

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 11 September 1570, of Sir Richard Newport, owner of a copy of Hall's *Chronicle* in the British Library containing annotations thought to have been made by Shakespeare. He was knighted by Oxford's first cousin, Thomas Howard, 4th Duke of Norfolk, on 21 July 1560 at Berwick for service during the Scottish campaign mentioned in his will. Sir Richard Newport's wife Margaret was the daughter of Sir Thomas Bromley, Chief Justice of the Common Pleas (for her will see PROB 11/93, f. 113). Sir Thomas Bromley's second cousin, another Sir Thomas Bromley (1530-1576), was Queen Elizabeth's Lord Chancellor and Keeper of the Great Seal. The latter Sir Thomas Bromley was one of five trustees who were parties to an indenture entered into by Oxford on 30 January 1575, just prior to his departure for the continent (see ERO D/DRg2/25). At the time of the making of his will, Sir Richard Newport's daughter Mary was married to William Gratwood; she later married, as her second husband, Ralph Sneyd, the uncle of Oxford's second wife, Elizabeth Trentham, and Oxford's trustee in documents entered into at the time of the marriage and shortly thereafter. Sir Richard Newport's daughter Magdalen was the mother of the poet George Herbert, and a friend of the poet John Donne, who was apparently related to Oxford through a mutual ancestor, Sir John Don.

RM: Testamentum Ricardi Newporte militis

In the name of God Amen. In the year of our Lord God a thousand five hundred threescore & ten and in the twelfth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith &c., I, Sir Richard Newport of High Erccall in the county of Salop, knight, sick in body but of whole and perfect remembrance, thanks be unto Almighty God, make my testament and last will in form following, that is to say:

First and principally, I yield up my soul into the merciful hands of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, believing assuredly to be saved only through God's mercy purchased for me by the death and bloodshedding of Jesus Christ, God and man, my only Saviour and Redeemer, & by no other means;

My body I will to be buried in the parish church of Wroxeter near unto the places wherein Sir Thomas Bromley, knight, and Dame Isabel, his wife, my father-in-law and mother-in-law, be buried, with such charge to be bestowed about my funerals as to my executors shall be thought convenient according to my degree and calling;

And whereas Margaret, my well beloved wife, hath to her conveyed and assured for term of her life all my lands, tenements and hereditaments with th' appurtenances in the counties of Wigornia & Pembroke, and all that my manor of Heme with th' appurtenances in the said county of Salop, and all my lands, tenements, and hereditaments with th'

appurtenances in the parish of Shifnal alias Idsall in the said county of Salop for and in the name of her jointure by force of an assurance or estate thereof to her or to her use conveyed or executed by Thomas Newport, esquire, my father, deceased, which manor, lands, tenements & hereditaments with th' appurtenances so conveyed and assured for the jointure of my said wife are of the clear yearly value of £34 or thereabouts;

And whereas my said wife hath an estate for term of her life of and in the manor of Cressage with th' appurtenances in the said county of Salop, and of and in all those lands, tenements and hereditaments with th' appurtenances in the parish of Cound in the said county of Salop which I lately purchased of Sir John Littleton of Frankley in the said county of Wigornia, now knight and then esquire, and which said manor of Cressage and other the premises with th' appurtenances in the said parish of Cound the said Sir John Littleton conveyed and assured to me and to my said wife and to my heirs and assigns forever, and the same now is and are of the clear yearly value of £38 10s 6d;

And whereas I am sole seised in my own right of a good and perfect estate of inheritance in fee simple of and in the manor of High Ercall otherwise called Arcallive Magna with th' appurtenances in the said county of Salop, and of and in divers lands, tenements & hereditaments with th' appurtenances in the parish of High Ercall alias Arcallive Magna and in the towns of Salop, Newport and Walton in the said county of Salop, amounting in the whole not above the clear yearly value of threescore pounds by reason of divers annuities or rents-charge issuing out of the same, and being the residue and all that remaineth of all and singular my manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments with th' appurtenances within the realm of England over and besides the said manors aforesaid;

Now forasmuch as there is yet behind and unpaid of the marriage money of my daughters Isabel & Elizabeth, being already married, the sum of five hundred marks of lawful money of England, that is to say, three hundred marks for the marriage money of the said Isabel and two hundred marks for the marriage money of the said Elizabeth, parcel of the said sum of five hundred marks, and forasmuch also as Andrew, my younger son, & Magdalen, my daughter, are yet of tender years and want any advancement or preferment, for whom I must likewise provide, and for that I have not presently in goods and chattels wherewith to discharge the said portions of marriage money [+and] to make provision for the said Andrew and Magdalen, and also to perform my funerals and legacies and the contents of this my will according to my purpose and meaning in that behalf, therefore I will, devise & bequeath to my said wife two parts of my said manor of High Ercall alias Arcallive Magna in three parts to be divided, and two parts of all my lands, tenements and hereditaments with th' appurtenances in three parts to be divided in the said county of Salop (the said manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments with th' appurtenances heretofore conveyed and assured to my said wife for term of her life as is aforesaid always excepted), for and during the term of eight years next after my decease fully to be complete, to th' end she shall with th' issues, profits & revenues thereof perform this my will and testament and the legacies therein specified according to my true intent & meaning, wherein I earnestly desire her to be careful in performing the trust which I

repose in her and the charge which I have committed to her, as she will answer to the contrary before the judgment seat of Almighty God;

The third part of the said manor of Ercall and of all and singular the said lands, tenements and other the premises with th' appurtenances whereof the two parts are before devised, I will shall immediately after my decease descend unto Francis, my eldest son, to th' end the Queen's Majesty may have the wardship or primer seisin thereof as shall appertain in case any my lands, tenements or hereditaments be holden of her Majesty by knight's service in chief, or otherwise by knight's service;

Also I will that the marriage money of my said daughter Isabel shall be paid within convenient time after that Charles Fox, esquire, her father-in-law, shall have conveyed and assured his manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments with th' appurtenances to such uses or for such estate or estates and in such manner and form as is limited & expressed in and by certain articles made between me and the said Charles the 12th day of September in the eighth year of the reign of the Queen's Majesty that now is, according to the intent and true meaning of the same articles;

Also I will that the residue of the marriage money of the said Elizabeth, my daughter, that is, to wit, so much thereof as is yet behind and unpaid, being two hundred marks, shall be contented and paid within convenient time after that my son-in-law, Francis Lawley, shall have conveyed and assured his manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments with th' appurtenances to such uses or for such estate or estates and in such manner and form as by certain articles in that behalf made and agreed upon between me and him the 8th day of August in the year of our Lord God a thousand five hundred threescore and nine the same are limited and condescended to be assured or conveyed, according to the purpose and true meaning thereof;

Also I will that in case the said Magdalen, my daughter, be ordered and demean herself, as well touching her marriage as otherwise, according to the mind and to the good contentation of my executors and overseers or of the greater number of them or of the survivors or survivor of them, or otherwise honestly and decently and according to her degree, that then for her advancement in marriage or for her preferment otherwise she shall have two hundred pounds of lawful money of England to be paid unto her within one year after her marriage or within one year after that she shall come to th' age of twenty years;

Item, I bequeath to my servant Jockey, whom I brought with me out of Scotland, £13 6s 8d of lawful money of England;

Also I bequeath to Margaret Gibbons, my maidservant, £6 13s 4d;

And to Thomas Maddox, 20s;

And to Richard Thonder, 20s;

And to Thomas Gozhe, ten shillings;

And for that I have otherwise provided for my servants Randolph Farrington, Thomas Dyke, William Gozhe, Margaret Bocher and Alice Kirby, namely by making to some of them leases for term of their lives, to other some of them annuities for term of their lives, out of certain lands and tenements of mine, therefore I will and bequeath to every of my now household servants receiving wages of me (except the said Jockey, Margaret Gibbons, Randolph Farrington, Thomas Dyck, William Gozhe, Margaret Bocher and Alice Kirby) so much as their several wages for one whole year amounteth unto, over and besides so much as shall or should be due for one half year to be ended at the feast of the Nativity of Our Lord God next ensuing the date hereof;

Also I will that in case after this my will performed, and my funerals, debts and legacies contented and paid, there do remain any of th' issues, profits and revenues of the two parts of my said manors, lands, tenements and other the premises with th' appurtenances devised to my said wife by this my will as is aforesaid not paid or disposed according to this my last will and testament, that then my said wife, her executors and administrators, shall be accountable for the said residue so remaining unto Francis Newport, my son and heir apparent;

Item, I will that all my quick cattle shall be equally divided between my said wife and my said son, Francis;

Also I give unto my said wife all the corn which I have, and all my ready money with her jewels which she hath used to wear, and all her apparel;

Item, I bequeath to every of my sons-in-law & to every of my brothers-in-law a portague, and to every of their wives one old royal of 15s;

Item, I will that if Richard Marshall alias Beche of Shrewsbury pay to my executors the sum of threescore pounds of lawful English money according to such bargain as hath proceeded between him and me, then I will that Andrew, my son before-named, shall have the said threescore pounds;

Item, I bequeath to my cousin, George Bromley, esquire, the Queen's Majesty's attorney of her Grace's Duchy of Lancaster, my best gelding which he will choose, and a portague, and to his wife one old royal;

Item, I bequeath to my son-in-law, William Gratwood, esquire, the best of my geldings which he will choose after that my said cousin, George Bromley, hath made his choice;

Item, I bequeath to my cousin, Thomas Bromley, esquire, the Queen's Majesty's solicitor, a portague, and to his wife one old royal;

Also I give to my brother, Hugh Newport, twenty pounds of lawful English money and thone half of my apparel;

Item, I give to my brother, Thomas Newport, five pounds thirteen shillings & fourpence of current English money;

Item, I give to my godsons, Francis Adams and John Leighton, to either of them forty shillings;

Item, I give to my cousin, John Leighton of Leighton, my gelding called Young Leighton;

Item, I ordain and make of this my said last will and testament my said wife and my son, Francis, my executors, and my said cousins George Bromley and Thomas Bromley overseers or supervisors to see this my testament and last will performed according to my true intent and meaning, whom I desire to have such respect thereunto as is convenient according to that trust which I repose in them;

In witness whereof I have published and declared this to be my last will and testament the 11th day of September in the year first above-written in presence of the persons whose names are subscribed: William Gratewood, Randolph Trevor, Maderne Wysebecke, Richard Prince, Margaret Bocher, Ellen Hotchkiss.

Probatum fuit testamentum suprascriptum coram magistro curie prerogative cantuariensis comissario apud London duodecimo die Octobris Anno domini Millesimo quingentesimo septuagesimo primo Iuramento Radulfi Browne notarij publici procuratoris domine Margarete Newporte relicte et executricis in huiusmodi testamento nominate Cui commissa fuit administratio omnium et singulorum bonorum &c De bene &c Ad sancta dei Evangelia Iurate Reseruata potestate &c ffrancisco Newporte filio et executori etiam in dicto testamento nominato in sua minori etate ad huc existenti Et eum cum venerit &c admissurum &c

[=The above-written testament was proved before the Master, Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, at London on the twelfth day of October in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred seventy-first by the oath of Ralph Browne, notary public, proctor of Lady Margaret Newport, 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., with power reserved etc. to Francis Newport, son and executor also named in the said testament, being still in his minority, and with him when he shall have come etc. to be admitted etc.]