

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 22 June 1561 and proved 26 July 1561, of Walter Marler (d. 22 June 1561), whose brother (or nephew) invested with Oxford in the Frobisher voyages of 1576-1578, and whose widow resided for many years in Oxford's former mansion at London Stone and was the stepmother of Daniel Nicholas, a witness in the Belott v Mountjoy lawsuit who is stated therein to have had a personal conversation with William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon.

The Marler family's connection to Kent suggests that the playwright, Christopher Marlowe, may have been a relation. The family surname is spelled variously Marler, Marlar, Marley, Marloe, Marlowe etc.

CONNECTION TO OXFORD

Anthony Marler (either the testator's brother or nephew) was an investor with Oxford in the Frobisher voyages of 1576-1578 in which Oxford suffered heavy losses. See TNA E 164/36, pp. 171-3, TNA E 164/36, pp. 317-23, and TNA SP 12/126/56, ff. 166-7.

For many years the testator's widow, Elizabeth (nee Shakerley) Elkyn Marler Nicholas (d.1583), resided in Oxford's former mansion at London Stone, which her third husband, Sir Ambrose Nicholas (d.1578), purchased from Oxford. See the will of Sir Ambrose Nicholas, TNA PROB 11/60/296:

First I will, and my mind and intent is, that all the great capital messuage or mansion-house wherein I do now inhabit and dwell, sometime or of late commonly called or known by the name of Oxenforth Place. . . situate, lying, and being in the parish of St. Swithin near unto London Stone aforesaid, together with the advowson or right of patronage of the parish church of St. Swithin aforesaid, all which I lately purchased and bought to me, my heirs and assigns, forever of the right honourable Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxenforth. . . .

Sir Ambrose Nicholas purchased the mansion from Oxford in 1573, as evidenced by a recognizance for purposes of indemnification given by Oxford to Nicholas in that year in the amount of £2000 (see TNA PRO 30/34/14 and TNA C 54/922, Part 27). Sir John Harte (d.1604) may have purchased the mansion from the executors of Sir Ambrose Nicholas, or there may have been intermediate purchasers. Both men kept their mayoralties there, Sir Ambrose Nicholas in 1575-6, and Sir John Harte in 1589-90:

On the north side of this church [=St. Swithin's] and churchyard is one fair and large built house, sometime pertaining to the prior of Tortington in Sussex, since to the Earls of Oxford, and now to Sir John Hart, alderman, which house hath a fair garden belonging thereunto, lying on the west side thereof. On the back side of two other fair houses in Walbrook, in the reign of Henry VII, Sir Richard Empson, knight, chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster, dwelt in the one of them, and Edmond Dudley, esquire, in the other; either

of them had door of intercourse into this garden, wherein they met and consulted of matters at their pleasures. In this Oxford place Sir Ambrose Nicholas kept his mayoralty, and since him the said Sir John Hart.

On the south side of this high street, near unto the channel, is pitched upright a great stone called London stone, fixed in the ground very deep, fastened with bars of iron, and otherwise so strongly set, that if carts do run against it through negligence, the wheels be broken, and the stone itself unshaken.

The cause why this stone was set there, the time when, or other memory hereof, is none, but that the same hath long continued there is manifest, namely since (or rather before) the Conquest. . . .

See Thoms, William J., ed., *A Survey of London Written in the Year 1598 by John Stow*, (London: Whittaker, 1842), pp. 84-5 at:

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=hvd.32044021198916&view=1up&seq=106>

For Sir John Harte's will, proved 23 January 1604, in which he leaves a life estate in the mansion to his second wife, Anne (nee Haynes) Hudson Cage Harte (d.1625), see TNA PROB 11/103/59.

CONNECTION TO WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE OF STRATFORD UPON AVON

The testator's widow, Elizabeth (nee Shakerley) Elkyn Marler Nicholas (d.1583), was the stepmother of Daniel Nicholas, who was a witness in the *Belott v Mountjoy* lawsuit, and is stated therein to have had a personal conversation with William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon. See TNA REQ 4/1/3 on this website. See also Nicholl, Charles, *The Lodger Shakespeare; His Life on Silver Street*, (New York: Viking, 2008), p. 64:

Sir Ambrose Nicholas, a salter by trade, served as Lord Mayor in 1575-6. He died a couple of years later, so Shakespeare would not have known him, but he certainly knew his son, Daniel Nicholas (born about 1560). This was the friend of Stephen Belott, who testified in 1612 that he had visited Shakespeare 'to understand the truth' about the disputed dowry.

See also the facsimile of Daniel Nicholas' deposition on the Shakespeare Documented website at:

<https://shakespearedocumented.folger.edu/exhibition/document/bellott-v-mountjoy-first-set-depositions-bellotts-behalf-including-shakespeares>

Witnesses in this first round of depositions were to answer a list of five questions, called interrogatories, on behalf of Bellott, the complainant. The third interrogatory asked whether the defendant did send "anie person" to persuade the plaintiff to marry the

defendant's daughter Mary. The first two deponents, Joan Johnson and Daniel Nicholas, identify that person as "Mr Shakespeare," while the third deponent, William Shakespeare himself, agreed that he had played that role. . . .

The second witness was Daniel Nicholas, gentleman, of the parish of St. Alphage, Cripplegate, 52 years of age. Nicholas' deposition is now bound third. Nicholas asserts that he "herd" one William Shakespeare say that he had been involved in persuading the plaintiff to marry the defendant's daughter. Nicholas thus reports hear-say evidence rather than testifying from his own knowledge. But what he heard, he heard from William Shakespeare personally, who told him that £50 and "certain household stuff" were promised to Bellott as a dowry. (Nicholas was also interrogated in the second round of depositions, where he is identified as 62 years of age.)

FAMILY BACKGROUND

For the Marler family of Essex, see Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex*, (London: Harleian Society, 1878), Vol. XIII, p. 74 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=0m1KAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA74>

Testator's parents

The testator was the third son of the London haberdasher, William Marler (d.1527), and his wife, Alice (buried 14 September 1544). See the will of William Marler, proved 17 July 1527, TNA PROB 11/23/2; the will of Alice Marler, proved 9 October 1544, TNA PROB 11/30/216; and:

D J Keene and Vanessa Harding, 'Index of Persons - M', in *Historical Gazetteer of London Before the Great Fire Cheapside; Parishes of All Hallows Honey Lane, St Martin Pomary, St Mary Le Bow, St Mary Colechurch and St Pancras Soper Lane* (London, 1987), *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/no-series/london-gazetteer-pre-fire/m> [accessed 22 July 2019].

Testator's siblings

According to his father's will, the testator had two brothers and two sisters:

-**Anthony Marler** (living 1561), eldest son, haberdasher of London, the longest serving London agent of the Muscovy Company in the sixteenth century. See:

McDermott, James, *Martin Frobisher; Elizabethan Privateer*, (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2001), p. 165 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=YeMcPYIKNYUC&pg=PA165>

Anthony Marler married Elizabeth Gonson, the daughter of the naval administrator, William Gonson (d.1544). See the *ODNB* entry for William Gonson, and the Marler pedigree in Hovenden, Robert, ed., *The Visitation of Kent, Taken in the Years 1619-1621*, (London: Harleian Society, 1898), Vol. XLII, pp. 165-6 at:

<https://archive.org/details/visitationofkent00camd/page/164>

See also the Gonson pedigree in Howard, Joseph Jackson, ed., *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, Vol. I, Second Series, (London: Mitchell and Hughes, 1888), p. 124 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=WVRIAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA124>

According to the will below, the testator's brother, Anthony Marler, was the father of seven children by 1561:

(1) George Marler, eldest son. He is mentioned in the will below, and is said to have died without issue. See the Marler pedigree in Hovenden, *supra*, p. 166.

The baptisms of five other children of Anthony Marler are recorded in the parish register of St Mary le Bow:

(2) William Marler (baptized 27 October 1539), about whom nothing further is known. For his baptism, see Bannerman, W. Bruce, ed., *The Registers of St. Mary le Bowe, Cheapside, All Hallows, Honey Lane, and of St. Pancras, Soper Lane, London; Part I: Baptisms and Burials*, (London: Harleian Society, 1914), Vol. XLIV, p. 1 at:

<https://archive.org/details/registerstofstmar44stma/page/n13>

(3) Bennet Marler (baptized 25 December 1540). See Bannerman, *supra*, p. 1. She is said to have died unmarried.

(4) Anthony Marler (baptized 6 June 1544, d.1600?). For his baptism, see Bannerman, *supra*, p. 2. He married Anne Lawrence, by whom he had two sons and three daughters. See the Marler pedigree in Hovenden, *supra*, p. 166, and his will, TNA PROB 11/95/11.

(5) Elizabeth Marler (baptized 8 July 1545). See Bannerman, *supra*, p. 3.

(6) Benjamin Marler (baptized 14 October 1546). See Bannerman, *supra*, p. 3. He is said to have died young.

According to the Marler pedigree in Hovenden, *supra*, p. 166, Anthony Marler had another son:

(7) **Edward Marler** (baptized 20 January 1551) of Devon, who is said to have had two daughters by a daughter of Nicholas Slanning. See Bannerman, *supra*, p. 4.

For the career of the testator's brother, Anthony Marler, see also Blayney, Peter W.M., *The Stationers' Company and the Printers of London 1501-1557*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013) at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=SLGkAgAAQBAJ&pg=PT593>

The testator's brother was appointed by Henry VIII by order dated 25 April 1541 to sell the Great Bible. See Condit, Blackford, *The History of the English Bible*, (New York: A.S. Barnes & Company, 1882), p. 211 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=7wsXAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA211>

See also Dixon, Richard Watson, *History of the Church of England From the Abolition of the Roman Jurisdiction*, Vol. II, (London: George Routledge and Sons, 1881), p. 263 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=B5UoAQAAIAAJ&pg=PA263>

For the testator's brother, Anthony Marler, see also:

Edward Hasted, 'Parishes: Crayford', in *The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent: Volume 2* (Canterbury, 1797), pp. 263-285. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/survey-kent/vol2/pp263-285> [accessed 22 July 2019].

Anthony Marler, gent. was of Crayford in the beginning of queen Elizabeth's reign, as was his eldest son George, who dying s.p. was succeeded in the estate he possessed in this parish, in the reign of king Charles I. by his kinsman, Robert Marler, (fn. 31) who was living here in the year 1633. . . .

-Alexander Marler (d.1551), second son, for whose will, in which he makes the testator his heir, see TNA PROB 11/34/335.

-Mary Marler (living 1544). She is mentioned in the 1527 will of her father, William Marler, but is not mentioned in the 1544 will of her mother, Alice.

-Fortune Marler, who married firstly, about 1535, the London mercer, Owen Hawkins (d. before 1558), by whom she had four sons, George Hawkins, Owen Hawkins, Edmund Hawkins and Paul Hawkins, and a daughter, Grace Hawkins. For the baptisms of Grace Hawkins on 16 September 1539 and Owen Hawkins on 15 January 1541, see Bannerman, *supra*, p. 1. For the baptism of Edmund Hawkins on 26 April 1543, see Bannerman, *supra*, p. 2. For the baptism of Paul Hawkins on 26 January 1546, see Bannerman, *supra*, p. 3.

For the marriage of Fortune Marler and Owen Hawkins, see the will of Alice Marler, *supra*. See also a muniment book dating from c.1535, Lambeth Palace Library F I/Vv f. 41v:

<https://archives.lambethpalacelibrary.org.uk/calmview/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&id=F%2F1%2F1Vv%2F41v>

20 Owen Hawkyns & Fortune Marler. Dispensation for marriage outside the statutory time. 20s.

After the death of Owen Hawkins, Fortune Marler married secondly, by 1558, Thomas Meyre. See a Chancery suit concerning lands in Upton in West Ham brought by George Hawkins, son of Owen Hawkins, against ‘Thomas Meyre, late of London, and Fortune, his wife’, TNA C 1/1435/19.

It seems likely Owen Hawkins was related to Sir John Hawkins (1532–1595), who also married into the Gonson family. On 20 January 1567, Sir John Hawkins married Katherine Gonson (d.1591), the daughter of Benjamin Gonson. See the *ODNB* entry for Sir John Hawkins.

MARRIAGES AND ISSUE

Testator’s first marriage

The testator married firstly, on 17 May 1545 at St Antholin’s, Mary Dale, the daughter of the London haberdasher, Matthew Dale (d.1550), and sister of Henry Dale (buried 12 October 1563?) mentioned in the will below. For the marriage, see Chester, Joseph Lemuel and George J. Armytage, eds., *The Parish Registers of St. Antholin, Budge Row, London*, (London: Harleian Society, 1883), Vol. VIII, p. 5 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=1fwUAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA5>

For the will, proved 6 May 1550, of Matthew Dale in which the testator was appointed one of the overseers, see TNA PROB 11/33/199, and:

<http://govthomasdale.blogspot.com/2011/11/matthew-dale-of-london.html>

See also the pedigree of the Dale family in Metcalfe, *supra*, p. 186 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=0m1KAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA186>

See also the will dated 3 September 1558 of Gregory Isham of Braunston, Northamptonshire, TNA PROB 11/41/322, which contains the following bequests:

Item, I give to every of my wife's brethren, William, John, Matthew and Henry Dale, 40s apiece;

Item, I give to the children of Walter Marler and of his late wife, Mary, £10.

By Mary Dale the testator had two sons and four daughters:

* **Walter Marler** (baptized 11 December 1552, d.1582), haberdasher of London. See Bannerman, *supra*, p. 4. In his will, dated 24 October 1582 and proved 8 December 1582, TNA PROB 11/64/551, he mentions his brothers, William Marler and Walter Marler, and his sister, Jane Marler, wife of Ambrose Guylott, as well as Clement Kelke.

* **William Marler** (baptized 30 April 1556, living 1583). See Bannerman, *supra*, p. 5. He is mentioned in the will of his brother, Walter Marler, *supra*, and in the will of his stepmother, Elizabeth (nee Shakerley) Elkyn Marler Nicholas, TNA PROB 11/65/520.

* **Jane Marler** (baptized 28 January 1551). See Bannerman, *supra*, p. 4. She and her husband, Ambrose Gylatt of London, salter, are mentioned in the will of her brother and stepmother.

* **Elizabeth Marler** (baptized 15 July 1553 or 11 December 1553). See Bannerman, *supra*, p. 5. She is not mentioned in the 1582 will of Walter Marler.

* **Mary Marler** (baptized 19 February 1555). See Bannerman, *supra*, p. 5. She is not mentioned in the 1582 will of Walter Marler.

* **Eleanor Marler** (baptized 11 September 1557). See Bannerman, *supra*, p. 6. She is not mentioned in the 1582 will of Walter Marler.

Testator's second marriage

The testator married secondly Elizabeth Shakerley (d.1583), widow of Richard Elkyn (d.1559). For Richard Elkyn as a charter member, together with the testator and Oxford's future father-in-law, Sir William Cecil, of the Muscovy Company incorporated 26 February 1555, see *Accounts and Papers of the House of Commons*, Volume 55, 1856, p. 53 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=4KpbAAAQAAJ&pg=RA1-PA53>

For the Muscovy Company, see also the Wikipedia entry at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muscovy_Company

Richard Elkyn was buried 'beside the font' in the church of St Pancras, Soper Lane, on 13 June 1559. See Bannerman, *supra*, p. 287.

By Elizabeth Shakerley, the testator had a son, born posthumously:

* **Walter Marler** (baptized 2 September 1561). See Bannerman, *supra*, p. 134. It appears he married, by licence dated 17 July 1584, Anne Barne, daughter of Sir George Barne. See Foster, Joseph, ed., *London Marriage Licences 1521-1869*, (London: Bernard Quaritch, 1887), p. 886 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=Xf8cAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA885>

For the marriage of Walter Marler and Anne Barne, see also Pleasants, J. Hall, 'The Lovelace Family and Its Connections', *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 29, No. 1, (January 1921), pp. 110-124 at p. 121, available as a pdf file online at:

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/4243807.pdf>

See also the Barne pedigree in Howard, Joseph Jackson, and George John Armytage, eds., *The Visitation of London in the Year 1568*, (London: Harleian Society, 1869), Vol. I, p. 25 at:

https://books.google.ca/books?id=W1s_AQAAMAAJ&pg=PA25

The testator's second wife, Elizabeth Shakerley (d.1583), was the daughter of the London mercer, Rowland Shakerley (d.1565), for whose will see TNA PROB 11/48/92.

Rowland Shakerley owned a house and garden in Hoxton which he sold to Sir Roger Martyn (d.1573), Lord Mayor of London, father of Humphrey Martyn (d.1587?), addressee of the *Langham Letter*. Sir Roger Martyn's widow, Elizabeth (nee Castelyn) Martyn, was also an investor with Anthony Marler and Oxford in the Frobisher voyages mentioned above. See the Langham page on this website, and the will of Sir Roger Martyn, TNA PROB 11/56/48:

Item, I will that Elizabeth, my wife, shall have and enjoy to her use during her natural life the lease of my house, garden and orchard of Hoxton which I bought of Master Shakerleie [=Shakerley], if she will keep it for her own use and not let it out, and she to pay only the accustomed yearly rent of the value of the lease for her time, to be deducted out of my third part as my bequest unto her.

Robert Pakington, the testator's father-in-law, Rowland Shakerley, the testator's second wife's first husband, Richard Elkyn and the testator all leased, successively, a 'great messuage' in the parish of St Pancras, Soper Lane. See:

D J Keene and Vanessa Harding, 'St. Pancras Soper Lane 145/11-13', in *Historical Gazetteer of London Before the Great Fire Cheapside; Parishes of All Hallows Honey Lane, St Martin Pomary, St Mary Le Bow, St Mary Colechurch and St Pancras Soper*

Lane (London, 1987), pp. 705-712. *British History Online* <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/no-series/london-gazetteer-pre-fire/pp705-712> [accessed 17 June 2019].

. . . . In 1548 this was described as a great messuage formerly leased to Robert Packyngton for a term of 50 years at £7 rent. It was now held by Roland Shakerly, who was probably living there in 1541 and 1544, when he was assessed as a resident of St. Benet (sic) parish and Cordwainer Ward. He had ceased to live there by 1558, when he was described as of Aynho (Northants.) and was granted a lease of the capital messuage representing 13 by the rector, churchwardens, and parishioners of St. Pancras for a term of 500 years at £2. 11s. 2d. rent. The messuage, with its shops, cellars, chambers, warehouses, yards, and entries, was now inhabited by Richard Elkyn and lay in the parishes of St. Pancras and St. Antonin, between 14-15 on the E., 12 on the W. and N., the highway leading from Soper Lane to Watling Street on the W., 'Seint Pancrace Lane' on the N., and a messuage formerly belonging to the college of Higham Ferrers on the S. The lessee and his successors were to keep the 'foredore and entry' of the capital messuage at the street door which then opened into Pancras Lane so that the inhabitants of the house would be counted as parishioners of the parish of St. Pancras. About 1560 the house was inhabited by Walter Marler, citizen and haberdasher, who by his will, dated and proved in 1561, left to his wife Elizabeth his leases and terms of years in the shops and warehouses which she then occupied (probably part of 13) and in the house which he inhabited in the parish of St. Pancras. Elizabeth may then have married Ambrose Nicholas, citizen and salter, who later had a wife of that name and was tenant of 13. (fn. 13) In 1563 13, or a part of it, may have been in the possession of John Alsopp, citizen and haberdasher (see 12).

For the will of Robert Pakington, see TNA PROB 11/27/46.

As noted above, after the testator's death, Elizabeth Shakerley married thirdly Sir Ambrose Nicholas (d.1578), Lord Mayor of London. See his will, *supra*.

OTHER PERSONS MENTIONED IN THE WILL

For the will of Clement Kelke, see TNA PROB 11/82/357.

For the testator's burial on 25 June 1561, see Bannerman, *supra*, p. 173 at:

<https://archive.org/details/registerstofstmar44stma/page/172>

See also Bannerman, *supra*, p. 287 at:

<https://archive.org/details/registerstofstmar44stma/page/286>

22 June 1561, Walter Marler, haberdasher of this parish, died 22 June 1561 & was buried in Bowe church 25 day of the same month

RM: T{estamentum} Walteri Marler

In the name of God, Amen. The 22nd day of June in the year of Our Lord God 1561 and in the third 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, Walter Marler, citizen and haberdasher of London, being whole of mind and in good and perfect memory, laud and praise be therefore unto Almighty God, do make and ordain this my present testament containing herein my last will in manner and form following, that is to say:

First and principally I give and commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my Maker, Creator and Redeemer, trusting and most assuredly believing that through the death and passion of my only Saviour and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, I have and shall have full and clear remission and forgiveness of all my sins, and that after this transitory life ended I shall come to and have life everlasting which never shall have end, Amen;

Item, I bequeath my body to the earth to be buried in the parish of Our Lady at Bow at the discretion of (blank);

Item, I will that all such debts and duties as I owe of right or conscience to any person or persons be well and truly contented and paid or else provided for so to be paid by mine executors hereafter named;

And after my debts paid, I will that all my goods, chattels and debts shall be equally divided into three equal parts according to the ancient and laudable custom of the city of London, whereof I give and bequeath to Elizabeth, my well-beloved wife, one equal part to her own use for her own part and portion of all my goods, chattels and debts to her belonging by the laudable custom of the said city;

And the second equal part thereof I give and bequeath to and amongst Walter, William, Jane, Elizabeth, Mary [+and?] Eleanor Marler, my children, and to the child wherewith my wife now goeth withal, equally amongst them to be divided, and to be delivered unto them at such time as they shall come to and accomplish their several ages of 21 years or marriage according to the said custom of the said city of London;

And I will that every of them shall be others' heir thereof;

And if it fortune all my said children to decease before they or any of them shall come to and accomplish the said age of 21 years and before that time be not married, that then I will that all their said portions shall be delivered and given to and amongst the seven children of my brother, Anthony Marler, now already living. Per me, Walter Marler.

Item, I will that my house at Hoxton and Haggerston with all my leases and terms of years, lands and tenements there shall be sold by mine overseers of this my last will by me hereafter named and constituted to the most advantage within one year next after my

decease or so shortly after my decease as conveniently may [+be?] without fraud or covin;

And the money coming of the sale thereof I will shall be given and delivered to all my said children equally among them and to be delivered as is aforesaid;

Item, whereas I have made my wife a stock of three hundred pounds which she occupieth, I do freely give and bequeath unto her the same stock and my leases and term of years of the shops and warehouses which my said wife now occupieth and of the house which I now dwell in in the parish of Saint Pancras upon condition that she do agree to the sale of my said house, lands and tenements in [f. 200v] Hoxton and Haggerston and release her right in the same and all her dower which she hath or may have of and in all my other lands and tenements wheresoever they be within the realm of England when and at such time as she shall be thereunto required;

Item, I give and bequeath to my son, Walter, all that my lease and term of years which I have in the tenement in Bow Churchyard wherein I lately dwelled;

And if it fortune the said Walter, my son, to decease before he shall come to his full age of 21 years, William, my son, living, then I give unto him the said lease and term of years;

And if he die before he come to his full age, living George Marler, my brother Anthony's son, then I give the said lease and term of years in the same tenement to the said George Marler, my brother Anthony Marler his son, if he be then living;

Item, I bequeath unto the churchwardens of Our Lady at Bow in London the sum of fifty pound to the use of the said parish church upon condition that the parson, churchwardens and parishioners of the same church for the time being, upon offer unto them made of the said fifty pounds, do make a lease of the same tenement in Bow Churchyard to my son, Walter, for forty or fifty years to begin at th' end of those years which I now have in the same;

And if they shall refuse so to do, then I give the said fifty pounds unto the said Walter, my son, to be delivered unto him at his said age of 21 years if he be then living;

And if he die before he she [sic] shall accomplish the same age, then I give the said fifty pounds to the said George Marler;

Item, I will that Clement Kelke shall have the custody and bringing up of Walter, Elizabeth and Mary, my children, together with their portions until they come to their several age of 21 years or marriage;

Item, I will that Henry Dale, my brother [=brother-in-law], shall have the custody and bringing up of William, Jane and Eleanor Marler, my children, together with their portions;

Item, I bequeath, will and give all my lands and tenements in Plumstead and Stroud Green in the counties of Kent and Middlesex unto all my said children, Walter, William, Jane, Elizabeth, Mary, Eleanor and the child wherewith my wife now goeth withal and to the heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten;

And for lack of such issue I give and bequeath the same lands and tenements unto George Marler, son of my said brother, Anthony, and to his heirs forever;

The residue of all my goods, chattels and debts, after my debts paid, my funerals performed, and these my legacies herein contained fulfilled, I wholly give and bequeath unto (blank);

And of this my present testament and last will I ordain and make Walter, William, Jane, Elizabeth, Mary & Eleanor my full and whole executors;

And I name, constitute and make my well-beloved friend, William Person of London, scrivener, Henry Dale and Clement Kelke mine overseers of the same my last will and testament;

In witness whereof to this my present testament and last will I, the said Walter Marler, have put to my hand and seal, given the day and year first above-written, these persons hereafter named being witnesses by me thereunto specially called and desired to witness the same. Per me, Walter Marler. John Jeynes, Clement Kelke, Henry Dale, John Taylor.

A codicil annexed to this my last will

Item, I will and bequeath to Anthony Marler, my brother, the sum of £200 upon condition that he and his heirs do suffer quietly my children and their heirs to have, occupy and enjoy forever all those lands, tenements and hereditaments as well free as copyhold which I lately had and bought of the said Anthony, and upon further condition that he, the same Anthony, and his heirs and his wife do make such farther assurance thereof as by my overseers or any of them or the learned counsel of any of them shall be advised, or else this my legacy of two hundred pounds to be void. William Rosewell, Clement Kelke.

A codicil to be annexed to the last will and testament of me, Walter Marler, haberdasher, at the discretion of my overseers to be distributed as I have willed them;

And I bequeath to Paul Hawkins £4;

For my burying £100;

To the Haberdashers £5;

To my sister Mere £50;

To John Nethercote £20;

To Henry Dale £20;

To Clement Kelke £20;

To Anne Whaplod £10;

To Margaret £5;

To Elizabeth Peerson to her marriage £5;

To the Haberdashers £15;

To the poor £10;

To Rowland £10;

To Matthew £10;

To Ralph £5;

To Bushopp £5;

To Thomas Kelke £20;

To Mary Isham £10;

To George Marler and William Marler (blank)

To William Person £20;

Gold rings, a hundred pounds;

To Jane Marler £13 13s 4d;

To the poor of Croyden my house that I have their right to which I had of William Gonnors(?) £13 18d.

William Rowsewell [=Roswell?], Clement Kelke.

RM: Administratores computauerunt(?)

Vicesimo sexto die Mensis Iulij Anno Domini mill{es}imo quingentesimo sexagesimo primo emanuit comissio Will{el}mo Person Clement kelke et henrico Dale Superuisoribus nominatis in testamento h{uius}mo{d}i ad administrand{um} bona dicti defuncti durante minori etate executorum sup{er}ius nominatorum de bene etc Ad sancta Dei evangelia Iuratis

[=On the twenty-sixth day of the month of July in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixty-first a grant issued to William Person, Clement Kelke and Henry Dale, overseers named in the same testament, to administer the goods of the said deceased during the minority of the executors above named, sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc.]