

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the last will and testament, dated 10 February 1566 and proved 3 April 1566, of Francis Bodley, who son, Sir John Bodley of Streatham, was landlord of the Globe playhouse from 1601-1622, and whose widow's stepson, Nicholas Brend (d. 12 October 1601), 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 said gardens and grounds whereupon the said playhouse & galleries were afterwards builded were demised & letten by the said Nicholas Brend by his indenture of lease tripartite bearing date in or about the 21st day of February in the 41st year of the reign of the late Queen Elizabeth [=21 February 1599] unto Cuthbert Burbage, Richard Burbage, William Shakespeare, the said Augustine Phillips, Thomas Pope, the said John Heminges, one of the said defendants, and William Kempe, to have and to hold the one moiety of the said garden plots and ground to the said Cuthbert Burbage and Richard Burbage, their executors, administrators & assigns, from the feast of the birth of Our Lord God last past before the date of the said indenture [=25 December 1598] unto the end & term of 31 years from thence next ensuing [=24 December 1629] for the yearly rent of seven pounds & five shillings, and to have & to hold the other moiety of the said garden plots & grounds unto the said William Shakespeare, Augustine Phillips, Thomas Pope, the said John Heminges, one of the said defendants, & William Kempe, their executors, administrators & assigns, from the said feast of the birth of Our Lord God then last past before the date of the said indenture unto the said full end & term of 31 years from thence next ensuing for the like yearly rent of seven pounds & five shillings.

For the inquisition post mortem taken on 17 May 1599 after the death of Thomas Brend in which his only surviving son, Nicholas Brend, is said to have been 37 years of age or more at the time of Thomas Brend's death, see TNA C 142/257/68. In the inquisition the Globe is described as:

one house newly built with a garden to the same appertaining in the parish of Saint Saviour's aforesaid in the county of Surrey aforesaid in the occupation of William Shakespeare and others.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

The testator was the son of William Bodley, grocer of London, and his wife, Beatrice Sadler, said to have been the daughter of John Sadler, merchant of London. For the wills of the testator's parents, William and Beatrice (nee Sadler) Bodley, see TNA PROB 11/28/311 and TNA PROB 11/42A/149.

The testator's grandfather, Richard Bodley, was of the same family as the founder of the Bodleian library, and bore the same coat of arms, 'Gules, five martlets argent on a chief

indented or three crowns azure'. See the coat of arms in Sutton, Anne F., 'Lady Joan Bradbury (d.1530)', in Barron, Caroline M. and Anne F. Sutton, eds., *Medieval London Widows 1300-1500*, (London: The Hambledon Press, 1994), pp. 208-38 at:

<http://books.google.ca/books?id=uc3RLXFANoMC&pg=PA211>

The testator was the godson of his uncle, Thomas Bodley (d.1537), vicar of South Weald, Essex, for whose wills see TNA PROB 11/26/118 and TNA PROB 11/27/81. For the will of the testator's uncle, Ellis Bodley, see TNA PROB 11/32/83. For the will of the testator's uncle, Sir Christopher Askew, Lord Mayor of London, and the testator's aunt, Emma (nee Bodley) Askew (d.1554), see TNA PROB 11/27/529 and TNA PROB 11/37/124. See also the pedigree in Sutton, *supra*, p. 211.

The testator's father, William Bodley, was a first cousin of Dionyse (nee Bodley) Leveson (d.1560), grandmother of William Leveson (d.1621), one of two trustees employed by William Shakespeare of Stratford upon Avon and other members of the Lord Chamberlain's Men in the allocation of shares in the ground lease of the Globe Theatre in 1599. For the will of Dionyse Bodley Leveson, see TNA PROB 11/43/645. For the will of William Leveson (d.1621), see TNA PROB 11/137/600. For Dionyse Bodley Leveson's coat of arms, which indicates that she, too, was of the same family as the founder of the Bodleian Library, see '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=6hEVA AAAQAAJ&pg=RA1-PA55>

For Dionyse Bodley Leveson, see also:

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

Dionyse Bodley's daughter, Grisell Leveson, married the testator's uncle, 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 his mother-in-law, Dionyse Bodley Leveson 'a ring of fine gold', as 'John Sadler of Edelmeton [=Edmonton], Middlesex', on 28 June 1559, TNA PROB 11/43/538.

The testator's mother, Beatrice Sadler Bodley, appointed her brother, John Sadler, as overseer of her will, and left a bequest to her god-daughter, Marie Sadler, who later married Thomas Kirton (buried 21 April 1601), merchant tailor. See Richardson, Douglas, *Magna Carta Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 2011, Vol. II, p. 504.

According to the wills of his uncles, Thomas Bodley (d.1537) and Ellis Bodley (d.1547/8), the testator had three sisters, Alice, Katherine and Grissell. The testator's

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<http://www.oxford-shakespeare.com/>

sister, Katherine Bodley, married the London merchant, Vincent Amcotts. Both the testator and Vincent Amcotts are mentioned in the will of John Sadler, *supra*.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

The testator married Mercy Collett (d. 13 April 1597), the daughter of Humphrey Collett, bowyer of London, and his wife Joan, for whose wills see TNA PROB 11/42A/115 and TNA PROB 11/61/389.

According to the Bodley pedigree, the testator had two sons:

* **William Bodley**, who married but died without issue.

* **Sir John Bodley** of Streatham, who married Jane Evelyn, the daughter of Thomas Evelyn, esquire, of Long Ditton, Surrey (whose second wife was Frances Hervey, the sister of William Hervey (buried 8 July 1642), third husband of Mary (nee Browne), Countess of Southampton, mother of Henry Wriothesley (1573-1624), 3rd Earl of Southampton, to whom Shakespeare dedicated *Venus and Adonis* and *The Rape of Lucrece*). See the will of Thomas Evelyn, TNA PROB 11/130/558; the will of William Hervey, TNA PROB 11/75/245; and 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>

See also the pedigree of Evelyn in Brayley, Edward Wedlake, *A Topographical History of Surrey*, (London: David Bogue, n.d.), Vol. V, p. 27, at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=mbcHAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA27>

After the testator's death, Mercy married Thomas Brend (d. 21 September 1598), father of Nicholas Brend. In the will of her mother, Joan (nee Hunt) Collett, dated 1 August 1576, Mercy is referred to as 'my daughter Brend' (see TNA PROB 11/61/389). 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 testator's son, Sir John Bodley of Streatham, see TNA C 54/1682, mm. 10-11 and the other documents listed there.

For the will of the testator's brother-in-law, William Slywright (d.1578), who married Joan Collett, sister of the testator's wife, Mercy Collett, see TNA PROB 11/60/518.

For the testator's will see also *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, Vol. LII, 1952, p. 43 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/surreyarchaeolog52surruoft#page/42/mode/2up>

LM: T{estamentum} ffrancisci Bodeley

In the name of God, Amen. The tenth day of February in the eight year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth and in the year of Our Lord God 1565, I, Francis Bodley, citizen and fishmonger of London, 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 give and bequeath my soul to the hands of Almighty God, my Maker, Saviour and Redeemer, trusting and faithfully believing through the merits of Christ's most precious passion my sins to be clearly forgiven, my body to be buried where it shall please God to call me to his mercy;

Item, I give and bequeath to eight of the poorest men in Walthamstow and 6 in London, to every of them a gown of mantle(?) frieze, and I give to and amongst the residue of the most poorest in Walthamstow, men and women, whereas most need shall be, 20s;

Item, I give to and amongst the poorest people of Streatham 10s;

Item, I give and bequeath to and amongst the poor prisoners of the six prison-houses, Newgate, Ludgate, the Marshalsea, the King's Bench and the two Counters in London, to every of the said houses 3s 4d;

Item, I give and bequeath to my wife's mother, my brother-in-law, William Slywright and his wife, my brother-in-law, Vincent Amcottes [=Amcotes?], and my sister, his wife, my brother-in-law, Thomas Collett and his wife, and my brother-in-law, Robert Collett, to every of them a mourning gown;

Item, I give to my brothers-in-law, Humphrey, John, Peter, William and Nicholas Collett, to every of them 13s 4d to make them rings in token of a remembrance;

Item, I give to my sisters-in-law Agnes, Margaret and Margery Collett, to every of them ten shillings to make them rings in token of a remembrance;

Item, I give unto my brother-in-law, Vincent Amcottes, my riding cloak that is furred with fox, and to my sister, his wife, I give my little nag with a flaxen mane and a flaxen tail that runneth to grass at Streatham;

Item, I give unto Joan Amcottes, my god-daughter, twenty shillings;

Item, I give Browne, my carpenter at Walthamstow, the ploughing of his close which I plowed with my plow;

Item, I will that Marcie [=Mercy], my wife, shall have the order, governance and guardianship of my two children with their portions to bring them up in learning;

And as to the disposition(?) of the residue of my goods, chattels, moveable and unmovable, whatsoever they be, after my debts paid, the costs of my burial done, and this my present testament and last will in all things performed, my part I give and bequeath unto Marcie [=Mercy], my wife, and of this my present testament and last will I make and ordain her my full and sole executrix, and overseers of the same my well-beloved brethren-in-law, William Slywright and Vincent Amcotts, to whom I give for their pains each of them forty shillings. Per me, Franciscum Bodley. By me, John Sikelmore, witness. By me, John Vyolet [sic for Collett?].

Probatum fuit Testamentum suprascriptum coram Mag{ist}ro Waltero Haddon Legu{m} Doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cantuarien{sis} Comissario apud London tercio die mens{is} Ap{ri}lis anno d{omi}ni mill{es}imo Quingentesimo Sexagesimo sexto Iurame{nt}o dicte Marcie Relicte et Executric{is} in h{uius}mo{d}i testamento nominat{e} Cui com{m}issa fuit Administra{ci}o omn{i}u{m} et singulor{um} bonoru{m} &c De bene &c Ad sancta dei Evangelia Iurat{e}

[=The above-written testament was proved before Master Walter Haddon, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at London on the third day of the month of April in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred sixty-sixth by the oath of the said Mercy, relict and executrix named in the same testament, to whom administration was granted of all and singular the goods etc., sworn on the Holy Gospels to well etc.]