

Blakesley Hall and Inventories



An inventory was a list made of a persons belongings. They were valued and added up to say what a person was worth. Inventories were usually made when a person had died and often were added onto the end of a Will. Inventories are useful to historians as they list the contents of people's houses, shops, and businesses. They can tell us about a persons wealth, status and methods of work. They can tell us about the things people valued in the past and give us an idea of what their houses were like inside.

The inventory made for Richard Smalbroke in 1613 was of his belongings in his house in Bordesley known as the Ravenhurst. Some of the contents listed may have been part of Blakesley Hall's furnishings when Richard lived in Yardley. In his will he talks about his 'house in Yardley' and leaves its window glass and floorboards to his nephew, Richard Smalbroke junior.

Richard's Inventory List

In the hall house:

one Table with a frame
one Drawing Table
one forme
halfe a Dozen of Buffet Stooles.

In the Parlour:

one Drawing Table boarde with the frame
one long forme
one livery Cupboard
one other Cupboard wch was my ffathers
one little Drawing Table
two Chayres of Joyners worke
half a dozen of Buffet Stooles.

In the Buttrye:

one Bynne for bread
one Table with the frame

In the Celler or Taverne:

one S_____ - *can you guess what this could be? Maybe it is Shelf or Storage Barrels, what are your thoughts?*

In the Chamber over the hall:

one Beddsteed with a Testerne
one livery Cupborde.

In the Chamber over the kitchen:

one Bedsted with a Testerne
one liverye Cupborde
one presse
one Turle Bedd

In the Chamber over the Parlor:

one Bedsted with a Testerne
one Turle bedd
one square Table
one livery Cupborde
one wrought Chaire
one ioyned Chaire

In the Studdy and Closetts:

all bords, Tables and Shelves

In the Kitchen and Bakehouse:

one broade Square Table with the fframe
one Turnbroche of Iron comonly called a Jack
a greate pan that standeth in the Bakehouse and ffurnis

In the Cocklofts:

a clock with the greate Bell and all the poyses and waights thereunto belonginge.

From Richard's Will:

"I give and bequeath unto the said Richard Smalbroke [his nephew] my chest or coffer wch I have standing in his house and all the glass seeling* and waynscott standing in upon or about the house in Yardley wherein I did lately dwell or in or upon the windowes or other partes of the same house and my Table boardes and fframes wth the benches and formes standing in the hall of the same house and one greate Pott that lately stoode in a fforname of the same house.

Item I give and bequeath to the said Elizabeth my wyfe Tow of my best silver Boles and my silver Bole double guilt called a Sack Bole and my second Salt guilt and my Trencher salt of silver and six silver Spoones."

Inventory Detectives

Jacob Marston has mixed up the belongings of Richard Smalbroke, gentleman, and Richard Smallbroom, a working man. Help him to sort out who owned what!

1. Apostle spoon



2. Clothes



3. Pewter plate



4. Horn mug



5. Wooden spoon



6. Clothes



7. Quill pen and ink pot



8. Travelling knife and fork set



9. Sword



10. Flint and Striker



11. Trencher plate



12. Glass



Inventory



These items belong to Richard **Smalbroke**

These items belong to Richard **Smalbroom**