

Summary - The Wood Family

W.1

The large Wood family is first mentioned in an indenture of 1751 which appears to be part of a larger document. It concerns a large amount of land in **Westerham, Bromley, Lee, Shoreham, Eynsford & Otford** which seems to have been owned by **Richard Wood (#232), Anthony Wood (#114) & Jane (#116)**, his wife, and **Michael Wood (#115) & Mary (#117)**, his wife, who sold it to **James Brasier (#118)** for £220.

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Indenture 1751

This appears to be part of a larger document. After giving their full names at the beginning, throughout the rest of the document the Woods and James Brasier are referred to by their first names only:

This is the final agreement made . . . between:

- *James Brasier (#118)*
- *Richard Wood (#232), Anthony Wood (#114) & Jane (#116), his wife, & Michael Wood (#115) & Mary (#117), his wife*

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Concerning:

- a messuage, 3 barns, a garden, 3 orchards, 50 acres of land, 4 acres of meadow, 20 acres of pasture & 20 acres of wood
- three fourth parts of a messuage, garden, orchard
- 150 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, 20 acres of pasture, 50 acres of wood & 80 acres of furze and heath with the appurtenances

in *Westerham, Bromley, Lee, Shoreham, Eynsford & Otford*. 1751 (1-12)

Richard, Anthony & Jane, Michael & Mary have acknowledged the aforesaid three fourth parts, with the appurtenances, to be the Right of him, the said James & Mary. 1751 (13-16)

James hath given to . . . Richard, Anthony & Jane & Michael & Mary, £220. 1751 (24-25)

The Fourth Part

The 1751 indenture refers to the “three fourth parts” (or three quarters) of a messuage, garden and orchard. The fourth part seems to be the land referred to in the indentures of 1773 which are concerned with some land called Dunstalls held by gavelkind. This, with a total acreage of about 316 acres, was owned, in 1773, by:

John (#109) of Bromley in the county of Kent, grocer, and *Richard Wood (#110) of Cudham* in the said county of Kent, yeoman, the two only sons and coheirs in gavelkind of *Thomas Wood (#107)*, late of *Hayes*, yeoman, deceased, one of the four sons and coheirs of *John Wood (#105)*, of *Shoreham*, deceased. 1773-1 (3-7)

It is this fourth part, called Dunstalls, which is the subject of the indentures of 1773 and a number of later indentures - see

Summary: Land Called Dunstalls

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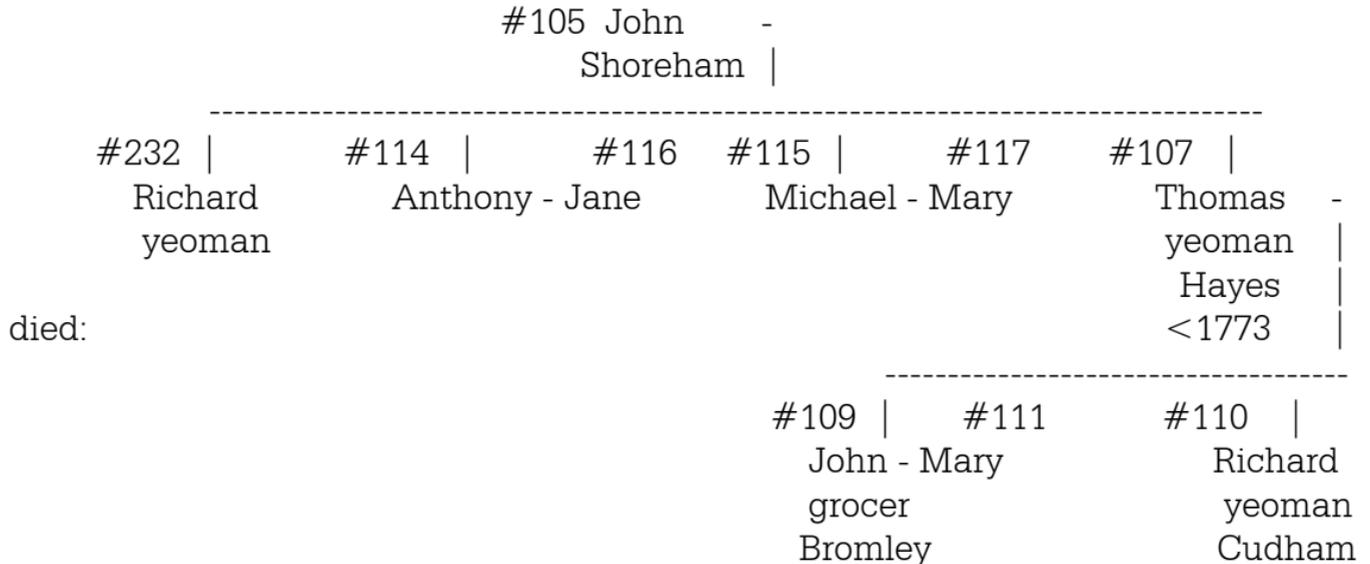
In the indenture dated 1st June 1773 (Document 1773-1), John Wood, grocer of Bromley, and Richard Wood, yeoman of Bromley are described as “the two only sons and coheirs in gavelkind . . . of Thomas Wood, late of Hayes in the said county of Kent, yeoman, deceased who was one of the four sons and coheirs in gavelkind of John Wood, heretofore of Shoreham . . . deceased”.

The land which is the subject of this indenture is referred to as “the fourth part” presumably showing it as a quarter of the land which the four brothers, John, Anthony, Michael and Thomas inherited from their father, John Wood of Shoreham.

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The above information gives the following family tree:



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From the indenture of 1751, John, Anthony and Michael sold the three-quarters they had inherited to James Brazier for £220 and this land is not mentioned in any of the other indentures investigated.

The fourth quarter is the subject of a number of further indentures and Document 1773-1 gives its name as Dunstalls; the total area of this land is given as just over 300 acres. The transactions concerning this land are complex; they are summarised in:

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Michael Wood of Chelsham

Michael Wood of Chelsham¹ in the County of **Surrey**, yeoman, is one of the parties to the indenture of 2nd June 1773 (1773-2). From the details given, it is not possible to decide whether this is #115 or not.

¹

about 10 miles west of Otford