money until her said marriage or age, finding good sureties for the payment thereof if he live so long; if not, then my executors to keep the same unto her said marriage or age of 18 years as aforesaid;

Item, I bequeath yearly to the said Dionyse Calthorpe five marks of lawful money of England to be paid to her yearly by mine executors towards her finding and godly bringing up until the time of her said marriage or age of 18 years;

Item, I give and bequeath to my cousin[s], Arthur Crafford, Nicholas Crafford and Edward Crafford, £10 to be paid to them equally and quarterly by forty shillings until the same be fully paid;

Also I bequeath to my cousin, Joan Crafford, £20;

Also I bequeath to my said cousin Colshill and his wife, either of them a black gown;

Item, to my servant, John Munden, £6 13s 4d;

Also I bequeath to Walter Dawnks, my late servant, 40s and a coat cloth, and release and forgive unto him the five pounds that he oweth me by bill;

Item, I bequeath to every of my other servants in London being in my service at the time of my decease 20s;

Item, I bequeath to every of my servants being at Halling and in my service at the day of my decease 3s 4d in money;

Also I give and bequeath to my son, Thomas Leveson, all my household stuff and brewing vessels whatsoever at my house at Halling in Kent;

And I [f. 465r] will that all my corn, grain, hay and cattle and all other my goods and chattels whatsoever they by [=be] remaining at Halling and Cuxton in the said county of Kent, except my said household stuff, shall be praised and sold by my executors for and towards the performance of this my present last will and testament except my three best kine there, which three kine I bequeath, the one cow to one (blank) Gose, and another cow to John Dawebury, servant, and the third to Thomas Sheppard;

Item, I bequeath to my daughter, Dame Alice Hewett, my tun of silver and gilt that Dame Jane Bradbury, my mother, gave to me, and also a standing cup of silver and gilt with 14 pearls and wrought with flowers upon it, and my chain of gold with wreaths;

Item, I bequeath to Edmund Calthorpe £20 of lawful money of England to be paid to him by mine executors immediately after my decease;

Item, I bequeath to every of the sons of my brother [=brother-in-law], James Leveson, a ring of gold of the value of 40s;

Item, I bequeath to Henry Plankney a black gown cloth and a ring of gold of the value of 30s for the good friendship and diligence that I have found in him;

Item, I bequeath to Jenkins the tailor dwelling in Philpot Lane a black gown cloth;

Item, I give and bequeath to Roger Barney a black gown cloth;

Item, I give and bequeath all my rings and chains of gold and all other my jewels whatsoever they be except before given, and all my wearing apparel, to my daughters,

Dionyse Street and Mary Calthorpe, to be divided among them equally, portion and portion like, immediately after my decease;

Also I bequeath to my daughter [=daughter-in-law] Thomas Leveson his wife £10 to buy her such a jewel as she thinketh convenient to pray for my soul;

Item, I give and bequeath to my daughter, Mary Calthorpe, the bedstead and all the bedding, hangings, chests and all other stuff, implements of household, goods and chattels whatsoever they be now being in the tower chamber within my house in Lime Street in London, in which chamber the said Mary commonly useth to lie;

Item, I bequeath more unto my said daughter, Mary Calthorpe, the bedstead and all the bedding whatsoever it be in the chamber where I, the said Dionyse Leveson, do commonly use to lie, except hangings of the same chamber, which hangings I bequeath to my son, Thomas Leveson;

Item, I bequeath to my said son, Thomas Leveson, all the hangings, curtains, ceilings and portals in my parlour and hall in Lime Street aforesaid, and four tables there, that is to wit, the 2 best tables in the parlour and the 2 best tables in the hall, and all the bedsteads, hangings, cupboards and testers of beds in the great chamber where the chapel is, and in the chamber called Mr Roper's chamber, being the next chamber to the said great chamber, and all the hangings in every of my other chambers in Lime Street aforesaid except all those hangings in the tower chamber which I have before given to my said daughter, Mary Calthorpe;

Item, I give to my son, William Leveson, all the bedding and other stuff whatsoever in the chamber where the said William commonly useth to lie within my house in London;

Also I bequeath to the Company of the Mercers in London £10 to make them a breakfast or other banquet as it shall please the Master and Wardens to appoint within one month next after my decease;

And I make and ordain my well-beloved son-in-law, Sir William Hewett, knight and alderman of London, my cousin, Edward Leveson, and John Southcote, serjeant at law, my executors of this my present testament, and I bequeath to every of them for his labour in that behalf £20 of current money of England;

And I make and ordain my sons, Thomas Leveson, Nicholas Leveson and William Leveson, and my son-in-law, William Street, and Henry Plankney, supervisors or overseers of the same with as much authority as can be devised for overseers to have, and I give and bequeath to every of my said overseers or supervisors £20 apiece for their pains to see this my present testament faithfully and truly performed, executed and done;

The residue of all and singular my goods, chattels, household stuff, plate and other movables whatsoever they be, my debts, funerals and legacies being performed & paid & this my present testament and last will in all points being performed, I fully and wholly

give to Thomas Leveson, Nicholas Leveson and William Leveson, my sons, and to my daughters, Dionyse Street and Mary Calthorpe equally and indifferently amongst [f. 456v] them to be divided by the oversight of mine executors or the survivor of them;

And also I will that if any of my sons do attempt to break my [sic?] part of their father's will or if [sic?] this my present testament and last will by suit in the law, entry, action or seizure, that then the same child so offending shall take no legacy, benefit ne profit by this my present testament and last will, anything herein above expressed to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding;

And I, the said Dionyse Leveson, do utterly revoke and annul all and every other former testaments, legacies, bequests, executors and overseers by me in any wise before this time made, named, willed and bequeathed concerning my goods, and I will that this my present testament shall stand, remain and abide only for my very testament concerning my goods, together with all the legacies, bequests, executors and overseers by me herein made, named, willed and bequeathed, and none other ne otherwise;

In witness whereof to this my present testament I, the said Dionyse Leveson, have put my seal, given the day and year above-written in the presence of us whose names be hereunder written called as witnesses thereunto, Henry Edes' mark, John Fallowfelde, William Welsh.

To all Christian people to whom this present writing shall come, Dionyse Leveson, widow, late wife of Nicholas Leveson, citizen and mercer of London and Merchant of the Staple, deceased, sendeth greeting in Our Lord God everlasting;

Know all people that I, the said Dionyse Leveson, by these presents do make, ordain and constitute my last will concerning my lands, tenements and hereditaments hereunder written in manner and form following, that is to say:

I will and bequeath unto my right trusty and well-beloved friends, Sir William Hewett, knight, alderman of London and now Lord Mayor of the said city, my cousin, Edward Leveson, and John Southcote, serjeant at law, and to their heirs forever all and singular my lands, tenements, meadows, leasows, pastures, feedings, woods, rents, reversions, suits and services and other my hereditaments whatsoever with all and singular their appurtenances set, lying and being at Stamfield Hill in the parish of Tottenham in the county of Middlesex or elsewhere in the said parish which I late purchased and bought of Jasper Fessante;

And I will that the said Sir William Hewett, Edward Leveson and John Southcote or the survivor or survivors of them shall bargain and sell the said lands, tenements and other the premises with their appurtenances to such as will give most money for the same, and the money thereof coming and to be received I will that the same shall go and be employed by mine executors for and towards the performance of my last will and testament touching and concerning my goods and chattels;

Also I will, give and bequeath to William Leveson, my son, all that my manor of West Court with th' appurtenances and all those my four meses, four tofts, 200 acres of land, one hundred acres of meadow, 200 acres of pasture, 40 acres of wood and 8s 10d of rent with th' appurtenances in West Court, Gillingham, Chatham and Horsenden in the county of Kent, to have and to hold all and singular the said manor, lands, tenements and other the premises with the appurtenances last before expressed to the said William Leveson and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue of the body of the said William Leveson lawfully begotten, I will that the same manor and other the premises with their appurtenances last before expressed shall remain to Thomas Leveson and John Leveson, son of Thomas Leveson, my son and heir, and to their heirs forever;

And I give, will and bequeath to the said William Leveson, my son, all that my mese or tenement with th' appurtenances set, lying and being in Lime Street in London and now in the tenure and occupation of one Henry Edys, with all shops, cellars, sollars, chambers and other th' appurtenances thereunto belonging, to have and to hold all the said mese or tenement and all other the premises with th' appurtenances now in the tenure of the said Henry Edys to the said William Leveson and his heirs forever, to [f. 466r] th' intent that the said William and his heirs shall suffer Mary Calthorpe, my daughter, during her life to dwell and inhabit in the said mese or tenement and to take to her own use all advantages and profits thereof and of all other the premises with th' appurtenances thereto belonging freely and without paying any rent or other thing for the same during her life, or else shall yearly pay or cause to be paid to the said Mary Calthorpe during her life at her election all such yearly rent as the said mese or tenements and other the premises thereto belonging shall or may then be let at without fraud or covin;

And I will that the said Henry Edis shall not be put out of the said tenement under one year's warning;

And further I will and bequeath to the said Thomas Leveson, the son of Thomas Leveson, my son, for and towards his finding, all that my capital mese, barn, stable, garden and orchard with their appurtenances set, lying and being at Limehouse in the county of Middlesex, and all my land, meadow and pasture with th' appurtenances in Limehouse aforesaid, to have and to hold the said capital mese and all other the premises with th' appurtenances in Limehouse aforesaid to the said Thomas Leveson, the son of the said Thomas Leveson, my son, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten;

And for default of such issue I will the same to remain to my son, Thomas Leveson, his father, and to his heirs forever;

And I give, will and bequeath to the said Thomas Leveson, my son, all the site of the late chapel of Saint Lawrence in Halling in the county of Kent, and all my meses, lands, tenements and hereditaments in Uphalling [=Upper Halling], Nether Halling and Snodland to the said chapel belonging, and all my interest, state and title which I have of

and in the same, and all my interest, state, title, possession and term of years which I have to come of and in all that parcel of land called the Welde set lying and being in the parish of Nether Halling in the said county of Kent which containeth by estimation eight acres more or less, and all that parcel of land called the Combe set, lying and being upon and adjoining unto Wyngate Hill in the said parish of Halling, which 2 parcels of land I have and hold by lease for term of certain years yet enduring under the yearly rent of 20s by year;

Also I give, devise, will and bequeath to the said Thomas Leveson, my son, all my interest, state, title, possession and term of years of and in the meses, tenements and land hereafter expressed, that is to say, which I have to come of and in all that mese, tenement and garden with th' appurtenances set, lying and being in the said parish of Halling in the said county of Kent, which mese, tenement and garden I have and hold by lease for term of certain years enduring under the yearly rent of 4s by year;

And all my interest, state, title, possession and term of years which I have yet to come of and in one piece of marshland in Halling aforesaid containing by estimation one acre and a half, which piece of marshland I likewise have and hold by lease for term of certain years yet enduring under the yearly rent of 2s by year;

And all my interest, state, title, possession and term of years which I have yet to come of & in all that ground, land and wood called Priests' Down which I have and hold for term of certain years enduring under the yearly rent of 12s by year;

To have and hold all the said mese, tenement, garden, marshland, ground, wood and other the premises with the appurtenances which I so have in lease and all my interest, state, title, possession and term of years of and in the same unto the said Thomas Leveson, my said son, unto the end and term of all the residue of the years yet to come of and in the same;

In witness whereof I, the said Dionyse Leveson, to this my present will concerning the premises have put my seal the 13 day of March in the first year of the reign of our sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith etc.

This will was sealed and subscribed by the said Dionyse Leveson in the presence of us whose names are hereunder written, being called as witnesses thereunto, Henry Edis' mark, John Fallowfelde, William Welshe.

Probatum fuit h{uius}mo{d}i Testamentum vnacu{m} vltima voluntati eiusdem annex{a}(?) vicesimo die Mensis Decembris Anno Domini mill{es}imo quingentesimo sexagesimo Iuramento Will{el}mi Hewet mi{li}t{is} Edwardi Leveson et Iohannis Suthcote s{er}uic{ti} ad legem executorum in h{uius}mo{d}i Testamento nominatorum in persona Petri Iohnson procuratoris sui etc Quibus comissa fuit administrac{i}o etc de

bene etc ac de pleno Inventario Necnon de vero et plano computo reddend{o} Ad sancta Dei Evangelia Iurat{is}

[=The same testament was proved, together with the annexed last will of the same, on the twentieth day of the month of December in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixtieth by the oath of William Hewett, knight, Edward Leveson, and John Southcote, serjeant at law, executors named in the same testament, in the person of Peter Johnson, their proctor etc., to whom administration was granted etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc., and to [+prepare] a full inventory, and also to render a true and plain account.]