

SUMMARY: The document below is the Prerogative Court of Canterbury copy of the will, dated 13 October 1576 and proved 10 November 1576, of William Campion, son of Thomas Campion (d.1539).

### **CONNECTION TO WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE**

The testator's brother-in-law, William Blackwell (d.1570?), the testator's niece, Anne (nee Blackwell) Bacon, and the testator's great-nephew, Mathy or Matthew Bacon (d.1639) of Gray's Inn, are mentioned in the indenture by which William Shakespeare (1564-1616) of Stratford upon Avon purchased a dwelling-house or tenement and plot of ground in the precinct of the Blackfriars on 10 March 1613 (see Folger MS Z.c.22(45) and London Metropolitan Archives CLC/522/MS03738 on this website for the purchasers' and vendor's copies of the indenture, respectively).

From London Metropolitan Archives CLC/522/MS03738 on the Shakespeare Documented website at:

<http://www.shakespearedocumented.org/exhibition/document/shakespeare-purchases-blackfriars-gatehouse-copy-bargain-and-sale-signed-buyers>

*. . . part of which said tenement is erected over a great gate leading to a capital messuage which sometime was in the tenure of William Blackwell, esquire, deceased, and since that in the tenure or occupation of the right honourable Henry, now Earl of Northumberland;*

*And also all that plot of ground on the west side of the same tenement which was lately enclosed with boards on two sides thereof by Anne Bacon, widow, so far and in such sort as the same was enclosed by the said Anne Bacon . . . .*

*Which said dwelling-house or tenement and other the premises above by these presents mentioned to be bargained and sold the said Henry Walker late purchased and had to him, his heirs and assigns forever of Mathie Bacon of Gray's Inn in the county of Middlesex, gentleman, bearing date the fifteenth day of October in the year of Our Lord God one thousand six hundred and four.*

For the will of the testator's sister, Margaret (nee Campion) Blackwell (d.1586), see TNA PROB 11/69/398. In the will below the testator leaves bequests to both his sister and her son:

*Item, I will, give and devise unto my sister Blackwell forty shillings, and to her son, William Blackwell, forty shillings.*

### **FAMILY BACKGROUND**

The testator was the son of Thomas Campion (d.1539), merchant taylor of London. For the will of Thomas Campion, see TNA PROB 11/27/545. Thomas Campion's sister, Joan Campion (d.1557), was the mother of Bishop Thomas Thirlby, for whom see the *ODNB* entry:

*Thirlby, Thomas (c. 1500–1570), bishop of Westminster and of Ely, was born in Cambridge where his father, John (d. 1539), was town clerk. His mother, Joan (d. 1557), was the daughter of William Campion of London. Thomas was the first of their three children, probably born a few years earlier than 1506 as claimed in his memorial at Lambeth, since by 1521 he had graduated BCL from Trinity Hall, Cambridge. . . .*

See the Campion pedigree in Metcalfe, Walter C., ed., *The Visitations of Essex, Part II*, (London: Harleian Society, 1879), Vol. XIV, p. 556 at:

<https://books.google.ca/books?id=8vsUAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA556>

See also the Campion pedigree in Howard, Joseph Jackson and Joseph Lemuel Chester, eds., *The Visitation of London Anno Domini 1633, 1634 and 1635*, (London: Harleian Society, 1880), p. 134 at:

<https://archive.org/stream/visitationoflond01stge#page/134>

### ***MARRIAGES AND ISSUE***

The testator married firstly a wife whose name is unknown, by whom he had a son:

\* **Henry Campion**, who married a wife named Elizabeth, but died without issue.

The testator married secondly a wife named Dionyse, by whom he had two sons:

\* **Thomas Campion** of Witham Essex, who married Anastace Spitty, the daughter of John Spitty of Chelmsford, Essex, by whom he was the father of Edward Campion of Witham and London.

\* **William Campion**, who married the daughter of Foule of Sussex, by whom he was the father of Thomas Campion, who died without issue.

The will below appears to be chiefly concerned with protecting the rights of the testator's second wife and his two younger sons by her.

### ***TESTATOR'S PROPERTIES***

For the testator's lease of Leyton Grange, see 'Leyton: Manors and estates', A History of the County of Essex: Volume 6 (1973), pp. 184-197. URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=42768>:

*A house called Leyton Grange was occupied by John Hanger, husbandman, in the 1470s. In 1535 Thomas Campion, merchant tailor of London, obtained a 60-year lease of the manor-house of Leyton, in which the parlours, buttery, stable, and hayhouse were mentioned. This lease of the 'grange of Leyton' was bequeathed by him in 1539 to his son, William, subject to his widow's life interest.*

LM: T{estamentum}(?) Will{el}mi Campyon

In the name of God, Amen, the thirteenth day of October in the year of Our Lord God a thousand five hundred seventy and six in the eighteenth 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, William Campion of Hertford in the county of Hertford, late of Stevenage in the said county, gentleman, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First, I being of whole and perfect mind, commend and betake my soul into the hands of God, my Father, which did make it and give it to me, and unto Jesus Christ, his only Son, by whom it was redeemed only, and unto the Holy Ghost, hitherto always p{er}shuinge(?), comforting and ending it with the graces and gifts that it hath, which three Persons in Trinity I confess to be one God Almighty in essence and substance;

Secondly, my body, as it is all flesh out of the dust and earth, so must it to the earth again, wherefore I will that it be buried as soon as it conveniently may after my soul is departed in such place as shall be thought most expedient by my executor in this my last will and testament appointed;

And thirdly, whereas God hath lent me in this wor[ld] some transitory goods and lands to my life's end, I shall and will dispose them in manner and form as followeth:

First, where I have heretofore given and granted unto my son, Henry Campion, and his assigns all that my lease and the whole interest of Leyton Grange and the parsonage of Layton in the county of Essex, as appeareth by my deed thereof unto him made, so as I cannot by my will give the same or anything out of it unto my wife nor unto Thomas and William, my younger sons, and whereas the same lease is a good preferment unto my said son, Henry, and whereas my goods and chattels doth not suffice to provide so conveniently for my wife and my other children as my will is, and whereas I am seised to me and mine heirs of certain lands and tenements with sixteen acres of wood in Stevenage in the before-mentioned county of Hertford and in Witham in the county of Essex to the value of thirty pounds by the year or thereabouts which I may give and dispose at my pleasure and which by law is to descend after my death unto the said

Henry, my son, except I do declare my will of the same, I will therefore that the said Henry, my son, and his heirs shall have all the same my lands and tenements, charged with the yearly rents or annuities hereafter mentioned and given unto my said wife and younger sons amounting to the sum of forty pounds by the year;

If he, the said Henry, or his heirs, executors or assigns, do make default of payment of the same yearly rents or annuities, I will that the said Henry, my son, shall pay unto my said wife and my two younger sons in manner and form following, that is to wit, if the said Henry, my son, his heirs, executors or assigns, do not pay the same as is limited and appointed by this my will, then I will that all goods & chattels which I shall either devise unto my son, Henry, in this my will or leave unto him as executor undevise shall be liable and assets in his hands towards the answering of the said annuities over & besides the profit of all my lands and tenements, which profits of my said lands and tenements I will shall be as a gage or penalty unto my wife and younger sons if default of payment be made of their annuities until my son, Henry his heirs or assigns, shall pay the same according to the limitation and true intent of this my will;

And as concerning which premises, first I will, devise and give unto Denyze [=Dionyse], my wife, twenty pounds by the year yearly from and after my death, that is to wit, ten pounds yearly during all such time as Henry Campion, my son, his heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, shall or may have and enjoy the lease or farm of Leyton Grange in Leyton in the county of Essex which I have before given him by my deed under my hand & seal if she so long do live, and ten pounds out of my lands in Stevenage, which twenty pounds by the year I will that my said wife shall have for and in full recompense of all her dower or thirds which she may have out of my lands and tenements, and I will that if the same Deinize, my wife, do demand and recover the dower or thirds out of my said lands and tenements or of any part thereof, that then and from thenceforth the said twenty pounds by the year before by me given unto the same my wife shall cease and be utterly void, and my son, Henry, and his lands and goods aforesaid thereof utterly be discharged;

And I will that my two younger sons, Thomas and William, shall have twenty pounds by the year paid them by my son, Henry, or his heirs or assigns from the day of my death yearly during all such time as my said son Henry, his executors, administrators or assigns, shall or may have and enjoy the said lease of Leyton Grange aforesaid, that is to wit, each of my said younger sons ten pounds by the year yearly during the continuance of the said lease or for so long time as the said Henry Campion, his executors or assigns, shall or may have and enjoy the same lease of Leyton grange;

And I will that all the said three several rents or annuities given unto my wife and younger children shall be paid unto them or their assigns or deputies by my son, Henry, his heirs, executors or assigns, at Leyton Grange aforesaid upon reasonable demand there made at the feasts of the Annunciation of Our Lady and St Michael the Archangel by even portions yearly during the continuance of the lease above-mentioned in the use or possession of my said son, Henry, as aforesaid, that is to wit, ten pounds unto my said

wife and five pounds apiece to my said two sons at every of the said feast-days from and immediately after my decease;

And I will that from and after the end and determination of the said lease and interest of my said son, Henry in the said lease of Leyton Grange as aforesaid without deceit or fraud towards my wife [+and] younger sons for their said yearly annuities, then I will that all the same yearly rents or annuities before given unto my wife and two sons shall cease and be determined;

And I will that if my said wife or any of my said younger sons happen to die before the end and determination of the said lease which my son, Henry, hath in the said farm of Leyton Grange, then that my son, Henry, his heirs and assigns, shall be discharged of her, his and their parts, rents or annuities so dying, except for such arrearages of the annuity or rent of such my wife or child so dying as shall then happen to be behind and unpaid, for which I will that the heirs, executors, administrators or assigns of my said wife and child so dying shall enter and retain the issues and profits of all and singular my said lands until the same arrearages be paid according to the true intent of this my will, and as hereafter followeth:

And as touching that matter, my mind is and I further will and devise by this my present testament and last will that if my said son, Henry Campion, his heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, do make default of payment of the said annuities or yearly rents before by me given and appointed to be paid unto my said wife and my two younger sons or of any part thereof, then that it shall be lawful for my said wife and my said two younger sons or such and so many of them from time to time as shall so happen to be unpaid of the said annuities or yearly rents unto them or any of them appointed as aforesaid, the same being demanded at the said farmhouse as before mentioned, to enter into all and singular my said lands and tenements in Stevenage and West Ham in the county of Essex or elsewhere, and the same lands and tenements and the profits thereof to retain, have and enjoy to the only use of them, their heirs & assigns, as a gage or penalty from time to time against the said Henry, my son, and all persons lawfully having or claiming from or by reason of his estate or interest until they, my said wife and younger sons, be fully satisfied and paid of and for the same their annuities or yearly rents so to be behind and unpaid, and also of and for all and every such arrearages as shall happen to incur, grow or be due or behind and unpaid during the time and times of every such entry or seisin(?) of my said wife and younger sons or of any of them, and that from and after such time as the said yearly rents or annuities appointed to be paid unto my said wife and two younger sons as aforesaid, and all the arrearages of every the same rents or annuities shall be paid and satisfied by my said son, Henry, his heirs, executors or administrators, according to the true intent of this my will, then and so often from time to time I will that my said son, Henry Campion, his heirs and assigns, shall and may have and enjoy the same lands and tenements again as in his former estate and no otherwise, for my will is that my said wife and younger sons and every of them from time to time upon every such default of payment of any of their said rents or annuities as aforesaid shall or may lawfully enter into all my said lands and tenements and have and enjoy the same as a

gage or penalty as aforesaid until they and every of them be paid and satisfied of the same their rents or annuities and of all and every the arrearages of the same as aforesaid;

And my will is that if my said wife or any of my said two younger sons shall have cause and do enter into my said lands and tenements or into any part thereof for default of payment of any of their said rents or annuities, and after that they or some one [+or] other of them shall happen to have like cause of entry into the same lands and tenements, and having the same lands and tenements, then that they or so many of them from time to time as shall have such like title or cause of entry into the said premises shall occupy in common or enjoy the profits of the same lands and tenements with those that first or secondarily did enter or had possession in my said lands or tenements as aforesaid until they be likewise paid of their said rents or annuities and of all and singular arrearages of the same from time to time as often as any of the same rents or annuities shall happen to be behind according unto the true intent of this my will;

And I will that my said son, Henry Campion, his executors and assigns, for and in consideration that I have given my said lease of Leyton Grange unto him, and also do leave unto him my lands as herein is declared, that then he, his heirs and assigns, shall pay and discharge the said yearly rents or annuities, and deliver unto my said wife and all others all such legacies as I do give and appoint by this my will without any abridging of the same;

And I will that my son, Henry Campion, shall have all my lands and tenements in Stevenage in the county of Hertford, and all my lands and tenements in West Ham in the county of Essex, to him, the said Henry, and the heirs of his body begotten, and for default of such issue of the body of my son, Henry, begotten, I will that all these parcels of my said lands and tenements in Stevenage next hereafter mentioned, that is to wit, all that the house which I lately dwelled in, with all the buildings thereunto belonging, and also all the lands, tenements and hereditaments to the same belonging or accepted to be belonging or appertaining unto the same house, and all that my messuage or farm wherein one William Heath now inhabiteth, and also all the lands now in the occupation of me, the said William Campion, there, containing by estimation fifty acres, and also one grove or wood there at the farther end of Sixborowe field and adjoining unto two closes of mine and now in the occupation of me, the said William, and which grove containeth by estimation five acres, and also one other parcel of wood-ground containing by estimation one acre near unto the grove or wood aforesaid and lying against the ground of Mr Nodes one every side, and also one other parcel of wood-ground containing by estimation two acres lying at the farther end of Stocking from Stevenage, and also all such wood and wood-ground as is esteemed as parcel of the same ground and now in the occupation of me, the said William Campion, and also all my lands and tenements in the parish of West Ham in the county of Essex aforesaid, and all other my lands and tenements in the said county of Essex, and after the death of my said son, Henry Campion, without issue of his body, then I will the same last-recited premises shall remain unto Thomas Campion, my son, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for default of such issue the remainder thereof unto the right heirs of me, the said William Campion, forever;

And I will that after the death of my said son, Henry, without issue of his body begotten, I will that all those my lands and tenements in Stevenage aforesaid hereafter mentioned, that is to wit, all that my messuage or farm at the south end of the town of Stevenage wherein one William Heath now inhabiteth with all the buildings to the same belonging, and also all the lands, meadows, pastures & feedings now in the occupation of the said William Heath, and also all the wood-ground which is esteemed as parcel of the said ground which the said Heath holdeth, and also one parcel of wood there containing by estimation two acres adjoining to the north side of Norton Green and at the one end unto a meadow of mine there called Golding's mead, and also one other parcel of wood-ground or wood containing by estimation three acres adjoining to Norton Green aforesaid and commonly called Squerells, and also one other parcel of wood and wood-ground containing by estimation one acre adjoining to Norton Green aforesaid and against the ground of Mr Brockett on every side, after such death of my said son, Henry, without issue of his body, shall remain and go unto my said son, William Campion, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, and for lack of such issue unto my son, Thomas Campion, and the heirs of his body begotten, and for lack of such issue of the body of the said Thomas, to the right heirs of me, the said William Campion, forever;

Provided always and my will is that none of the said estates tails before declared in any of my said lands or tenements shall be any let or impediment but that my said wife and my said two younger sons, Thomas and William, and every of them and every of their heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, for not payment of their said annuities or yearly rents or any part thereof as aforesaid shall and may enter into all or any part of the same my lands and tenements from time to time and detain the same and the profits thereof to their and every of their own uses as a gage until they and every of them be fully paid and satisfied of all and every of their said several rents or annuities, with all and singular the arrearages of the same, be fully satisfied and paid, and after that the said yearly rents or annuities and the arrearages of the same be satisfied and paid, then the said state tail before limited unto my said son, Henry, shall be again in being and take effect as if no such interruption had never been;

Item, I will and give unto either of my two younger sons, Thomas and William, one hundred pounds, which hundred pounds apiece I will shall be paid unto them by my son, Henry Campion, as either of them shall come to the age of four and twenty years, and if both my said younger sons shall happen to depart this present world before the said age of 24 years, then I will that my son, Henry, shall be discharged of the said two hundred pounds, and if any one of them die before the said age of four and twenty years, then my son, Henry, to be discharged of his hundred pounds so dead;

And I will that the profits of all my said lands and tenements in Stevenage aforesaid and in West Ham aforesaid shall be charged and as a gage unto my said two younger sons & either of them and unto either of their heirs, executors and administrators upon the default of payment of their said hundred pounds apiece at their said age of four and twenty years in like sort as is before mentioned for the payment of their annuities or yearly rents, that is to wit, that he of my said sons that shall be unpaid of his said hundred pounds by the

space of one month next after his said age of 24 years and reasonable request made at the mansion house of the said farm of Leyton Grange, shall and may enter into the said lands and tenements and retain the profits of the same to him, his heirs and assigns, as a gage or penalty until such time as they shall be paid the said hundred pounds according unto the true intent of this my will, and touching the same two hundred pounds, I shall either leave it in ready money or in good debts unto my son, Henry, to pay it withal;

And I will that the same my son, Henry, and his assigns shall yield and pay unto my said two younger sons a reasonable increase or gain for the use of the same two hundred pounds until the time of payment thereof, which increase and gain I will shall be thirteen pounds six shillings eight pence yearly until the days of payment of the said hundred pounds apiece for every hundred pounds, that is to wit, six pounds thirteen shillings four pence apiece yearly until they shall accomplish the full age of four and twenty years, and which increase I will shall begin at the end of three years next after the date of this my will, and that the same increase shall be employed upon the bringing up of my said younger sons in learning in one of the universities or elsewhere as shall be thought meet by their said brother and friends;

And I will that my son, Henry, and his assigns shall be accountable unto my said younger sons at their age of four and twenty years for the said increase or gain of the said two hundred pounds;

I will that the masters, governors, tutors or friends of my two younger sons shall receive their yearly annuities or rents before mentioned and be accountable for the same at their several ages of four and twenty years, and lay out thereof unto them or to their uses so much as shall be convenient to maintain them at their learning over and above their said increase of their two hundred pounds before mentioned;

Item, I give unto Denize, my wife, four featherbeds with the appurtenances, and one featherbed with th' appurtenances [+and] two pair of sheets I give unto my said two younger sons;

I give also unto the said Denize, my wife, half my pewter, half my brass and half my linen;

Item, I will, give and devise unto my sister Blackwell forty shillings, and to her son, William Blackwell, forty shillings;

Item, I give forty shillings unto the poor of the parish wherein I shall be buried, to be bestowed to such of them as shall seem good to my executor and to my overseers in this my will appointed;

Item, I give unto such of my friends as hereafter followeth for a remembrance in token of my goodwill towards them:

I give unto Mr Nodes ten shillings;



Item, to John Clerk th' elder, twenty shillings;

Item, to his son, Edward, forty shillings;

Item, to my cousin, William Hawes, forty shillings, which Edward Clerk and William Hawes I make supervisors of this my last will and testament;

Item, to Father Bates ten shillings;

And of this my present testament and last will I make & ordain my son, Henry Campion, my sole executor, to whom I give all my plate with all other the rest of my goods and chattels, with two quilts, one of Bruges satin, the other of fine linen cloth, and whatsoever as well, moveable as not moveable, being no parcel of the two hundred pounds before mentioned and being not before bequeathed, and all debts & duties by any means being a debt or duty to me and not before in this my last will and testament or otherwise appointed, given and bequeathed;

And this [sic] I conclude and make an end of this my last will and testament, these being witnesses: Henry van Wilder, John Pragell, James Ballard, vicar of Leyton, John Stepnethe, John Gates, Oliver Notte. By me, William Campion.

Probatum fuit Testamentu{m} h{uius}mo{d}i coram Mag{ist}ro Will{el}mo Drewrie legum doctore Curie Prerogatiue Cantuarien{sis} Com{m}issario apud London Decimo die mens{is} Nove{m}bris Anno d{omi}ni Mill{es}imo Qingen{tes}imo Septuag{esi}mo Sexto Iuramento Henrici Campion filij et Executoris &c Cui com{m}issa fuit Admi{n}istracio &c de bene &c ac de pleno et fideli Inuentario &c Necnon de plano et vero Computo &c Iurat{i}

[=The same will was proved before Master William Drury, Doctor of the Laws, Commissary of the Prerogative Count of Canterbury, at London on the tenth day of the month of November in the year of the Lord the thousand five hundred seventy sixth by the oath of Henry Campion, son and executor etc., to whom administration was granted etc., sworn to well etc., and [+to prepare] a full and faithful inventory etc., and also [+to render] a plain and true account etc.]