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Appendix 1

Surviving Wills for Sevenoaks up to 1650

The Wills Investigated

During this study 111 of the Sevenoaks wills have been investigated in detail. Some of the other wills were written in Latin (these include the five dating from the fifteenth century), some have not been found and others, whilst mentioning Sevenoaks, had no real connection with the town. The six Sackville wills have not been included in the various tables and they have not been described in detail since this family was very distinct from even the parish gentry and merchants of Sevenoaks¹. A complete list of the surviving wills is given at the beginning of **Sevenoaks Wills and Families**.

¹ See, for example, Phillips, Charles P. for details of the Sackvilles

Only twenty wills written before 1580 have survived and two of these have not been found. The total number surviving (including those not investigated) for each decade from 1580 are given in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1 - Sevenoaks Wills from 1580 by decade

	PCC	Shoreham	Total
1580-89	4		4
1590-99	8		8
1600-09	8		8
1610-19	9	11	20
1620-29	16	12	28
1630-39	8	14	22
1640-49	14	7	21
TOTAL	67	44	111

These are less than would be expected for a town the size of Sevenoaks, the number of surviving wills per decade is only about a twentieth of the number of

burials, even from 1610 onwards when wills proved at the Deanery of Shoreham were surviving.

The earliest surviving will which, although in Latin, has been partly transcribed is that of Thomas Mugworthy written on 6th August 1503. He had been appointed vicar of Sevenoaks on 25th April 1499².

The Sevenoaks Wills Compared with those from Tonbridge, Penshurst and Seal

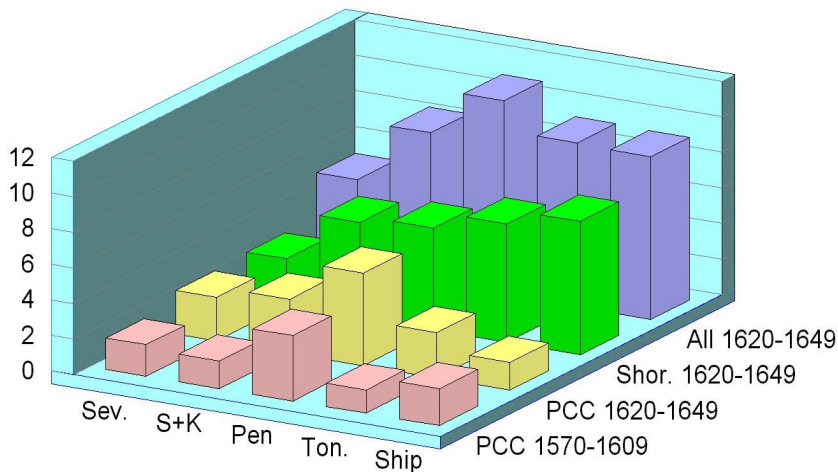
The diagram below contrasts the ratio of the number of surviving wills to the recorded burials in Sevenoaks with similar ratios for the adjacent town of Tonbridge and the villages of Penshurst, Shipboure and Seal with Kemsing. For these other parishes, the total number of surviving wills proved between 1620 and 1649 is about a tenth of the number of burials whereas for Sevenoaks they were half this.

Since Penshurst was also in the Deanery of Shoreham, there must have been some other factor present to account for the paucity of wills in Sevenoaks.

The total number of burials in each parish were:

	non-PCC wills proved:	1620-1649	1570-1609
Sevenoaks	Shoreham	1344	1139
Seal & Kemsing	Rochester	560	589
Penshurst	Shoreham	578	572
Tonbridge	Rochester	1697	1510
Shipbourne	Rochester	241	192

Ratio of Surviving Wills to Burials



Sev
S+K
Pen
Ton
Ship

Sevenoaks
Seal and Kemsing
Penshurst
Tonbridge
Shipbourne

vertical scale: % wills to burials

Appendix 2

Grants of Administration for Sevenoaks, 1559-1649

Where a person died without leaving a will or where the executor renounced his or her duties a Grant of Administration was made appointing a person to dispose of the effects of the deceased. Leland L. Duncan extracted the records of these Grants of Administration from the Administration Act Books of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) and these are recorded in:

1559-1603 A.C. Volume 18; 1888, p. 20-35

1604-1649 A.C. Volume 20; 1890, p. 4-42.

Details of those for Sevenoaks are given here in date order. The first date is when the grant was made, where there is a date below it, it is the date of burial taken from the transcript of the parish records (CKS: P300/1/44)

Folio	Date	deceased	to whom granted and relation to deceased
61	11 Nov 1574	John Wody	Katherine Huntley alias Wody and Anne Wody, daughters
112	8 Oct 1589	John Cox	Agnes, relict
22	30 Jun 1587 5 May 1587	Edward Alyward householder	Elizabeth, relict

Edward Aylward married Elizabeth Overy on 20th January 1566/7 and, over the next eighteen years, seven children were baptised in Sevenoaks without any burials being recorded. Although Edmond, the eldest, was nineteen when his father died, the youngest was only two.

bur:							
Edward - Elizabeth Overy							
5 May 1587							

bap:							
1585	Edmond 7 Dec 1567	Audrey 9 Oct 1569	George 6 Jan 1571/2	Jone 31 Jan 1573/4	Elizabeth 25 Mar 1576	John 21 Oct 1582	Dorothy 25 Mar

226	5 Oct 1597	Sampson Lone	Richard and John, brothers
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see the Lones in [Sevenoaks Wills & Families](#) for details of the Lone family

91	30 Oct 24 May	1607 1606	Tabitha Vane wife of Robert	Edward Vane of Sevenoaks while Susan Withers, daughter, is a minor
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Why was an administrator necessary when Tabitha's husband was alive? Presumably Susan Withers was Tabitha's daughter by an earlier marriage and her father could have left her money and/or property which she would inherit when she came of age. But Tabitha's name was "Parris" when she married Robert Vane on 30th July 1604. (perhaps he was her third husband).

Robert had been married before since his wife, Eme, was buried on 27th April 1604. Just as he married soon after Eme's death, he again quickly found another wife, marrying Alice Holmes on 11th November 1606. Robert Vane of Riverhead, householder, was buried on 16th January 1615/6.

210	21 Feb	1618/9	Godfrey William	Elizabeth, relict
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43	17 Nov	1619	Samuel Terry	John Sole of Riverhead in Sevenoaks
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Samuel Terry married Jone Spilsted on 10 June 1599. Jone, wife of Samuel was buried on 19th July 1601 and Anna, his daughter, on 21st June 1607. No burial was recorded for Samuel.

108	6 Aug	1624	Richard Walter	Abigail, relict
	12 Jul	1624	householder	
30	21 Jun	1634	Ann Walter, widow	Hester Streete, daughter

Ann could have been the widow of the John Walter whose will of 1631 has survived since John's wife was given, in his will, as Agnes and Ann/Agnes were often used interchangeably. John does not, however, mention a daughter called Hester.

109	27 Aug	1624	Meriell Fuller	Dorothy Pett, mother
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121	23 Oct	1624	Edward Oliver	Jane Miller alias Oliver, sister
	27 Sep	1624		

Edward was described as the son of William and "a young man servant"

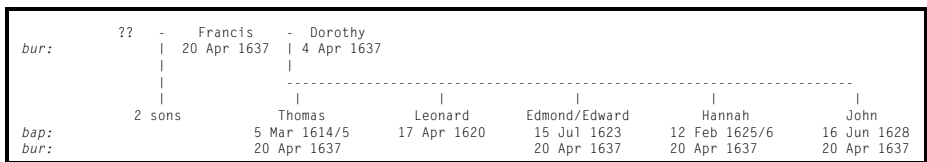
152	28 Mar	1625	John Pocock	Joan, relict
-----	--------	------	-------------	--------------

There is nothing to indicate which of the many John Pocockes this was.

2	11 Jan	1631/2	Richard James	Susan, relict
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137	26 Nov 2 Nov	1635 1635	Alexander Garland	Joan, relict
166	16 May 3 May	1636 1635	Joan Garland, alias Tapsfield, widow of Alexander	Robert Tapsfield, her father, during the minority of William, John, Timothy, Augustus, Alexander and Joan, her children
109	22 Sep 20 Apr	1637 1637	Francis Gale householder	John Stileman, guardian of Leonard, the surviving son

All the Gale family, except for Leonard, died from the plague in April 1637. Francis Gale married Dorothy Pratt on 11th June 1619:



115	9 Oct 30 Jun	1637 1637	Thomas Newman innholder	Godwin Smith, creditor, during minority of Henry, Mary, Elizabeth and Edward, the children, Maria, relict, renouncing
144	15 Jan	1638	Thomas Smith	Mary, relict

167	16 Apr	1638	Richard Wickinge	Prudence, (relict?)
153	2 Sep	1640	George Bloome	Sara, relict
George was the eldest son of John Blome, a rich mercer of Sevenoaks - see Sevenoaks Wills & Families and Appendix 15 .				
128	23 Oct	1646	Robert Brookes, bachelor	Richard, brother
30	11 Feb	1647/8	John Besbeece	Richard, brother
145	20 Dec	1648	Daniel Besbeece	Richard, brother
146	20 Oct	1647	Michael Hayward	James Robin and Alice Robinson alias Hayward, his wife

Appendix 3

Will of Eme White, widow

This will (**CKS: Prs/w/17/127**) was written, in June 1616, by a professional scriptor: **Nicholas Hooper**, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618. Its style is in complete contrast to the nuncupative and other very short wills and it can be used as an example of the general structure of a will. Punctuation was usually kept to a minimum so that the meaning could not be altered by changing it (although lack of punctuation often makes it difficult to understand what was meant in the first place). Extracts from this will are reproduced (with the permission of CKS) at the end of this appendix.

Like practically all of the wills studied, it started with the phrase:

In the name of god Amen.

usually followed by the date the will was written, given in this will, with the year both as the year AD (sometimes described as "[in the year of our lord god, after the computation of the Church of England](#)") and the regnal year. Eme White's will was written:

["The tenth day of the month of June in the year of our lord God one thousand, six hundredth and sixteen and in the fourteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord James, by the grace of God, king of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. And of Scotland the nine and fortieth."](#)

Then comes the name and description of the testator:

["I, Eme White, of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, widow, being at the time of making hereof in reasonable good health of body and of good and perfect mind and remembrance, thanks therefore be given to Almighty God, notwithstanding aged and thereby put in mind of my last end, and knowing that I shall assuredly change this life and the time thereof most uncertain and willing that those small and transitory goods and possessions, which God hath made me steward of in this](#)

world, might be quietly enjoyed after my decease by those whom I have meant the same unto. Therefore I do ordain and make this my present last will and testament in manner and form following:"

In order that the will would not be challenged, it was important to state that the testator was of "[good and perfect mind and remembrance](#)" although many testators were "[sick in body](#)". Not many testators explained the reasons for writing their will in such detail as Eme but the writing of a will by an "aged" person in good health was not all that unusual. Eme did not die until January 1619, two and a half years after the will was written. One of Eme's sons, Thomas, married in 1596; he was probably born about 1570 and Eme herself about 1545. Thus she would have been about seventy when she wrote her will in 1616.

Next came the "religious preamble" regarding the testator's soul and wishes with respect to the burial. Eme's (whilst being longer than average) gives the general idea (see [Appendix 5](#) for further discussion of this part of the will):

["I give, commend and bequeath my Soul into the hands of Almighty God, trusting by an assured faith which I have in the merit, precious death and blood shedding of his dear and only son, my saviour Jesus Christ that the same shall be presented pure and without spot before the throne of his majesty. And my body to the](#)

Earth from whence it came, to be buried in decent and Christian Sepulchre in sure and certain hope of a joyful resurrection to life Eternal."

Many, but not all, testators made contributions to the poor, the most usual being a distribution of either money or bread at the burial with executors, overseers, churchwardens, overseers of the poor often being brought in to decide how the distribution should be made:

"I will twenty shillings of lawful money to be given and distributed at my burial among such poor of the parish of Sevenoaks aforesaid as mine executors and overseers hereafter named shall think fit."

Then came specific bequests which could be money or particular items with the persons to whom something was given being identified usually by their relationship to the testator or where they lived. The time at which the bequest was to be made also had to be given: sometimes within a specified time after the decease of the testator, sometimes after the death of the widow, and, for underage children, when they reached a particular age.

"I give and bequeath to my daughter-in-law Eme, now wife of Moysey Masters and late wife of Robert White, my son, deceased,

the sum of forty shillings of lawful money to be paid to her within one year next after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath to Thomas White, my godson, son of Thomas White, my son deceased, my best bedstead . . . **Item:** I give and bequeath to Henry White, son of my said son Thomas White, a pair of smith's bellows and an anvil of steel".

The residue of the testator's possessions were usually given to the executor who had to pay the charges for the burial and the proving of the will and was responsible for paying any outstanding debts and the various legacies.

"The residue of all my goods and cattells³, debts, bonds, bills, credits and chattels and all other my moveable goods whatsoever I fully wholly and with good intent and purpose give and bequeath to my three grandchildren, Henry White, William White and Thomas White, which Henry, William and Thomas White, my grandchildren, I make and ordain my whole and sole executors of this my will". But, because "William and Thomas White, two of my said executors are underage, I will that my said grandson Henry

White, my other executor, shall prove this my will to the use and behoof of himself and his other two brothers".

It was unusual to have three executors and also unusual to appoint grandchildren but Robert and Thomas, Eme's two sons, had died before her. If Henry was the Henry White, son of Thomas White, baptised on 20th June 1597 (his parents having married on 10th September 1596), he was only just nineteen but sometimes the age of majority seems to have been taken as eighteen. In any case he would have been twenty-one when she died.

Sometimes the sole executor was a minor in which case one of the overseers or supervisors would be expected to take on the duties of executing the will until such time as he was old enough to take over. Thomas, the youngest of the three, was probably the Thomas baptised on 27th October 1605, five months after his father was buried. This reconstruction shows the possibility of gaining details of the families mentioned in a will from the parish registers.

Eme specified three "very good friends and neighbours", one from Sevenoaks, one from Otford and one from Chevening, to be her supervisors and overseers and they had to divide all her goods between the three heirs and set down "some good course whereby the said William and Thomas may have the profit of their portions towards their maintenance until their several age of one and twenty years". She

also charged her grandsons to "agree together like brothers and be tractable to such rule and good devise as by my said overseers, or two of them, shall be set down for them".

This completed the testament part of the will. Eme owned two "messuages or tenements" (the term usually used to describe a house) in Sevenoaks which she had "lately purchased". One of these, with its "kitchen, garden and appurtenances thereunto belonging" she left to Henry. The one in which she lived, with Walter Edmond, tailor, having part of it, was to be divided between her other two grandsons.

The will ends with two paragraphs, the first of which is typical of a will written by a professional scriptor but not of all wills. Most have the last paragraph, or a very similar one, giving the names of the witnesses.

"I, the said Eme White, to this my last will and testament, containing four sheets of Paper have to every sheet set my hand, and to this last fourth and last sheet have set my hand and put to my seal. And I do hereby revoke and make void all other wills by me formerly made and do pronounce and declare this to be my true and last will yeven the day and year first above written."

"Read, sealed and declared as the true
and last will of the said Eme White the mark of Eme
in the presence of me, **Nicholas Hooper**,
sen. writer hereof and of White
Timothy Stone"

At the bottom right hand corner of the last page of the will is the notification that the will was proved. This, as was usual, is written in Latin. It gives the date probate was granted (10th January 1610 - 1611 using the modern calendar) and appoints the executors. Only William and Thomas White seem to be mentioned here but it is difficult to read the lines at the bottom of the page.

resurrection, to list Othmell. Item I will executioⁿ sellinge of lawfull money to beⁿ g^oden and

distributed at my buriall among such part^s of the pariss^e of Eborac^e as shal be myn^e Ex^oritous and
Ch^orch^oward^s for the names, y^eng^{er} and

Daughter in law^s End, w^ore wife of my^e master, and late wife of Robert m^e D^eg^ont, found w^ore
the found of the said sellinge of lawfull money, to be paid to her w^olf^e and y^eng^{er} m^e of the

my^e d^ecess^od. Item I give and bequeath, to Thomas m^e D^eg^ont, son of Thomas
m^e D^eg^ont my^e d^ecess^od, my best bested, beⁿ bested such portion of my^e goods as he

my^e gift to him after my d^ecess^od, by roortus of the my^e will. Item I give and bequeath

to my^e son Thomas m^e D^eg^ont, a pair of my^e bested bollards and

two of my^e bested bollards, and also the portion of good, w^o shal fall my^e gift to him by my^e will.

the will of the End

would according to good dealing, and the true meaning of the will. In witness
 the said End ought to give my last will and Testament, containing former goods of the said
 to said goods. I set my hand, and to the fourth and last goods, gave I set my hand and put to my seal
 and of two yearly words and made good all other wills by me formerly made and do pronounced and
 declare this, to be my true and last will, given of my own free will and choice without

Read: Edward and Edward, at the time
 and last will of the said End
 in the presence of me Richard Hooper
 John, son of the said, and of

the said End
 +
 witness

[Signature]

Timothy. Clerk

Probatum fuit hunc Testamentum de
 nono die mensis Januarii Anno domini m^o c^o lxxviii
 ibid. coram nobis p^{re}sente J^o de la Hayward legum
 doctore deano et juramento hujusmodi
 non est suspectus in eodem loco et tunc in conspectu
 fuit hunc testem de hunc et tunc in conspectu
 fuit hunc testem de hunc et tunc in conspectu
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Appendix 4

Wills, their Writing and Contents

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See [Sevenoaks Wills & Families](#) for full transcripts of the wills mentioned here.
The copies of part of the wills included here are reproduced with the permission of CKS.

The Structure of a Will

Usually, what is generally referred to as "a will" consisted of two main parts:

1. the **testament** which dealt with the disposal of the testator's personal estate, that is all assets other than freehold land: money, plate, furniture, livestock and leasehold property.

2. the **will** itself which was concerned with real estate that is land with all the buildings on it, held freehold or copyhold. With copyhold land, although the heir or new tenant had to pay an entry fine, it descended automatically to the heir of the copyholder and was thus, for practical purposes, a permanent holding.

After giving the **date** and the **testator's name**, the testament usually had a section preceding the bequests giving the testator's hopes for his soul, wishes regarding burial and details of any charitable bequests. This is often referred to as the **preamble**. Then came specific bequests of money and/or goods, the testament ending with details of what was to happen to **the residue** of goods, both moveable and unmovable, that is everything not already bequeathed. It was generally in the testament that the **executor** or executors were appointed and also any **overseers** and **supervisors**.

Appendix 3 uses the will of Eme White, widow, to illustrate the general structure of a will. Practically all wills start with the phrase "**In the name of god Amen**" but there are a few variations, in particular, a few wills which expand the phrase to "god the father, god the son and god the holy ghost" - see **Appendix 5**.

The Writing of a Will

Wills were generally written when the person was seriously ill "[sick and weak in body](#)" although some people, particularly if they were old, had their wills written when they were "[of good and reasonable health of body](#)". Even to someone who was used to writing, the task of producing a will when they were unwell would not have been easy. Thus practically all wills were written by someone other than the testator. This could have been a neighbour who could write, the vicar or a professional scribe.

There are a few wills where it is possible to know who wrote them; definitely when "scr." (scribe or scrivener) was written after the name of one of the witnesses and sometimes because of similarities or other circumstantial evidence. The vicar of the parish could not only write but was also likely to visit a dying parishioner and often wrote their wills. There were also professional scribes working in the area. The wills written by known scribes are described in [Appendix 6](#).

The will of [Thomas Holmes](#), written on 9th September 1624, looks as if it was written by someone used to writing official documents, possibly [Richard Besbech](#) whom Holmes appointed as one of his overseers and whose signature

as a witness looks like a "professional" signature. Although a "gentleman", it is possible that writing a will could have been a service he was prepared to do for a friend. Another such friend might have been **Richard Stockwood**, whom in 1622, **Stephen Nash** "caused" to write his will and he also signed and possibly wrote the will of **John Price** in 1624.

A professional scriptor (and possibly others who wrote a will for a neighbour or friend) would have come to talk to the testator, making notes of all the relevant items, and then gone away to write the will. When he came back it was read out to the testator and witnesses, any necessary changes or insertions were made, and then a declaration such as "read, sealed and declared as the last will of the said ?? ?? in the presence of . . ." added. The witnesses added their signature or made their mark as did the testator and the will was sealed.

There is a contemporary description of this procedure in the deposition for the contested will of John Burchard written in Witham in Essex in 1634⁵. John Burchard sent for a local scribe, Edmund Halys, "to come to him . . . where he lay then sick . . . told him that he had sent for him to make his will and forthwith gave him instructions". Halys came and heard what John had to say, returned home to

write the will, took it back again and read it out "with an audible voice" in the presence of the witnesses. Later on, one of them was confident that John did "well understand all the gifts and bequests and did very well like of the same and said it was to his mind and . . did set his mark".

How quickly this process could be carried out would depend partly on the distance between the testator's house and that of the scriptor. Some parishes were large; even the vicar could have had a mile or more to travel to get to some of his parishioners. **Nicholas Hooper**, a professional scrivener, wrote two Sevenoaks wills; he was the curate of Shipbourne, a distance as the crow flies of over four miles which included crossing the sandstone ridge to the south of the town.

Some wills detail the changes which were made and there may be an addition at the end to say that the alterations and "interlining" made on the various pages were made before the will was signed and sealed. The actual changes can be seen only if the original has survived since the man making the probate copy only wrote out the final version.

Sometimes, even with only the probate copy surviving, it is possible to see, at least partly, how the complete process worked. The will of **John Cole**, written in 1629 when John was "sick and weak in body" ends abruptly without any witnesses, etc. In the probate copy (the original has not been examined, it may not even have

survived) there are spaces left for two names: "my aged mother " and " my well beloved wife". These are presumably a copy the original, the scriptor not having noted the names of John's mother and wife but leaving spaces so that they could be entered when the will was read. It would seem that, after giving details to the scriptor, John died before the will was brought back to him for checking, reading and signing. Even though the names would obviously have been known to John's relatives, it was possible that an unsigned will would be more readily accepted by the Court if there were no alterations or additions made to it.

The Signing and Witnessing of The Will

Some of the testators and witnesses could write their own names; others made their mark. Particularly with earlier wills, often the names of two or three witnesses were given followed by "and others more". Presumably this implies that more people witnessed the reading and sealing of the will than actually signed it (or made their mark). Sometimes the number of pages were given with the testators signing or putting their mark to each page.

The will and testament of **Robert Holmden**, the citizen and leatherseller of London, contained twenty sheets of paper to which he "set to my name and sealed them together with my seal".

With the wills proved at the Deanery of Shoreham it is the originals which have survived so that the actual signatures and marks can be examined. Four testators signed their wills: **William Lawrence**, bricklayer; **Percival Smith**, yeoman; **Martha Stanford**, widow; **Richard Thomas**.

In addition to those witnesses who were probably the writers of the will, eighty-six witnesses are recorded in the wills proved in the Deanery of Shoreham. Twenty-two of these signed their names with another eleven possibles and twenty-nine made their mark. Of the twenty-two witnesses who signed, **Timothy Stone** and **Edward Sisley** were each witnesses to three wills and **Thomas Rumney** and **William Wall** to two each. The wills witnessed by William Wall were written in 1624 and 1636 but the two signatures are very similar.

Some examples of signatures are given below.

William Lawrence, bricklayer

William Lawrence, bricklayer, looks to have signed his will with a full signature: "William Lawrence". It seems unusual that a bricklayer should be able to write his name but he was reasonably wealthy since he owned three messuages.

I go find William Lowman to show how put to my hands &
day & year first before written.

William Lawrence

In Sept 79 sent a note
notifying of ^{the} Willm Turner.

The
Wicks

School

Lawrtnei j'edot

William Gloag


The W of 92nd

— Immer dankbar. /

The will was probably written by the vicar, William Turnar who was the first witness, followed by the signature of William Floate and the mark of William Turner, baker, which was a "W".

William Turner, baker

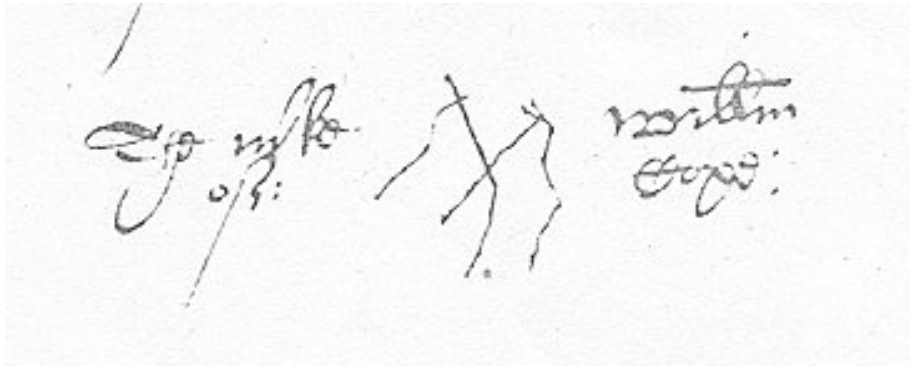
The will of William Turner, baker, has also survived and here, viewing the will in its correct orientation, the mark he made is an "M". But looked the other way up, the mark here and the one made when he was witness to William Lawrence's will

acknowledgment of this my last will and Testament I put my hand and
soale the foure and twentieth day of August in the year of our lord 1638
1638: in the presence of
Rich: Wykes
tho: Pore
William Turner  his mark

are the same. Was the paper on which the will was written passed to him without turning it the right way so that he made his mark "upside down"? Such are the tantalising puzzles presented when we consider the actual way in which things may have happened.

William Coxe

Another who might have made his mark with the paper the wrong way round is William Coxe. His will was "signed and sealed by the said William Coxe the said last day of March 1616 in the presence of us whose names ensure as his last will and testament being then also read unto him before us: Edward Legg, Thomas Noreson, Thomas Poore". As with the baker, William Coxe's mark looks like a capital "M" - or a "W" upside down. The names of all the witnesses look like signatures, with Thomas Poore the probable scriptor.



The image shows three handwritten elements on aged paper. On the left is a cursive signature that appears to be 'Edw Legg'. In the center is a large, stylized mark resembling an upside-down 'W' or a capital 'M'. On the right is another cursive signature, 'Thomas Poore', with a colon at the end.

John Mantle

If the person was "sick in body", writing one's name with a quill pen cannot have been all that easy even if they could write when in normal health. John Mantle's will is an example: John tried to sign the will and his effort can be seen but the scribe added a note underneath saying "he not able of the writing hereof". This is not surprising since the will which was written on 3rd October 1639 and reads partly as if what was written had been spoken by John earlier and John was buried the next day.

of the will
 witness hereto
 by name of

Logo marks of *Edvard Munch*

Tristram mantle John mantle as he was
able at writing her of

John Wood
5th Floor

John Mantle. Sevenoaks.

3rd October 1639

OKS: Prs/w/11/45

proved 20th October 1639

29. Vocaturus fuit Simo
 Et stantibus viris pro deo amplexibus
 Et habuit Amos dñi 1.63.9.
 Porcum pinguem Goulunda
 Goulunda Olea Ricco et Goulunda
 fuit dñs ex Amos et Maule
 videtur et Extrahitur pinguis
 goulunda et extrahitur pinguis
 fuit ex pinguis pinguis
 Goulunda et Extrahitur pinguis
 extrahitur pinguis pinguis pinguis
 extrahitur pinguis pinguis pinguis

Another possible example is that of **Abraham Tomlin** who made a mark when his will was written in 1640 although, when he witnessed the will of **Richard Hills** a year earlier, he wrote his name.

When Were Wills Written?

The dates of burial are known for forty-five testators with many of them being on their deathbed when their wills were written. Twelve of them were buried less than a week after the date of the will and a total of twenty-two less than a month after. It was usually noted that they were "sick in body but of good and perfect remembrance". Eleven, however, were buried between one and four years after writing their will and **William Frankwell**, although "not altogether well of body" in 1609 survived for over another fifteen years.

John Pococke, who wrote his will in April 1619 when he was "in reasonable health of body", lived until December 1622. **George Scott** believed that every

Christian man should be prepared for death and wrote his will in May 1645 but he lived for over three more years. **Eme White**, widow, had her will written in June 1616 by a professional scribe when she was "aged but in reasonable good health"; she lived for another two and a half years. **Beatrix Spratt**, whose will was written by the professional scribe, Nicholas Hooper, gives the reason for writing her will when she was "in reasonable good health, as well of body as of mind, . . . notwithstanding aged and subject to many infirmities" as being because she knew "most assuredly that I shall change this life by death but the time thereof being altogether uncertain and willing that the portion of those little goods which I enjoy here for a season may be quietly enjoyed after my decease by those whom I have meant the same unto, therefore I do ordain and make this my present testament and last will in manner and form following". The date of Beatrix's burial is not known.

In other cases the testator, although ill when the will was written, survived for a considerable time. **Alice Vane**, for example, "sick and weak in body" in July 1627 lived for another two years. Quite a few testators revoke earlier wills: **Thomas Farnaby** does "hereby revoke and cancel and make void all other former wills whatsoever made by me". This implies that it was reasonably common to write a will other than on one's deathbed although, of course, what seemed to be one's deathbed might not actually become it.

In a few cases, where changes were necessary, the original will was modified rather than a new one being written. Martha Stanford, where the original has survived, shows these clearly.

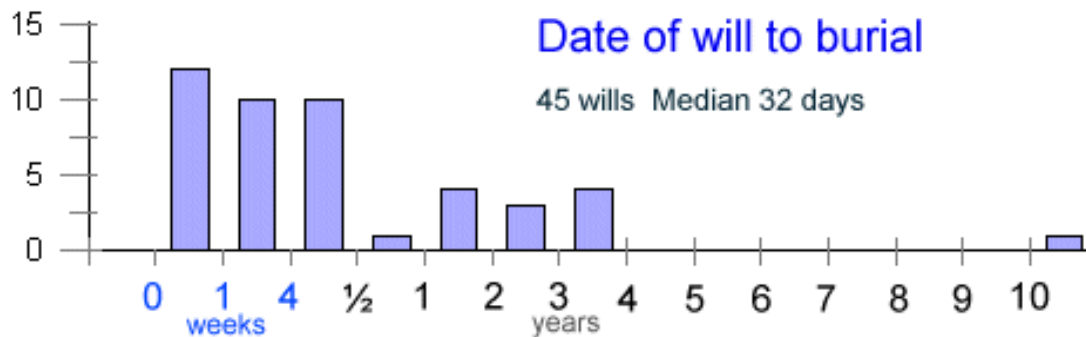


Figure 4.1 shows the time between writing of the will and burial.

Proving the Will

Of the Sevenoaks wills which have survived from before 1650, over two-thirds were proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) which sat in London. It was generally people who had land in more than one diocese whose wills were proved at the PCC but anyone who wished to appear rich, or whose executors wanted the status and pleasure of a visit to London at the testator's expense, could have the will proved at the Archbishop's Court provided they had the money for the journey.

Alternatively, if the will had to be proved at the PCC but the journey was not feasible, it was sometimes possible for the work to be carried out locally by an official deputy. When a will was proved at the PCC it was copied into the probate book, obviously written in order of probate date, and it is these probate copies which have generally formed the basis of this study, not many of the originals having survived. For the Deanery of Shoreham it is the originals which have survived but only from 1614.

Occasionally permission was given for a will to be proved in the local church. Whilst no record of this has been found in Sevenoaks, the will of **William Coxe**

of Seal, written on 5th July 1569, was proved in Seal "before me, Gilbert Jenyns, clerk, vicar of Kemsing and Seal".

When Were They Proved?

The date of burial and that of the proving of the will is known for forty of the Sevenoaks testators studied. There was much less variation in the time between these two events than there was for time between writing of the will and burial of the testator; half were proved within a month of burial and all except four within six months.

The will of John Jylbert, written when he was "in good health and perfect memory" in May 1617 and "delivered the second time" just before his death (he was buried on 1st March 1621) was not proved until June 1631. Why this delay of ten years?

The other will which was not proved until a long time after the death of the testator (over seven years) was that of **Walther Wills** but here it was not the original will that has survived.

Because the date a will was proved is usually given on the probate copy the time between writing and proving is known for many more wills - 83 wills: see Figure 4..2.

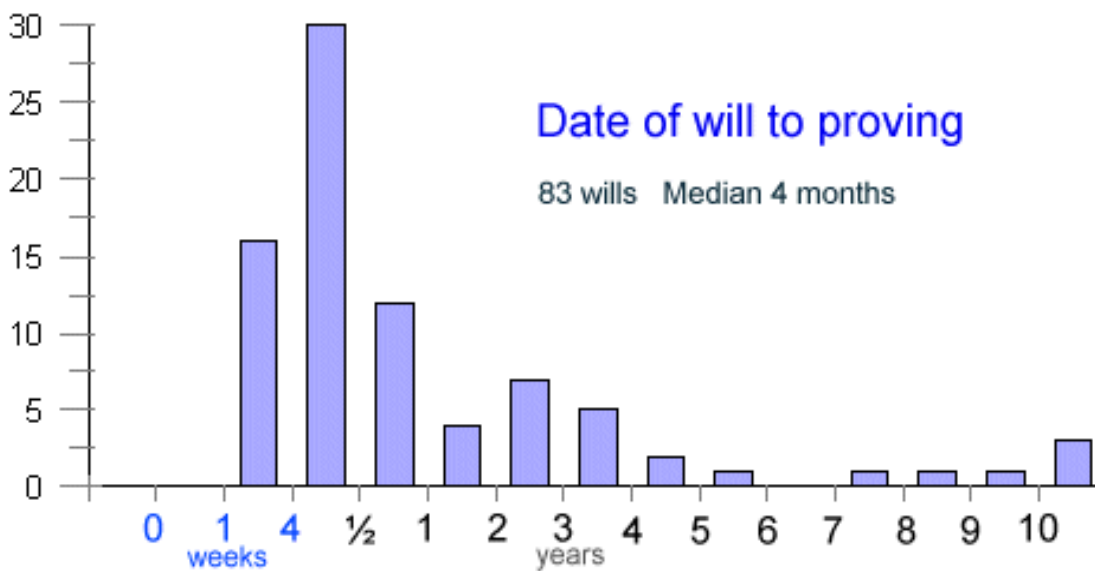


Figure 4.2

Where to be Buried

Twelve testators wanted to be buried within the church, ten in Sevenoaks, one in Chevening and one in Middlesex. **George Scott**, as perhaps befits a citizen of London, is the grandest since he had had a vault built in the south aisle. **Richard Lone** wanted to be buried "within that aisle . . . wherein I have used to sit", **Thomas Jeffrey** in the chancel and **Johane Wright** "to be laid by the body of my husband".

Another nineteen specified the churchyard but sixteen left the decision on where they were to be buried to their executor and four "where god pleaseth". However the largest group was those who specified "my body to the earth whence it came" as **John Masters** expressed it or "to the earth to be buried in Christian burial when it shall please the only powerful god to take me (**Robert Warcopp**) from this wretched world".

Wishes regarding burial

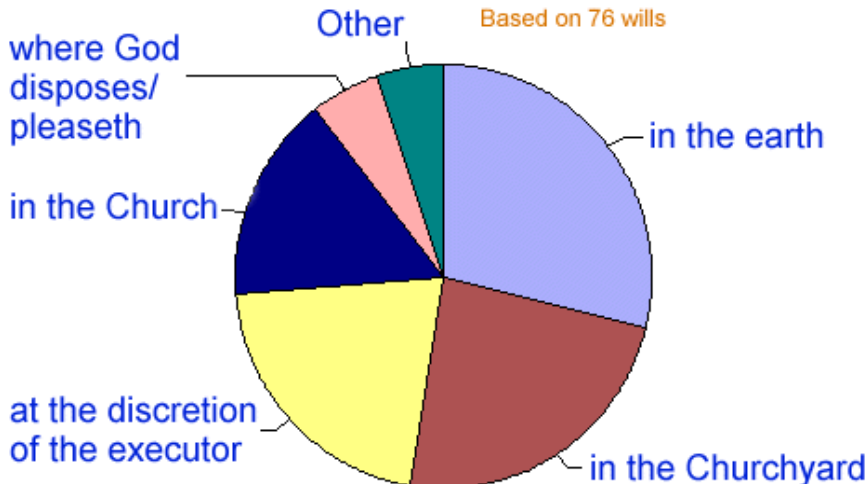


Figure 4.3

Although the actual costs of the funeral and burial are not given, they were usually included with debts and legacies as being the first charges on the estate of the deceased. Not often would Sevenoaks have seen such as funeral as that of **Robert Holmden**. At his burial there was to be a preacher who was to receive £5, the ringing of the church bells (10s to the ringers), £40 spent on entertaining those of his neighbours and kinsfolk who came to his burial and £10 distributed to the poor. He also gave £1 to each of the four men who were to carry his "**corpse to the earth**", 10s to the clerk and 5s to the gravemaker.

Nuncupative Wills

Ten of the wills investigated were nuncupative, the spoken words of the testator having been written down later from the statements of the witnesses. Three of these ten were the wills of women. Some nuncupative wills were spoken after someone at the bedside had asked the dying person what their wishes were regarding their possessions, **Susan Jeffrey**'s being a particular example.

With nuncupative wills, worldly affairs usually took precedence and very few had any preamble. When time was short testators were apparently more concerned about how their possessions were to be divided than they were with their own fate.

Elizabeth Weery's witnesses, however, did note that she made her bequests "after the bequest of her soul into the hands of God and her body to the earth to be buried in decent manner".

John Mantle, tailor, made his wife executrix with the authority to sell a house "for the most advantage" so as to provide the means for bringing up their children. It was only after these details had been specified and his brother appointed overseer to see that his children were "beneficed" that he committed his soul "into the hands of my lord and saviour".

Executors, Administrators and Legatees

Thirty of the fifty-six wives who survived their husbands were named as the sole executrix and another eight as the joint executor usually with a son. In many cases the testator's wife had to take on considerable responsibility if she was to be

the executrix and **Richard Besbeech**'s will is one which shows the large amount of work which a widow sometimes had to carry out.

Occasionally no executor was specified by the testator and, in this case, one or more administrators had to be appointed by the probate court. Such a will was that of **William Douglas** written in April 1649 and his three sons-in-law who were the principal legatees became the administrators. Douglas had specified, however, that the three were to share equally the cost of giving him a decent burial. He also gave his grandchild the forty shillings which **Richard Bell** owed him but this, unusually, was to be outside the control of his administrators since it was to be "**paid into the parish of Sevenoaks to put him to printing**".

John Turner, husbandman, in his will of 1636, does not appoint an executor as such. Instead he seems to be giving his son-in-law what we would now call "enduring power of attorney" which was to change into executorship on John's death: "**I give unto my said son-in-law Edward Fletcher and unto his wife Mary, three milch kine and two young bullocks and one mare and five sheep and three lambs with all my other goods and chattels and estate towards my maintenance while I live. And after my decease, my said son-in-law to discharge all my funeral expenses**".

Eighteen testators, six of whose wills were nuncupative, mention neither wife nor children. In many of these cases nieces and nephews were the main legatees. The yeoman, **John Pococke**, who appointed a cousin executor, left over £50 to a brother, three sisters, seventeen nieces and nephews, twelve other relatives and three goddaughters. The main heir of **Robert Holmden**, citizen and leatherseller of London, was his nephew (who was also his godson) but he left over a £1000 to other relatives with a cousin and a fellow leatherseller being appointed his executors. Servants were mentioned by fifteen men.

Legacies to Children

Legacies to children had to be organised. Sometimes the testators just specified the age at which the legacy was to be paid. This was usually twenty-one but could be as high as twenty-seven or as low as fifteen. With girls it was usual to specify twenty-one but with the proviso "**or when they married, whichever happened first**" but **Robert Gavell** left £50 to his nieces **Grace** and **Martha Bromfield**, daughters of his brother **John Bromfield**, to be paid to them at sixteen or at their marriages whichever happened first. It was most unusual for

girls even from the parish gentry to marry under twenty never mind sixteen.

William Overy of Sundridge left £5 to his **daughter Anne** to be paid when she was fifteen but there is no mention of marriage. William was a tanner and fifteen could have been the age when he expected his daughter to "go out into the world" and would find some money useful.

The will of **Thomas Poore** (1649) contains an unusual variation on the time at which the payment of a legacy to an underage child was to be paid. Usually a specific age is given but here there is added flexibility: Thomas's three underage female cousins are to have their legacies, two, three and four years after his death "if they be capable of using or disposing thereof"; otherwise they had to wait until they were twenty.

Alice Vane, widow, who lived for two years after her will was written in July 1617, left all her "moveables whatsoever" to a brother and sister, **John** and **Elizabeth Travilion**, "by equal portions" plus £20 each. But their inheritance was to be kept in the hands of her cousin, **John Stileman of Otford**, whom she had appointed her executor "to the purpose of the aforesaid John and Elizabeth" until John "shall accomplish and be of the full age of twenty and seven years and the said Elizabeth shall accomplish her full age of one and twenty years". Was there six years age difference between brother and sister so that, by specifying

these ages, they received their legacies at the same time and when the youngest was "of age"?

During the minority of the children of a marriage the wife and executrix was often, reasonably enough, allowed the profits, etc. from the land which was eventually to go to the children for their "[maintenance and bringing up](#)".

Arrangements for Payment

Sometimes the legacies to children other than those of the testator were to be paid to their parents in order that payment could be paid within a reasonable time. The parents then had to give a receipt to the executor so that the children could not deny the bequest had been paid.

Where this arrangement had not been specified by the testator, it could be many years before all the legacies were paid. The problems if the executor died before all the legacies had been paid so that an administrator had to be appointed can sometimes be seen. Sometimes the testators themselves foresaw the problem. Thomas Frost was one of these who specified that "[if it shall happen my executor](#)

do die before they (his nephews) shall attain unto their several ages of four and twenty years, then I desire my overseers hereafter named to dispose of their moneys for their uses until they shall attain unto their several ages before named". But what if the overseers died as well?

Stepmothers and Stepchildren

When the wife was the stepmother of the children, extra care had to be taken to ensure they received their rightful inheritance. The stepmother of the testator's children could herself have children by a first marriage.

Edward Knight, mercer of Sevenoaks, was the son of **John Knight** of Cowden from which parish a number of Knight wills have survived. John Knight, who died in 1618, left six sons and two daughters, all under twenty-one with Edward being about ten. Fortunately for his family, John was a wealthy yeoman able to leave each of his daughters £150 but the arrangements for his children were complicated because John was Margaret's second husband and she had a son, Giles, by her first marriage. Margaret was to have the wardship of Giles on condition that she became bound, under a bond of £500, that she would ensure that she would

release to John's sons all her rights to all of his "lands, tenements, furnace, mill and buildings with the appurtenances to them".

Paying the Legacies

The executor was responsible for paying the legacies and was usually left the residue of the estate against which the first charges were any debts the testator might have and the funeral charges. If a wife was executrix there could be a clause in the will such as that included by John Cole: "if my said wife shall marry again before my said children's portions shall be paid . . then, upon her marriage she shall give security to my said overseers for the payment of my said children's portions". This was to preclude the new husband taking over the money from which the legacies were to be paid.

Prior to paying the legacies, any debts had to be paid. John Cole, who was a yeoman, was worried about his debts since directly after a short preamble the will continues: "And for all such debts as of right or in conscience I do owe to any

person or persons, I do will them to be paid as speedily as conveniently may be after my decease".

Finding Money to Pay Bequests

Testators did not always have sufficient "ready money" to pay all their debts and legacies and some of the latter were sometimes specified as being paid, over a number of years, from rents and other income. In other cases it might be necessary to sell land in which case the executor could be given permission to do this. **Thomas Burgis** left over seventy pounds to his mother, wife and the families of his two sisters but most of it had been "put out to use" and his legacies were to be paid by his executor as "it grows due unto me as by the bonds may more at large appear".

But circumstances could be even more complicated. In 1596, **William Pococke** left his capital messuage to his wife and then to two of his sons, one of whom, Henry, was his executor. If extra money was required for paying his legacies William specified that it would be lawful for Henry "the said woods and underwoods, to fell, cut, have, take and carry away to help to pay the same withall,

without any restraint against, saying or denial of the said Joane, now my wife, or any other farmer or occupier of the said lands or tenements. Provided . . . that, if the said **Henry Pococke**, my said son, his heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, or some of them, shall not well and truly, according to the tenor, meaning of this my last will and testament content, satisfy and pay the legacies . . . by me given and bequeathed to my other children . . . it shall and may be lawful to them and every of them that are not satisfied and paid, into all and every the premises that are before given and bequeathed to the said Henry, my son, to enter and the issues and profits thereof growing and coming amongst them equally to divide and shift until they . . . of their said several legacies be fully satisfied and paid".

What if the Legatee Died Before Receiving the Legacy?

Often a testator gave instructions as to what was to happen if the person to whom a legacy was given died before it was paid to them. This could often be children all of whom might not live to the age at which their inheritance was due so that, as **John Hope** put it "their portions so deceased shall remain equally to and amongst the other of my sons surviving".

But **Giles Cranewell** took this principle to extremes: Having given some land to his son Christopher "for term of his life" he continued "the remainder to Edward, my son, and the heirs of his body. The remainder in like estate to Thomas, my son, and the heirs of his body. The remainder in like estate to Robert, my son, and the heirs of his body. The remainder in like estate to James, my son, and the heirs of his body. The remainder in like estate to Martha, my daughter, and the heirs of her body. The remainder in like estate to Isley, my brother, and the heirs of his body. The remainder in like estate to Thomas, my brother, and the heirs of his body. The remainder in like estate to Robert, my brother, and the heirs of his body. The remainder in like estate to Bennett, my brother, and the heirs of his body. The remainder to my cousin, Martin Swone, and his heirs". A "remainder" or reversion is a legacy which takes effect on condition of some event taking place, in this case the death of the previous holder without heirs. This long list of possible inheritors was repeated for four other properties with just the order of the sons being changed.

Appendix 5

Religious Preambles

Most wills start with the phrase "In the name of God Amen" followed by the date and details of the testator. Next there is usually a religious preamble regarding the testators soul and burial. This appendix describes this introduction, amplifying some of the points made in the main text, and analyses the length of the Sevenoaks preambles.

"In the Name of God Amen"	page 5.2
The Preambles of Early Wills	page 5.4
Post Reformation Preambles	page 5.5
Lengths of Preambles	page 5.7

"In the Name of God Amen"

In a few cases, this initial phrase is expanded:

John Lennarde's will, written in 1587, amplifies the standard phrase: "In the name of god the father, god the son and god the holy ghost, three persons and one god". It also gives John's age "by my parents saying of threescore eighteen years at St. Edwardtide last past". Since John was seventy-eight, his parents must have given him information on which to base this statement many years earlier.

The introduction to John Pett's will of 1593 is similar to that of John Lennarde's but shorter: "In the name of god the father, the son and the holy ghost Amen".

But this form was not peculiar to the end of the sixteenth century. Sixty years later, in 1649, the will of Thomas Poore starts "In the name of god the father, god the son and god the holy ghost, three persons and one eternal god to whom be ascribed all honour and glory forever".

Thomas Farnaby's will (1646), which includes a number of examples of unusual phraseology starts "In the name of almighty god who bless me now herein and for the residue of my life".

Richard Warcopp's will, written in 1625, is in English except for the initial phrase: "Anvisium meum sit a Jehovah quisent ?? terram."

Even a nuncupative will can start with the standard phrase. This is the start of the will of George Children: "In the name of god Amen. Memorandum: that about the 14th day of December in the year of our Lord god one thousand five hundred ninety five, George Children of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, yeoman, being then of good and perfect mind and remembrance did make his last will and testament nuncupative using these words or the like in effect"

The Preambles of Early Wills

Before the Reformation reference was often made to Saint Mary and the holy company of heaven; five examples from Sevenoaks are:

Clemence Brook

8th September 1510

I bequeath and recommend my soul to almighty god, my maker and saviour and to our blessed lady saint Mary and to all the holy company of heaven.

Peter Newman

14th September 1510

I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, to his blessed mother Saint Mary and to all the holy company of heaven.

Thomas Holway

31st July 1512

I bequeath my soul to almighty god, father of heaven, to our blessed lady Saint Mary and to all the holy company of heaven

Robert Tottisherst 12th December 1512

I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, to our lady, his mother, and to all the holy company of heaven

Richard Pette 5th June 1513

I bequeath my soul to Almighty God and to his blessed mother Mary with all the company of heaven

Since all of them except Thomas Holway's were probably written by the vicar, Edward Repe, their similarity is not surprising but they are typical of "traditional" Catholic wills.

Post Reformation Preambles

After the reformation there is more variation between different preambles. If included at all, they could hardly be shorter than those of Thomas Morley (1627) "I commit my soul unto the Lord and my body unto the earth" and Giles

Cranewell (1613) "I commend my soul to Almighty God. And my body to the earth".

Even the shorter versions often show an individual method of expression:

Thomas Frost, in 1623, bequeathed his soul to "my maker trusting by the merits and passions of my redeemer, Jesus Christ, to enjoy ever felicity" the last phrase being unique to this will.

The only will surviving from the 1540s, that of John Potkyn written in 1543, has a very short preamble: "I bequeath my soul unto Almighty God, redeemer and maker of all the world" with no mention of burial.

There are two wills from the 1550s: Robert Leighton's written in 1558 and William Constable's in 1559. Both men bequeathed their souls to "almighty god and to our blessed lady St. Mary and all the blessed/holy company of heaven" which is unusual for wills as late as this. This may have been due to the return to Catholic phraseology during the reign of Mary.

The preambles written by John Spratt, vicar of Sevenoaks, John Wood, parish clerk, and Nicholas and John Hooper are described in Appendix 7.

Length of Preambles

The lengths (in words) of the preambles in sixty-two wills including those written by women but excluding nuncupative wills are given on below. There are four with no preamble at all; two of these, both dated 1593, are wills of gentlemen - **John Pett** and **Edward Sibbell**. The latter is a short will, perhaps written when there was very little time. In contrast, John Pett's will is 115 lines, the copy taking up three pages in the probate book.

The other two are also short, **John Battie**'s only seven lines but **Walter Hall** did manage to divide out many household items between his wife, various members of his family and his godchildren.

The longest preamble is that of **George Scott**, citizen and grocer of London who was to be buried in Sevenoaks. The preambles of the other three citizens of London were short and straightforward and, for all the wills examined, the large variation in length of each part of the preamble and the sentiments expressed appear to be completely random with no correlation between date the will was written, where proved or the status, etc. of the testator.

* c - citizen of London p - professional		g - gent. w - woman		h - husbandman y - yeoman		
		*	soul	body	total	scriptor
1510	Peter Newman		21	10	31	
1510	Clemence Brook	w	28	10	38	
1512	Thomas Holway		24	20	44	
1512	Robert Tottisherst	g	20	18	38	
1513	Richard Pette		19	15	34	
1543	John Potkyn	g	14	-	14	
1555	Eme Beale	w	31	15	46	
1566	Thomas Nevill	c	42	27	69	
1581	Richard Lone	g	63	33	96	
1587	Thomas Pococke s43 ⁶	y	43	21	64	John Spratt
1587	John Lennarde	g	43	80	123	
1590	Henry Bosville	g	20	17	37	
1593	Edward Sibbell	g	-	-	-	
1593	John Pett	g	-	-	-	John Spratt
1596	William Pococke s77	y	36	24	60	
1604	Henry Gifford	y	25	17	42	

1606	Moses Olyver	#1606	y	38	46	84	
1606	Clemence Pearson		w	15	11	26	John Spratt
1606	Richard Webbe			13	10	23	John Spratt
1608	Robert Gavell		g	14	13	27	
1610	Walther Wills			-	-	-	John Spratt
1613	George Pococke	s49	g	50	22	72	John Spratt
1613	Giles Cranewell		g	7	6	13	
1614	John Spratt			33	12	45	
1615	Beatrix Spratt		w	46	31	77	Nicholas Hooper
1615	Robert Vane		y	38	23	61	
1616	Percival Smith		y	12	21	33	
1616	Eme White		w	55	30	85	Nicholas Hooper
1616	Mathew Everest		h	24	17	41	
1617	John Jylbert		g	53	22	75	
1617	William Wright		g	26	12	38	
1617	Thomas Wylde		y	45	-	45	
1619	Edward Sisley		y	38	12	50	
1619	John Pococke	s47	y	10	29	39	
1619	Robert Holmden		c	18	22	40	
1620	Thomas Burgis		y	34	17	51	
1621	William Longe	s806	y	49	21	70	
1623	Thomas Frost		g	22	11	33	

1623	Johane Wright		w	47	40	87	
1624	Thomas Holmes		g	55	21	76	
1624	Thomas Pococke	s45	y	30	12	42	John Hooper
1624	John Price		y	47	-	47	
1625	John Bare		h	29	17	46	
1625	Robert Warcopp		g	44	29	73	
1625	William Frankwell		y	42	27	69	
1629	John Cole		y	6	18	24	
1630	Edward Lampard	s774	h	27	30	57	
1631	Walter Leigh		g	11	34	45	
1632	John Hope		g	31	-	31	John Hooper
1632	William Seyliard		g	29	18	47	
1633	Richard Besbeeck	s73	g	43	21	64	
1636	John Turner		h	72	49	121	
1636	Anthony Carleton		g	79	-	79	
1639	John Turner		c	20	6	26	
1639	Richard Hills		y	31	12	43	
1640	Thomas Turner		g	33	17	50	
1641	Walter Hall		h	-	-	-	
1644	Peter Everest		h	33	6	39	
1644	Elizabeth Pococke	s154	w	13	13	26	
1645	George Scott		c	179	80	259	

1645	John Hills	y	-	-	-
1646	Thomas Farnaby	p	52	9	61

Appendix 6

Wills Written by Known Scriptors

Wills have survived written by three of the Sevenoaks vicars, four by one of the parish clerks and six by professional scribes. For full transcripts of the wills see [Sevenoaks Wills & Families](#)

Edward Repe	page 6.2
John Spratt	page 6.3
William Turnar	page 6.5
Will of Walther Wills	page 6.5
William Turnar Wills	page 6.7
John Wood, Parish Clerk	page 6.10
Professional Scriptors	page 6.12
The Hoopers	page 6.12
William Gibson	page 6.14
Richard Besbeech	page 6.15

Edward Repe

Edward Repe, M.A. was vicar of Sevenoaks from January 1504/5 until, at least, December 1514⁷ and he witnessed the wills of **Clemence Brook** (1510), **Peter Newman** (1510) and **Robert Tottisherst** (1512). The probate copy of **Richard Pette**'s will ends without any witnesses being given but Richard appointed "Master Edward Repe" as one of his executors. The vicar could have written all four of these wills.

The wills of Peter Newman and Richard Pette have the year written in the form "**ath v^c xij**" and "**ath v^c x**" which is very unusual. Since they were proved over two years apart, it is unlikely that this was a mannerism of the clerk making the probate copy but it could have been the style used by the vicar for writing the date. Also both Richard Pette and Peter Newman left money for "**maintaining of Jesus mass**". The only other surviving will from this time was that of Thomas Holway which does not mention Edward Repe, has the date in the usual form and, although money was left for masses, Jesus mass itself was not specified.

John Spratt

John Spratt, vicar of Sevenoaks from 1584 to 1614, was witness to a number of surviving wills:

27 Apr 1587

Thomas Pococke, yeoman

22 May 1593

John Pett, gent.

12 May 1606

Richard Webbe, carpenter

23 Jun 1606

Clemence Pearson

13 Apr 1613

George Pococke, gent.

The will of John Pett is long and the other witness is **Richard Milborne** who was the Rector of Sevenoaks; it could have been written by either the vicar or the rector. Alternatively a professional scribe who did not give his name could have been employed. The other four were probably written by John Spratt.

The preambles of wills of the carpenter and spinster are very similar:

Richard Webbe: "I commit my soul into the hands of my Lord god and redeemer and my body to the earth whereas it was made."

Clemence Pearson: "I commit my soul into the hands of my Lord god, my saviour and redeemer and my body to the earth from whence it was taken."

Both the Pococke wills are individualistic, seeming to show the beliefs of the testators rather than following a standard text. Thomas Pococke mentions the holy ghost which is unusual: he gave his "soul to Almighty god who made me, to Jesus Christ, his only son who redeemed me and unto the holy ghost who sanctified me in which three persons and one god my whole hope and trust of salvation doth consist. My body of which I have small care, I will it be buried at the discretion of my wife and children."

Twenty-six years later George Pococke bequeathed his "soul unto Almighty god, my creator, trusting most assuredly to be saved only by the merits, death and passion of Jesus Christ who, of his infinite mercy, without any desert of mine, hath redeemed me from the curse of law and made me an heir of everlasting salvation. And I will my body to be buried in that church of Sevenoaks aforesaid in decent manner as best meets a Christian". This could have shown a change with the times but neither of these seem like standard preambles provided by a scriptor; they must both, at least to a certain extent, have reflected the beliefs of the testator.

William Turnar

William Turner (or Turnar as he spelled his name) was installed as vicar on 28th April 1614, a position he held until at least 1634.

Will of Walther Wills

What was proved as the will of **Walther Wills** is interesting in that it was a "note and copy of that remembrance which Mr. Spratt, sometime vicar of Sevenoaks kept as a draft of the last will and testament of Walther Wills". This copy was made by William Turnar on 12th May 1617 and proved later that month; it shows how drafts were, at least sometimes, made of wills.

The remembrance was originally made by **John Spratt** on 1st February 1610. The surviving document starts with Walther's bequests to his wife and three sons followed by a note made by John Spratt explaining that "this note of the foresaid gifts and legacies I kept for mine own memory but whether the said Julian, his

wife, were executrix or the said Christopher his son executor, I do not remember because I made no note of it".

William Turnar and John Hopkins? then each added a note to say that the above was a true copy "of that remembrance which Mr. Spratt, sometimes vicar of Sevenoaks kept as a draft of the last will and testament of Walter Wills" but both query its veracity as Walther's actual will. William Turnar says that it "cannot be proved that ever the said Wills made" it but "we have subscribed our names for the further testifying of the truth of this copy", that is that it was a faithful copy of what John Spratt had written.

Although it is difficult to decipher the writing of the second witness it is clear that he was more dubious than Turnar as to whether it actually gave Walther Will's wishes: "I do not know this to be the copy of his last will certainly but I know I have seen a deed having date ?? that is contrary to this copy".

William Turnar Wills

A number of wills which William Turnar witnessed were written in the same hand and the crossbar of the "T" was decorated similarly each time he wrote his name:

- 26 Jul 1615 witnessed (and wrote) will of **Robert Vane** who appointed him his overseer and asked him to preach at his burial
- 5 Dec 1616 wrote the nuncupative will of **Elizabeth Weery**
- 13 Mar 1617 witnessed (and possibly wrote) the will of **Joan Cronck**, widow; only the probate had been looked at and only the preamble transcribed and the witnesses noted
- 12 May 1617 a remembrance (described above)
- 20 Jul 1619 witnessed the will of **Robert Holmden** which does not contain any of the phrases used by Turnar but it was very long "**containing twenty sheets of paper**" and only the probate copy has been investigated. It is likely that Holmden would have

employed a professional scribe to write such a long and complicated will.

- 27 Feb 1621 witnessed the will of Mr. **John Jylbert** but probably did not write it. The will was started on 13th May 1617, read, signed, sealed and delivered on 27th February 1620/1 and "**delivered the second time**" but without a date. Both times when it was delivered it was witnessed by, amongst others, William Turnar. Only the probate copy has been looked at and the will does not contain any phrases which would point to William Turnar having written it.
- 6 Aug 1621 **William Longe** willed that his "**very good friend Mr. Turnar preach at my burial and, for his pains,**" he left him ten shillings. William Turnar was one of the witnesses but, since the original has not been looked at (it might not even have survived), it is not possible to tell if he wrote the will from the writing - see also discussion of phrases below.
- 2 May 1627 witnessed the will of **William Lawrence**, bricklayer which looks to be written in the same hand as the wills of Walther Wills, Robert Vane, Elizabeth Weery (above) and John Smith (below)

- 4 Jul 1628 will of **Martin Overy**; this will looks as if it could have been written by William Turnar but it has a note added to it: "that the gifts and bequests above willed is true, the parties who have hereunto set their marks did also affirm the same in the presence of me, William Turnar."
- 16 Jun 1630 wrote the will of **John Smith**, the elder
- 17 Apr 1632 William Turnar was one of the witnesses to the nuncupative will of **Susan Jeffrey**.
- 10 Jan 1633 witnessed the will of **Richard Besbeeck**, gent.; only the probate copy of this will has been investigated so that it is not possible to say if it was written by the same person as the other wills. It does, however, contain phrases (see below) repeated in the wills written by William Turnar.

Two of the above wills (those of Robert Vane and John Smith) contain phrases found rarely in other wills, for example:

- each sum of money bequeathed is "the full sum of"
- and each is to be paid "by the hands of my executors".

In the will of William Longe, the only sum of money mentioned was the "full sum of twenty shillings" left to the poor of Sevenoaks but there was nowhere in the will where the other phrase used by Turnar ("by the hands of my executrix") could have been used. Both phrases occur in the will of Richard Besbeeche.

John Wood, Parish Clerk

Four of the wills witnessed by John Wood, Parish Clerk of Sevenoaks from 1629 to 1639, have survived wills:

14 Mar 1628/9	William Wimble, husbandman, nuncupative
16 May 1632	John Battie
9 May 1636	John Turner, husbandman
3 Oct 1639	John Mantle, tailor, nuncupative

These were proved at Shoreham and it can therefore be seen that they were all written in the same hand. John Battie's is very short but the other three have unusual preambles.

Although William Wimble's will starts as if he was dictating it to the scribe, it continues as if it were a nuncupative will and the probate clause calls it a nuncupative will, probate not being granted for nearly two years after the will was written. It is difficult to read but it appears that William wanted to leave his goods to his grandsons, children of his daughters, but without his son-in-laws receiving anything or "meddling" with his goods. Probate appears to have been granted to "Joanne French als. Wimble als. Hall", presumably one of William's daughters.

John Mantle's will is written in the first person but in the past tense as if it were a nuncupative will although the probate clause does not say that it was: "I, John Mantle, . . . did make and ordain, this my present bequest, did appoint my wife Francis my whole executrix". It also ends with words which normally appear in the preamble: "So committing my soul in to the hands of my lord and saviour, I make an end of this my bequest and will."

John Turner's will has an unusual preamble:

"Imprimis: with a willing and free heart, I send and give again into the hands of my lord god and creator, my soul and spirit which he, of his fatherly goodness, gave unto me when he first fashioned me in my mother's womb, nothing doubting but for his infinite mercy set forth in the blood of beloved son, Jesus Christ, my only saviour and redeemer, he will receive my soul into his glory. And as concerning my body, with a free will and willing

heart, I give it ever unto the earth from whence it came. And when it shall please god to take me out of this present life, my body to be christianly buried in the parish churchyard of Sevenoaks."

This again reads like the words of the testator himself - or at least of those round his bedside - rather than those of the scriptor.

Professional Scriptors

The Hoopers

Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, and his son **John Hooper**, notary public and parish clerk of Tonbridge, were both professional scriptors working in the area and writing a large number of wills (Nicholas between 1574 and 1618 and

John between 1601 and 1641). Four of the surviving Sevenoaks wills were written by them:

by Nicholas Hooper:

21 Oct 1615

Beatrix Spratt

10 Jun 1616

Eme White

by John Hooper:

12 Sep 1624

Thomas Pococke

29 July 1632

John Hope

Other members of the Hooper family were also scriptors. These wills are very distinctive in their writing and decoration as can be seen in Eme White's will in [Appendix 3](#).

A typical Hooper preamble, in particular one written by Nicholas, is that of Beatrix Spratt: "First and principally I give, commend and bequeath my Soul into the hands of Almighty God who gave it me, trusting that, by the merit, precious death and blood shedding of his dear son Jesus Christ, that the same shall be present pure before the throne of his majesty, and my body to the earth from whence it came, to be buried in the churchyard of Sevenoaks aforesaid in sure and certain hope of a joyful resurrection to life eternal." This is very similar to the preamble of Eme White's will given in [Appendix 3](#).

Thomas Pococke's preamble, written by John Hooper, is not so long: "First and principally, yielding to Almighty God, my maker, my soul with an assured hope of salvation through his mercy in the merit and mediation of his dear son Jesus Christ, my saviour. And my body to the earth in decent manner to be buried." That of John Hope's will is even shorter.

William Gibson

Two yeoman wills, those of Percival Smith in 1616 and Thomas Wylde in 1617, were written by William Gibson, scr. (scrivener or scriptor). The originals have survived so that they can be seen to have been written by the same person. Both yeomen were described as being "crazy⁸ and weak in body but yet of good and perfect remembrance". This use of crazy has not been met with elsewhere.

Richard Besbeece

Richard Besbeece, a gentleman living at Riverhill, was the witness to the wills of both **Thomas Holmes** in 1624 and **George Weery** in 1628 and, since the originals have survived, looks to have been the scriptor of both. It is unlikely that Besbeece was a professional scriptor but, being able to write and with a knowledge of the terminology used in legal documents, writing a will was probably a service he was prepared to carry out for people he knew.

Appendix 7

Kent Villages & Towns Mentioned in the Wills

The villages and towns in Kent (other than Sevenoaks) mentioned by the Sevenoaks testators are listed below. Following each place name is the approximate distance from Sevenoaks and the will reference as given at the beginning of [Sevenoaks & Families](#). This gives the first three letters of the testators's surname, the first three letters of the testator's parish (always "sev" here), a letter indicating status or occupation² and the last three digits of the date of the will.

The references are followed, where appropriate by an indicator showing the context in which the location appears:

l - land owned by testator p - bequest to poor, etc.

Where there is no indicator, the place may appear, for example, as the residence of another person mentioned in the will.

2 A - artisan, C - citizen of London; G - gent (including Esq.), H - husbandman, O - other, T - tradesman, W - woman, X - unspecified, Y - yeoman. If this letter is in lowercase, the will is nuncupative.

If more details are given in the will, these are given but where there is the indicator "1" but no detailed entry, no description of the land was given in the will.

villages mentioned by Edmund Winter are given at the end of this Appendix

Apuldefield , manor of (als. Aperfield)	??	1ensevG5871
--	----	-------------

Ash /Ashe	7 miles	hadsevW595p
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Aylesford (Ailford)	14 miles	1onsevY6211
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William Longe's land in Aylesford was to be sold by his wife and verseers and the money divided between his four daughters

Baston Heath - see Hayes

Bessels (Chevening)	2 miles	thosevX6141
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Biddenden	22 miles	1onsevG5811, prisevY6241
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John Price gave to his **wife Joyce** a "**house or tenement**" with 1.25 acres of land which had been bought by his father, **Richard Price**.

Bough Beech /Bow Beech)
see Chiddingstone

4 miles

crasevG6131

Brasted

4 miles

gavsevG608, holsevX5121

holsevC6191p, lensevG5871p, rebsevA629

John Holway owned lands, tenements, pasture, meadows, woods, under-woods, rents and service in **Westerham** and Brasted including a tenement called **Bothes**

Robert Holmden - see Edenbridge

Martin Rebankes left two chests "**standing at Brasted**" to his grandson but does not mention any land.

Brenchley

12 miles

bessevG633

Chatham

16 miles

lonsevY6211

William Longe left to his son **Thomas** "**two tenements or dwelling houses**" in **Cabson**, "**together with all the barns, outhouses, orchards, gardens, stubies¹⁰ and outhouses to them belonging**" and 16 acres of land belonging to one tenement and 24 acres to the other. Also "**the upper**

orchard called Harry Longe's . . being an acre of ground". Also another piece of ground called **Lucketts** (6½ acres) and a field called **Westfield at Petmanstone** (16 acres) with the wood.

Chevening 3 miles bessevG6331, hopsevG6321,
jylsevG621p, lensevG587pl, soasev06471,
thosevX614l, totsevG512l, whisevW616

John Soale - see Chipstead

Robert Tottisherst owned "lands, tenements, rents" in Chevening and Otford.

Chelsfield 6 miles lensevG5871

Chiddingstone 7 miles blosevT624l, crasevG613l,
florevA640, holsevC619lp, wilsevX610l

Giles Cranewell had a "mansion house called **Chittenden** and all the lands, meadows, pastures and woods . . in the parishes of Hever and Chiddingstone . . abutting upon the high way leading from **Ide hill** to **Bough beech** towards the east, upon the highway leading from Ide Hill to **Hever** towards the north and west and upon a lane leading from the tenement of John Wallis to a tenement called **Danes** towards the south and east and to

the lands of Sir Thomas Hopkins, knight, towards the north and to the land sometimes Mr. Cromers called **Hilders** towards the east and south". His wife, **Ellen**, was to have this until her death when it was to go to **Christopher, the eldest son**. Giles also had "three closes or parcels of land" called **Stubbs Grove**, **Nix Croft** and the **Heath**, a parcel of land called **Droveden** and an acre of meadow in the **Ammery** all in Chiddingstone

Chittenden is to the west of the road from Ide Hill, just over a mile south of the village and would have been on the northern boundary of the parishes of Hever and Chiddingstone. Hilders Farm is just over half a mile south of Chittenden on the Ide Hill to Bough Beech road.

Walther Wills gave his tenement and land in Chiddingstone to his son **George** whose will of 1622 has also survived. He gave his son **Thomas** "the little house and garden adjoining".
Robert Holmden - see Penshurst

Chipstead 2 miles soasev06471, thosevX6141

John Soale had a "message or tenement" in Chipstead "in the parish of Chevening which was lately purchased by John Soale, my father".

Richard Thomas had two tenements in Chipstead which were his grandfather's (Mr. Totteshurst); these were to go to his wife **Ann** as her jointure.

Cowden 9 miles holsevC619, knisevT6341p, tursevC639

Edward Knight, mercer of Sevenoaks, was born in Cowden and he had some lands and tenements there.

Cudham (Kent) 6 miles lensevG5871

Dartford 11 miles tursevC639

Downe (Kent) 7 miles lensevG5871

Edenbridge

8 miles

bessevG633 , blosevT624p
holsevC619lp, seysevG631

Robert Holmden: lands and tenements called **Belmes** and **Chrares** in Edenbridge and “also all my lands and tenements . . . called **Medherst Row** lying in the parish of Edenbridge . . and Brasted purchased of the heirs of **Robert Weaver, deceased**”¹¹.

Farnborough

8 miles

walsevX6301

John Walter owned land and woodland at **Corkshot Hill** in Farnborough

Frittenden

20 miles

lonsevG5811

Frittenden is 3 miles northwest of Biddenden

Goudhurst

16 miles

bessevG6331

Richard Besbee: land called **Triggs and Highams**; his son Richard was to enjoy the lease of **Scopemead** “in as large and ample manner as is expressed in the said lease”.

- Halsted** 5 miles lensevG587p
- Hawkhurst** 21 miles scosevC645
George Scott gave his cousin Humphrey Scott £100 "towards the repair of his mansion house called Congerhurst in the parish of Hawkhurst". Conghurst Farm is about 3/4 mile south of the centre of Hawkhurst.
- Hayes** (Kent) 10 miles lensevG587
John Lennarde held the lease of Baston Heath which is in Hayes, about two miles north of Farnborough
- Hever** 8 miles crasevG6131, lensevG5871p
Giles Cranewell gave Newlands, situated in Hever, to his son Christopher; see also Chiddingstone
- Horsmonden** 14 miles bessevG6331
Richard Besbeech: house, lands and tenements

Ide Hill

3 miles

crasevG6131, rebsevA6291

Giles Cranewell - see Chiddingstone

Martin Rebankes left his "lands, tenements and messuage at Idehill in the parish of Sundridge" to be divided between his two daughters.

Ightham

4 miles

gifsevY604p

Kemsing

3 miles

sprsevP6141

John Spratt gave a tenement in Kemsing and another in Seal to Edward Sisley and also an annuity of £3 "arising out of the lands of William Porter in Seal".

Kingsdown

5 miles

hadsevW595p, hopsevG6321

John Hope owned a "messuage or tenement called Pells with all the barns, outhouses, closes, yards, gardens, orchards and lands, arable, meadow, pasture, woods and woodlands thereto belonging with their and every of their hereditaments and appurtenances" which was to be sold in order to pay his legacies, etc.

Knockholt

4 miles

lensevG587p

Leigh	5 miles	potsevG5431, tursevC639
Leigh Hollanden	4 miles	tursevC639
<p>John Turner gave his cousin, John Turner, clerk, of Burwash in Surrey "the parsonage tithes of Leigh Hollanden in the parishes of Leigh and Tonbridge".</p>		
Marden	15 miles ¹²	lonsevG5811p
<p>Robert Holmden: "lands and tenements with their appertenances called Elherst . . . and the mill thereupon purchased of" William Scirrell, gent.; also lands and tenements in the Town of Marden purchased of Henry Wearfine.</p>		
Meopham	10 miles	totsevG5121
North Cray	11 miles	petsevG593
Northstead, manor of	??	lensevG5871

¹² Marden is about nine miles east of Tonbridge

Otford

3 miles

hadsevW595p, hilsevY639,
lensevG5871p, manseva639, olysevY606,
petsevW617, totsevG5121, vansevW627,
weesevA628, whisevW616

John Mantle, tailor, specified that his wife and executrix should "**make sale of a certain house or tenement . . in Otford to be a means to bringing up my children**"

Robert Tottisherst - see Chevening

Penshurst

7 miles

holsevC6191p, holsevG624

Robert Holmden: a tenement called **Jessops**; also "**my lands and tenements with th'appurtenances commonly called Chamdlors**" in Penshurst and Chiddingstone

Seal

2 miles

blosevT6241, gifsevY604p,
sprsevP6141, tursevC639

John Blome owned the lease of a tenement in Seal

John Spratt - see Kemsing

Shipbourne	5 miles	holsevC6191p
Robert Holmden : certain lands which he held in lease from Sir Henry Fane and lands and tenements called Willocke		
Shoreham	4 miles	hilsevY639 , holsevX512p, lensevG5871p, petsevX513
Richard Pette , in 1513, willed that a priest would sing two trentalls at Shoreham for the souls of Master William Pette and William Aboth .		
Southfleet (Kent)	11 miles	frasevY609
Stanstead (near Ash)	6 miles	hadsevW595p
Staplehurst	17 miles	lonsevG581
Stone Street (Seal)	3 miles	pocsevY596

Sundridge

3 miles

hadsevW595p, holsevC619lp,
jylsevG621l, lensevG587lp,
lonsevG581l, rebsevA629

Robert Holmden: lands and tenements called **Collopps**

John Jylbert gave instructions that "the farm . . . called **Randalls** . . . so much of my other lands" in Sundridge were to be sold to raise £500 "to the use of my said wife and her assigns".

Martin Rebankes - see Ide Hill

Tonbridge

6 miles

brosevX624, holsevC619,
lonsevG581l, tursevC639

William Browne's legacies, which totalled £41, were to be paid out of a parcel of land in Tonbridge called **Sorelcroft**.

Richard Lone's lands and hereditaments in Tonbridge included those which were "parcel of the manor of Romshed" but the manor house, from the position of Romshed Farm, seems to have been in the parish of Sevenoaks - see **Appendix 10** for details of Rumshed.

John Turner - see Leigh Hollanden

Westerham

5 miles

bessevG633, holsevX5121,
holsevC6191p, petsevX5131, vansevW627

John Holway - see Brasted

Robert Holmden: lands and tenements called the **Spont** with
other adjoining lands

Edmund Winter's will (winsevA627) was found after the first edition

He left money to the poor of:

Chislehurst 10 miles

Foots Cray 11 miles

Orpington 8 miles

St Mary's Cray 9 miles

Eltham 14 miles

North Cray 12 miles

Paul's Cray 10 miles

and also to the parish of Croydon in Sussex

Appendix 8

Places in Sevenoaks Mentioned in the Wills

In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the parish of Sevenoaks included Riverhead and the Weald of Sevenoaks. Following each place name is the will reference as given at the beginning of **Sevenoaks Wills & Families**. This gives the first three letters of the testators's surname, the first three letters of the testator's parish (always "sev" here), a letter indicating status or occupation³ and the last three digits of the date of the will.

- blue - quotes from wills; the full transcripts of all the wills, together with some details of the families, are given in **Sevenoaks Wills & Families**.
- dark green - quotes from other documents

3 A - artisan, C - citizen of London; G - gent (including Esq.), H - husbandman, O - other, T - tradesman, W - woman, X - unspecified, Y - yeoman. If this letter is in lowercase, the will is nuncupative.

Barbers, Upper and Nether

blosevT624

John Blome owned three parcels of land, about 8 acres, near **Kippington** purchased of **William Coggar**

Baylers Field (Riverhead) - see **William Wright** in Riverhead

Bayleys Hill

pocsevY587

Thomas Pococke (s43) left to his son William "houses, lands and tenements at Bayleys Hill, one mead excepted lying at **Hatch Landgate**"

Benedicks

bessevG633

Richard Besbeech gave his son, **John**, £4 a year "arising out of certain lands called" Benedicks and **Gowlding** which were "in the occupation" of **George Denier**.

Blackhall¹⁴

beasevh640, bossevG590, hilsevY639

John Bearding of Blackhall;

Henry Bosville gave to his son Ralph "my manor house called Blackhall with the lands that I let therewith to lease for years" about 104 acres "whereupon was received the yearly rent of" £80.67.

Richard Hills bequeathed a joined chest which he had bought of one Smith of Blackhall.

Bradbourne

bossevG590, petsevW634

see Appendix 11 and Bosville in main text of Sevenoaks up to 1650

Rose Petley of Bradbourne"

Bramblecroft

maisevT626

John Maister, mercer, bequeathed to his wife, Jane, an annuity of £4 from "all those my parcels of land called Hillyfield and Bramblecroft and all that my messuage or tenement in the occupation of John Bagshaw, saddler, lying all in Sevenoaks aforesaid as also out of all other my

14 Gordon Ward describes both the demesne lands and the tenants holdings of the manor of Blackhall, see Ward, p.107

messuage, shops, lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever in the parish of Sevenoaks or elsewhere".

Brittons Mead (Kippington)

farsevP646

Thomas Farnaby: "If the debts due to me and my other personal estate not herein bequeathed shall not amount to pay, then I will that my executrix shall sell a parcel of land in Kippington called **Canlme** lately in the tenure of **Richard Cronke** or Brittons Mead also parcel of Kippington"; Brittains Lane runs parallel to Kippington Road.

Bromfield

blosevT624

John Blome leased Bromfield (5 acres) and another adjoining parcel (3 acres) from his son **William** who had purchased them from **William Hodsoll**. This name has survived as Broomfield Road.

Brook Place (manor house) - see **George Scott**, Riverhead

Brookes Tenement

pocsevG613

messuage or tenement with "the edifices, barns, buildings, sowehouse, yards, backsides, garden, orchards and hemploft thereunto adjoining" in which George Pococke was living in 1613

Brookehouse

holsevC619

Robert Holmden left to Thomas Poulter, sometimes my servant, all such household stuff, carriages, all tools and implements of husbandry that shall be left at the time of my decease at my house called Brookehouse wherein he now dwelleth (excepting the furnace, all joined bedsteads, cupboards, court cupboards, tables and their frames, forms and joined stools, all which I will shall remain standing to the said house".

Bull, The (Inn); now the Royal Oak¹⁵

scosevC645

see the main text of Sevenoaks up to 1650

Burford's farm

lonsevG581

Burford's farm was included in a list made by **Richard Lone** but it is not known if this was in Sevenoaks - see Greatness

Butchers Row

blosevT624

John Blome owned at least eight shops in Butchers Row: "two corn shops in the Butchers Row and the stable adjoining to one of the same long shops which I purchased, amongst other things, of **Kutyeus Tyrry**. And one other shop in the said Butchers Row which I purchased of **Thomas Walter**. And all that my part, purport and portion of and in two other shops in the Butchers Row aforesaid next the Leather Market in Sevenoaks aforesaid which I purchased of **Francis Everest** and one of his brethren. And one other shop in the same Butchers Row which I bought of **William Pococke**. And like wise one other shop in the same row which I purchased of one **Harris of Tonbridge** . . . the shop in the Butchers Row aforesaid now in the occupation of **William Davies**, butcher."

The **Butchers Shambles** was described, in 1417, "as lying between the highway from Sevenoaks Church to Otford (the present High Street) on the

east and a way leading through the midst of the market place on the west"¹⁶; the Shambles is still a passage way in the centre of Sevenoaks.

Canltme? - see Brittons Mead

Canulstede (Riverhill?) - see Knole

Chamtery land (Sevenoaks)

hol sevG624

Thomas Holmes owned "part or parcel of woodland or coppice ground now called or known by the name of the Chamtery land lying at Newfound Street

Christmas Croft - see Newfound Street

Connyberry Fields

blosevT624

John Blome owned three parcels of land (totalling about 5 acres) "purchased, amongst other things, of Archibald Parkins, William Darknowle and John Rumney". Coneyborough Vintey was a field in the Blackhall area of Sevenoaks near where Parkfield is now¹⁷

Corn Cross

blosevT624

John Blome owned a "tenement with three shops under it likewise situated over against the Corn Cross in Sevenoaks aforesaid towards the south"

Corn Market

blosevT624

John Blome owned a "messuage or tenement with the stable, backside and garden now thereunto belonging . . . next the Corn Market"

Covenenth and Culverden

pocsevY587

Thomas Pococke, (s43), gave to his son George a "parcel of land called Covenenth" (16 acres) and a "parcel of land called Culverden" (4 acres); these were probably in Sevenoaks

Cowseven (piece of land)

totsevG512

Robert Tottisherst had a "tenement that Richard Hadley dwelleth in with a barn, two fields and one millhouse" in Sevenoaks

Crown, The

pocsevG613

George Pococke gave to his wife Micoll the "Inn, messuage or tenement commonly called The Crown with all the barns, stables, edifices, buildings, closes, yards, gardens, lands, meadows, pastures, woods, underwoods and hereditaments whatsoever thereunto adjoining"; 19 acres.

Diborn Hill

blosevT624

John Blome owned lands and tenements "at or near Diborn Hill" purchased of Henry Bostocke

Dorset Arms - see Pied Bull

East Ewes - see Richard Thomas in Sevenoaks

Gatiers (house)

flosevA640

In 1634 **William Floate**, carpenter, owned a house called Gatiers with a barn, stable, close and yard in which his brother Augustine lived; this was just to the south of the Sevenoaks almshouses¹⁸. Most of his will has not been deciphered.

Gowlding - see Benedicks

Great Kippington - see Kippington

Greatness mills and farm

lonsevG581

Richard Lone ended his will with two lists, one of the manors, lands and tenements left to his wife and the other of those left to his son and daughter-in-law, **Samuel and Elizabeth**. The first of these includes Greatness mills and a farm at Greatness. Greatness is to the north of the A25 between St. Johns and Seal. Gordon Ward¹⁹ traces the name Greatness from "**Greotan edisces lond**" which means "**sandy heath land**", a good description of the land in this area.

¹⁸ Ward, p.83

¹⁹ Ward, p.87

Grimsoch

sibsevG593

Edward Sibbell gave to Dorothy, his wife a "tenement in Sevenoaks with the appurtenances which tenement is called Grimsoch".

Haldene - see Locks Bottom

Hartsland (Riverhill) - see Knole

Hatch Landgate

pocsevY587

Thomas Pococke left to his son George a "parcel of meadow ground lying to Hatch Landgate"

Heylborons (Riverhill) - see Knole

High Street (Sevenoaks)

petsevG593

John Pett gave Francis, his wife "for and in recompense of her dowry, all that principal messuage or dwelling house . . . wherein I now dwell, together with the yards, garden and orchards and all houses thereunto belonging. And together with . . . my lands being on either side of the High Street of Sevenoaks . . . now in the occupation of Thomas Master of Sevenoaks . . . also the house over against me . . . which Charman, the

cooper, lately dwelled in and now in the occupation of his wife Johane, .
. amounting in the whole to the yearly value of fifty pounds or thereabouts".

Hill Fields

totsevG512

Robert Tottisherst left to his son Robert a "parcel of called Hill Fields" which was probably in Sevenoaks.

Hillyfield - see Bramblecroft

Hitching Hatchgate

wrisevG617

William Wright owned a tenement with 4 acres of land "next unto a place called Hitching Hatchgate"; there is a road called Hitchenhatch Lane near Sevenoaks railway station.

Jenyn/Julyan Hills - see Newfound Street

Kettles

pocsevY619

John Pococke owned "two parcels of land commonly called Kettles lying in Sevenoaks". Kettles "in the parish of Seal" was owned by the Olyvers from at least the beginning of the sixteenth century up to 1640 but it was on the Sevenoaks/Seal boundary.

Kippington

bursevT594, farsevP646, lonsevG581

John Blome - see Barbers

William Burgis: "of Great Kippington"

Thomas Farnaby: "dwelling house and . . . lands known by the name of Kippington"; see also Brittons Mead

Richard Lone includes Kippington Land and Little Kippington in his first list - see Greatness.

Great Kippington became the house of Thomas Farnaby whilst **Little Kippington** later became Clenches Farm²⁰.

- see also Newfound Street

Knole/Knoll coxsevX616, frosevG623, lensevG587, petsevX513, poosevX649

William Coxe of Knole - see also New Inn

Thomas Frost of Knole

John Lennarde of Knoll had property in Sevenoaks but no details are given.

Richard Pette: "my land lying from my mansion place unto the ?? pale of Knowle". Also "**Hartsland, Heylborons, Knowby lands, Canulstede** and all my lands lying at **Riverhill**"

Thomas Poore, Yeoman of the Wardrobe at Knole about 1620

Knowbylands (Riverhill) - see Knole

Leather Market

blosevT624

John Blome had purchased his shop in the Leather Market from **Edward Vane** who could have been the son of the **Robert Vane** whose will of 1615 has survived.

Lenet lands

pocsevY624

Thomas Pococke owned "commonly called Lenet lands . . (which one, **Henry Godman**, now holdeth in mortgage) bounding to the highway leading between **Sevenoaks Town** and **Tonbridge** towards the west, to a lane called **Slab lane** towards the north and to the lands of **Samuel Lone**, Esquire, towards the east and south."

John Walter gave his middle daughter, Elizabeth, "part in one mortgage in Sevenoaks of house and land called Little Whites alias Walthamhouse". He gave his youngest daughter, Audrey, his "dwelling house with the little house joining thereunto with the outhouses and one with all the outhouses and land there unto belonging". His eldest daughter, Ann, was to have his land and woodland at **Corkshot Hill, Farnborough** (about 8 miles northwest of Sevenoaks).

Locks Bottom (Sevenoaks)

John Jylbert owned "the lands called Locks Bottom in Sevenoaks which I lately purchased of John Masters²¹, mercer". He also had other land some of which could have been in Sevenoaks: "all other my lands and tenements whatsoever . . . in the said county of Kent". On Seal Hollow Road from Sevenoaks to Seal is the entrance to Knole Park called The Hole in the Wall. This was the entrance "to the western boundary of Blackhall demesnes. Behind the wall stood a farmhouse". This, together with the surrounding land, was owned by a family called Locke so that the land became known as Lock's Bottom although the farm was also known as

Haldene or **Longden**. About 1598 it was sold by **Nicholas Locke**, a "most respectable yeoman" who was a Governor of Sevenoaks School²².

Longden - see Locks Bottom

Lothe Mead (orchard) - see Riverhead

Mildreds

wilsevX610

Walther Wills left his house called Mildreds and the land adjoining to his son **Christopher**.

New Inn

holsevX512

Thomas Holway left his "house with a garden adjoining to the New Inn" to his wife Alice.

The Knole estates bought by **Cardinal Bouchier** in 1481 included the New Inn which, before the sale, was being held from Knole Manor for a rent of 4d. When, however, Bouchier put in a tenant he had to pay a rent of 53s 4d (£2.67). A deed dated 1524 mentions "the tenement called Newyn . .

opposite the Church" but the Knole accounts for 1533 refer to "a certain Inn called Newyn . . . at the east end of the church of St, Nicholas" which had been "granted to William Cokys (or Cocks) for the term of his life by Letters patent of the Lord".

The actual position of New Inn is not given in these documents but a deed of 1713 describes its position in more detail allowing us to place it as abutting to the north of Knole Lane, the entry to Knole Park just opposite the church (that is to the east of it). Sometime towards the end of the eighteenth century, the New Inn was replaced by a house called the Manor House.

In 1559, part of Knole and **Whytley** was taken for "My Lord of Leicester"; this included "a certain hospice called the New Inn situated as the east end" of Sevenoaks church but, although the rent charged by Cardinal Bouchier was increased by a farthing, as shown above, the Inn had been granted to **William Cocks** for life. The auditors, however, knew not "whether the said William survives or not"²³. The William Cocks to whom the Inn had been granted could have been the father (or grandfather) of **William Coxe**

23 Ward, p.190-191 whose sources include Chancery Inquisition ad quod Damnum, 20, Edw. IV (sale to Cardinal Bouchier and the rent charged), Chapter House Library, Register xx, 143 (grant to William Cokys)

of Knole whose will of 1616 has survived but no land is mentioned in that will.

Newfound Street

holsevG624, frasevY609, petsevG593

Thomas Holmes: see Chamtery Lands

William Frankwell gave to his son **William**, who was living with him, his "tenement with all the lands thereunto belonging, called by the name of Newfound Street situated in **Whittly**²⁴ within the parish of Sevenoaks" together with all his other lands and tenements in Sussex and Kent.

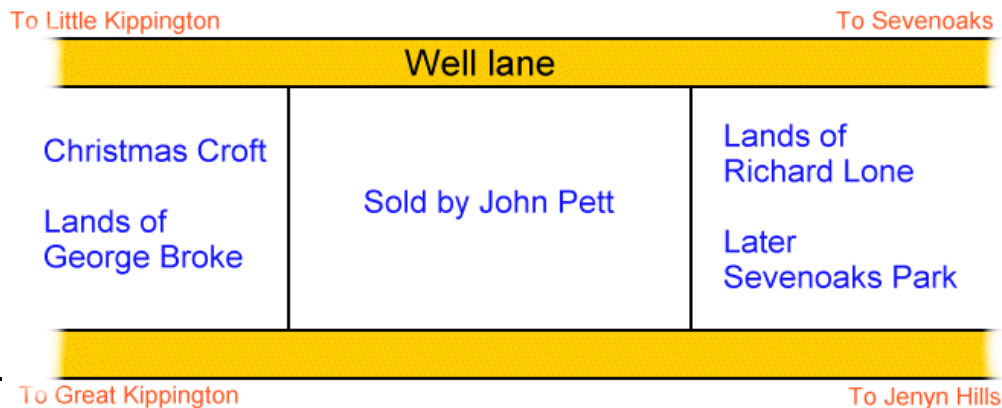
John Pett: the "residue of my lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever lying at **Riverhill**, the **Weald** or Newfound Street in Sevenoaks aforesaid or elsewhere".

In 1575 John Pett sold some land "abutting to the high road called **Well Lane**".

Well Lane was also known as Newfoundland Street but it is now Oak Lane which leads from opposite the school to Kippington. The land he sold was described as: "three parcels of land and meadow and wood, by estimation

nine acres, called **Wellane fields** in Sevenoaks, abutting to the high road called Well Lane leading from Sevenoaks to **Little Kippington** towards the north, to lands of **George Broke** called **Christmas Croft** towards the west, to a road from **Great Kippington** to woods of **Richard Lone** called **Jenyn Hills** otherwise **Julyan Hills** towards the south and to lands which Richard Lone recently purchased from **Thomas Potkyn** towards the east.”²⁵.

The total area was eighteen acres but it was sold in two parts; in diagrammatic form:



Newlyn - *was this a version of New Inn?*

farsevX578

Paul Farrow gave to his **wife Joane** the lease of his house called Newlyn and also that of his house called **Welles** which he had purchased of **Mr. Alderman Starkey**. These houses were probably in Sevenoaks.

Panthurst

lonsevY621, olysevY606

In 1606 **Moses Olyver** of Panthurst willed that **Edward Sisley** should "have the occupation of the farm house wherein I now dwell and of all the lands thereunto belonging . . . called Panthurst Park devised unto me by **Samson Lombard, Esquire**, even as fully and wholly as I do now occupy the same, for and during all the years to come of the lease thereof if the said Edward Sisley shall so long live".

William Longe: "I will that all my stock of cattle which now I have, either in my farm called Panthurst or elsewhere, be sold".

Panthurst is about one and a half miles south of Sevenoaks church to the west of the main road down Riverhill. Gordon Ward describes a 1630 map of "Panthers Park" which then belonged to **Thomas Lambard**, Esquire. On

this map "even the arable fields are depicted as occupied by cattle - strange creatures amongst which horses, sheep and cows can be distinguished".

Thomas Lambard's son, William, made a list of the nine maps left by his father together with a description of each. Panthurst is described as "Lands of Inheritance . . . Panthers Parke lying in Sevenoaks in Kent. The site, having the lodge, two fair barns and other outhousings; also there is a tenement called the glasshouse and two other small tenements adjoining and belonging to the farm". The farm was divided into 56 parcels of land totalling 117 acres meadow, 205 acres pasture, 34 acres woodland and only 67 acres arable which, as we see above, the map showed occupied by animals.²⁶

Pied Bull (inn); became the **Swan** and then the **Dorset Arms** pocsevG613
George Pococke left to Margery, his eldest daughter "that Inn, messuage or tenement commonly called the Pied Bull wherein Elizabeth Petley, widow, now dwelleth, withall the barns, stables, edifices, yards, gardens and ground thereunto belonging". The will of Elizabeth Petley, widow and innholder, written in October 1617 has survived.

There is a tradition that it was in this Inn that the last stand against the forces of Jack Cade was made after the battle of Solefields in 1450²⁷.

Pococke Lane

pocsevY596

William Pococke left his son Henry "all that part of the said capital messuage or tenement and buildings, barns, stables and outhouses to the same and also all the orchards, lands, meadows, pastures, feedings, woods and underwoods to the same capital messuage . . . belonging . . . the which now be in the tenure or occupation of the said Henry Gifford and George Shawe . . . except one new stable near situated to the said capital messuage and adjoining unto a lane there called Pococke Lane and to a certain new stone wall of me, the said William Pococke the elder, towards the east to a certain old barn or stable there likewise of me the said William Pococke towards the west, which said new stable is also now in the tenure or occupation of the said George Shawe".

Rethered - see Riverhead

Riverhill

bessevG633, petsevX513, petsevG593

Richard Besbeece - gave to his son John all his lands called "River Hill lands, together with the farm house, barns, stables and other edifices thereto belonging".

John Pett - see Newfound Street

Richard Pette - see Knole

Ward gives the meaning of Riverhill as being derived from Rither-den - "the forest clearing (den) at the foot of the hill", one of the Saxon meanings of rither being hill²⁸.

Walter Leigh gave to his niece Marie Pierspoint the house "at Rethered" in which she was already living

John Price of Rethered but the only land he mentioned was in Biddenden George Scott: an annuity was to be paid out of "that large house or Inn called the Bull sometimes two tenements with the barns, stables and other buildings to the same tenements or Inn belonging and out of certain other lands, tenements and hereditaments in the said deed particularly mentioned, situated, lying and being within the parish of Sevenoaks aforesaid now in the tenure or occupation of John Soale, innholder, or of his assigns". He also had a "manor house called Brook Place at Riverhead als Rethered".

John Soale "of Riverhead, innholder," owned a messuage in Chipstead "lately purchased by John Soale" his father, to the two friends whom he made his heirs but there is no mention of the inn, presumably because he was the tenant not the owner. Both father and son died in 1647.

Robert Vane "of Rithead" left to his granddaughter, Emma, the daughter of his son, Edward, his "house and tenement now situated and being in the Town of Sevenoaks wherein now Edmond Porter dwelleth" on condition she paid £40 to the sons of John Smale of Shoreham. John Smale was the husband of Robert's daughter. Owning a house in the Town of Sevenoaks rented out to Edmond Porter, Robert Vane seems to have rented the house he lived in in Riverhead. since he does not mention anywhere there in his will.

Robert Warcop "of Rethered"; he was mentioned by William Wright in 1617 as having land next to his but Robert himself does not mention any land.

George Weery mentions "Aunt Alderidge of ?oathered"; was this Riverhead?

William Wright owned a considerable amount of property in Riverhead which he gave to his two daughters:

- his "mansion or now dwelling house . . with all the edifices, yards, close, garden, orchard . . the three little tenements next adjoining to my said mansion or dwelling house now in the several occupations of **Johane Smith**, widow, **Robert Wood** and **Robert Reanold** together with a meadow lying on the north side of my orchard called **Lothe mead**. And five acres of land which I lately purchased of one **John Chapman** of Rethered aforesaid, tailor, called by the name of **Silvesters** and **Baylers** field and also one other parcel of land lying next to the lands of **Robert Warcopp**, gentleman²⁹, in Rethered aforesaid called or known by the name of the **upper orchard**.
- "three other tenements viz. my house wherein one **William Monisse** now dwelleth, which I lately purchased of one **Elizabeth Hicks**, together with the land now thereunto belonging . . And my house

29 this could be the Robert Warcop whose will of 1625 has survived; Robert does not say where in Sevenoaks his dwelling house was.

wherein one **Henry Wooden** now dwelleth together with the backside and one little parcel of land lying over the way against the same house or backside in Rethered aforesaid, the which I late purchased of one **Robert Leigh** and **Ruth Haler**, daughter of the said Robert Leigh

- a lease for thirty years of land in Riverhead held from the **Earl of Dorset**

Romshed, the manor of

lonsevG581

Richard Lone includes the manor of Romshed in his first list - see Greatness. This is now Rumstead Farm on the east of Riverhill, the barn of this farm still stands.

See **Appendix 10** for more details of this sub-manor and also that of **Rumshott** an area just to the west of Kettles and distinct from Rumshed.

Schoollands

blosevT624

two parcels of land adjoining **Bromfield** leased by **John Blome**

Sevenoaks, Grammar Free School of

holsevC619

Robert Holmden left £4 per year "towards the maintenance of a scholar in the university of Cambridge or Oxford", the scholar to be selected from "the grammar free school of Sevenoaks"

Sevenoaks Pound

lawsevA627

William Lawrence gave to his son George a "messuage or tenement in Sevenoaks, lying nigh against the pound of the said Town, west, now in the occupation of one Thomas Ashdown, together with the backside, and one shop thereto belonging now in the occupation of Elizabeth Rogers, widow".

Sevenoaks Market Place

flosevA640, petsevX513, totsevG512

William Floate, in 1640, lived in a house "near unto the market" which he had "only recently" purchased from Thomas Becket of Chiddingstone
Richard Pette: a shop in the market place
Robert Tottisherst: 2 shops in the market place

Sevenoaks, street (see also High Street)

lawsevA627

William Lawrence gave to his two sons, William and Thomas, a "house and tenement . . together with the orchard or backside thereunto . . belonging . . now being in the occupation of William Turner, baker, adjoining to the house of Richard Porter?, south, and the house sometimes John Lawrence, deceased, north and the street of Sevenoaks west".

Sevenoaks, Town

lawsevA627, pocsevG613, pocsevY624, poosevX649, totsevG512, vansevY615, warsevG625, whisevW616

William Lawrence - see Sevenoaks Pound

George Pococke, in 1613, left to his daughter Deborah a "messuage or tenement wherein John Rumney now dwelleth" situated in the Town of Sevenoaks.

Thomas Pococke - see Lenet Lands

Thomas Poore left his house in Sevenoaks Town to his cousin, another Thomas Poore.

Robert Tottisherst left to his son Robert all the lands and tenements which Alice, his wife, had "to her jointure in the town and parish of Sevenoaks". Alice was also to have "during her life natural the tenement that Richard Hadley dwelleth in with a barn, two fields and one millhouse being . . in the town and parish of Sevenoaks".

Robert Vane - see Riverhead

Robert Warcop gave 20s to the poor of the Town of Sevenoaks and 10s to the poor in the almshouses there.

Eme White had two "messuages or tenements" in the Town of Sevenoaks. She gave to her grandson Henry her "messuage or tenement wherein one Timothy Stone, blacksmith, now dwelleth with the kitchen, garden and appurtenances thereunto belonging, lately purchased of William Plumley, yet living". To her other two grandsons she left the one in which she lived "and in part whereof one Walter Edmond alias Edmede, tailor, now dwelleth with the housing, garden and orchard and all other appurtenances thereto belonging".

Sevenoaks Weald (Weald of Sevenoaks) barsevH625, petsevG593, pocsevY619,
pocsevY624, potsevG543, rebsevA629

John Bare of Sevenoaks Weald

John Pett - see Newfound Street

John Pococke in 1619 left £2 to Thomas Pococke, son of his cousin
William Pococke of Sevenoaks Weald

Thomas Pococke of Sevenoaks Weald

John Potkyn, in 1543, had made a lease to Thomas Potkyn of all his
"lands lying in the Weald of Sevenoaks for term of 21 years paying yearly
53s 4d and if Nicholas Payne do die before the said years be expired,
then I will for the residue of the said years, he shall pay yearly but 40s as by
my writing it doth more plainly appear".

Martin Rebankes of Sevenoaks Weald gave to his youngest daughter
Ann a "joined chest standing in the Weald in the parish of Sevenoaks
furnished as it standeth".

Sevenoaks (no detailed location given) beasevW556, lamsevH630, lawsevA627,
morsevX627, sissevY619, smisevY616,
thosevX614, tursevT638, wylsevY617

Eme Beale, widow and late of Sevenoaks, left to her **son John Lounde** (presumably by a first marriage) her "lands, tenements, rents and issues, whatsoever they be" in Sevenoaks and elsewhere.

Edward Lampard, husbandman, left his **wife Clemence** "the use, profit and commodity" of all his lands "for and towards the maintenance" of herself and their **son Richard**. He does not say where these lands were.

William Lawrence left his **wife, Alice**, half of his "house or tenement wherein now I dwell . . . That is to say, the hall, the chamber over the hall, the buttery, the mill house and the chamber over the mill house, together with the kitchen belonging thereunto, the garden plot also belonging to the said tenement. Also . . . all my roots, pease and barley with half the oats belonging to me growing and now being in the land which now I have ?? of **Mr. Thomas Pett** . . . Also . . . the lease of the land which I have of **Mr. Pett**, paying the rent thereof" except for one field called **Long Field**. His **son John** was to have the other half "together with the barn, woodhouse and . . .

in the backside of the said tenement . . . together with six acres of land, more or less, now in lease of the said Thomas Pett".

Thomas Morley specified that his house and land should be let and that, for three years, the rent was to be used for the maintenance of his youngest son, Henry, after which time it was to be equally divided between his three sons "until the said house and lands be divided".

Edward Sisley owned some tenements in Sevenoaks

Percival Smith decreed that the legacies to his daughter and son-in-law, Elizabeth and Richard Holmden, be paid "at or in my dwelling house". If they were not paid, they were to have "my tenement . . . now in the tenancy and occupation of Nicholas Johnson, glazier". Although Percival does not otherwise mention these properties (or say where they are), they presumably formed part of his son's inheritance.

Richard Thomas owned land and tenements in Chevening and Sevenoaks but it is not clear where particular pieces of land were situated. The lands and tenements purchased of Robert Wybourne consisting of

Smythes Forge and three parcels of land called **East Ewes als. Twes** and the **Swyre** were probably in Sevenoaks.

William Turner gave to his **son Michael** the house which he had purchased from **Richard Rise**. He had another house in which **his wife and son Henry** were to live.

Thomas Wylde owned a number of "messuages or tenements" in Sevenoaks. One had a garden and was "in the tenure and occupation of **Richard Smythe**, petty chapman"; another also had a garden and was "in the tenure or occupation of **Bridget Vigin**, widow; a third was "in the occupation of **Peter Symons**". Yet another, which was given to **Thomas Martin** and his wife, had a garden and had been divided into two being "in the tenure and occupation of **Roger Thomas**, cutler, and Thomas Martin himself. The last one adjoined that given to Thomas Martin and was "in the occupation of" **George Lownes**, shoemaker and **Dennise Smythe**, widow.

Silvesters and Baylers Field (Riverhead) - see William Wright in Riverhead

Slab Lane - see Lennet Lands

Smythes Forge - see Richard Thomas in Sevenoaks

Swyre - see Richard Thomas in Sevenoaks

Upper Orchard (Riverhead) - see William Wright in Riverhead

Walthamhouse - see Little Whites

Welles - see Newlyn

Wickhurst

lensevG587

This was one of the "[manors, lands, tenements](#)" in Kent which [John Lennarde](#) owned; it was probably Wickhurst manor near Sevenoaks Weald.

White Lion

weesevA628

[George Weery](#) gave to his [brother Robert](#) his "[message or tenement in Sevenoaks . . . known by the name of the White Lion together with one barn and all the yards, gardens and backside thereunto belonging. And all](#)

the outhouses, edifices and buildings . . . now in the occupation of Thomas Rumney", tailor. He also gave him all the rest of his lands and tenements.

Whittly - Whitley Forest - see Newfound Street

Wyllinghurst

totsevG512

Robert Tottisherst bequeathed to Alice, his wife, twenty "loads of wood to be taken and cut down within my lands called Wyllinghurst or in any other lands thereto adjoining". Gordon Ward identified Wyllinghurst, owned at the beginning of the sixteenth century by the Tottishersts, as being on the left hand side of the road going down from Sevenoaks to Riverhill from about the top of White Hart Hill to about opposite Park Place³⁰

Wynkers

crasevG613

Giles Cranewell left to his daughter Martha all his leases including that of Wynkers. All the land he owned was in Chiddingstone and Hever but his leases could have been in Sevenoaks

Appendix 9

Connections Outside Kent

This appendix summarises the connections which the Sevenoaks testators had with other parts of the country as shown by their wills. In the following lists, the testators are identified by the reference given at the beginning of [Sevenoaks Wills & Families](#). This the first three letters of the testators's surname, "sev" for Sevenoaks, a letter indicating status or occupation and the last three digits of the date of the will.

[blue](#) - quotes from wills; the full transcripts of all the wills, together with some details of the families, are given in [Sevenoaks Willa & Families](#)

A number of Sevenoaks testators owned land in parts of England other than Kent with most detail being given for those who had property in London.

George Scott, citizen and grocer of London	page 9.3
Connections with Ireland	page 9.3
John Lennarde	page 9.4
John Turner	page 9.6
William Wright	page 9.7
London	page 9.8
Sussex	page 9,11
Surrey	page 9.13

Many of the references to places outside Kent were where relatives or friends were living. **Martha Stanford**, widow of Sevenoaks, asked to be buried in **Thissleworth in Middlesex** which was perhaps the parish where she had grown up. **Robert Leighton** left a number of household items to his wife but these were all in the keeping of his sister in **Hurst, Berkshire**.

The arrangements regarding the land of **Anthony Carleton** were very complex.. Concerned with twenty acres of arable and pasture lands in the **manor of Alrichsty** "in the county of Bedd", presumably **Bedfordshire** , they are described in **Sevenoaks Wills & Families** together with the full text of Anthony's will.

George Scott, citizen and grocer of London

George Scott left to the three children of his brother all his "freehold or other lands, tenements, plantations, goods, chattels, hereditaments and adventures whatsoever of what nature or quality soever to me of right belonging, situated, lying and being in Martins Hundred or elsewhere within the Kingdom or Dominion of Virginia". He is the only one to own land outside England. All his other property was in London or Kent (including Sevenoaks) but he held the mortgage of the "large house or Inn called the Bull" in Riverhead from **Thomas Lock** of **Cranworth in Norfolk**.

Connections with Ireland

John Pett and **Elizabeth Pococke** had connections with people who had gone to Ireland. If John Pett's son died before he reached the age of twenty-one, **Humfrey Wager**, "son of **John Wager** lately deceased in Ireland", was to inherit all John's property in the High Street of Sevenoaks on the death of his wife. Elizabeth's

brother, **Thomas Pococke**, was in Ireland when she wrote her will; if he survived to come home, he was to receive £5.

John Lennarde

John Lennarde, Esq. owned a large amount of land in different counties. In addition to that in Kent, he had property in **Cambridgeshire, Somerset, Wiltshire** and **Yorkshire** with most of it in villages round Cambridge: "manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever in the county of Cambridge called or known by the name of":

- Little Carleton als. Cardidors als. Lephames (**Carlton** is about 12 miles south east of Cambridge)
- Weston "Colbile" (**Weston Colville**, two miles west of Carlton)
- **Weston Moines**
- **Weston Leveres**
- **Gatewardes**

"and all other my manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever in the towns or parishes of:

- Carleton, Weston Colville,
- Willingham (about eight miles north-north-west of Cambridge)
- Wickham (near Carlton)
- Briuckley Borough (Brinkley and Burrough are just north of Carlton and West Colville)
- Baborougham
- Balsham (near Carlton)
- Pannesworth

"or elsewhere in the said county of Cambridge".

In Yorkshire there was his manor of Horton (Horton in Ribblesdale is about thirty miles west-north-west of Harrogate) and "all other my manors, land tenements and hereditaments in the said county of York"

"And all those in" Somerset including "the manor of Broadenstone als. Broadmaston".

"And all those in" **Wiltshire** including "the manor of **Stanton Givinton**". "And all other my manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments within the realm of **England**." In addition to leaving money to be distributed amongst the poor of many of the parishes where he had property, he left 10s to the poor of **Romford, Essex** which was otherwise not mentioned.

John Turner

John Turner, **skinner and citizen of London** but living in Sevenoaks when his will was written, had relatives living in **London, Bristol** and **Burwash in Sussex** (about 26 miles south-southeast of Sevenoaks):

- a cousin, **John clerk, of Burwash** who was to be joint executor with his wife
- a brother, **Benjamin physician, of Bristol**
- a nephew who was a **London merchant**
- another relative, **William gent. of Lincolns Inn** (London).

William Wright

In addition to the property and land he owned in Sevenoaks William Wright of Riverhead had a lease or grant in reversion for thirty-one years "[under the great seal of England](#)" for:

- the old domains of the [Manor of Muchelney in Somerset](#) (about ten miles east of Taunton)
- six tenements with the land belonging to them in and near to [Glastonbury](#) in Somerset
- one gavell of land of 180 acres called [Bedwarcorn](#), next to a town called the [Balla Cornmemoneth in North Wales](#) (Bala in North Wales is about twenty miles east of Porthmadoc). A gavel was tribute or rent originally levied in the form of services to the lord. Gavelkind was a method of tenure by which lands inherited lands were divided equally between all the sons (or daughters, if there were no sons). What was meant in this context is not known.

London

As might be expected, places in London were more frequently mentioned than anywhere else. **Thomas Nevill**, citizen and haberdasher of London and a parishioner of **St. Martins, London**, left a number of charitable bequests to institutions in London and to the poor of places in **Oxfordshire** and London as well as Sevenoaks - see **Sevenoaks Wills & Families**. **Lambeth**, which he also mentioned, is now part of London but it was then in the county of **Surrey**.

When **Rose Petley**'s will was written, she was having a gown made by **Mr. Henry Bosville**, a tailor, dwelling in **Bermondsey Street in Southwark**, London. **Henry Bosville**, gentleman, had a house in London in which his mother-in-law had died and two others near **Clements Inn** in one of which he had lived "**for the most part of nine years**".

William Constable had a chest containing a variety of valuables which was in the house of **Robert Waddesborough** at the **Cock in Westminster**.

When **Johane Wright** wrote her will at the end of 1623 her married daughter was living at **Temple Bar, Fleet Street**, London. **William Frankwell** sounds

doubtful as to where his eldest son was: "[London or elsewhere](#)" but, in any case he was not to receive his £5 legacy until one year after William's wife had died.

Robert Warcopp had a nephew who lived in London and another in **Tanfield** (location unknown).

Other references to places in **London** are:

All Hallows	potsevG543 ⁴
Bread Street	potsevG543
City of London (lease purchased, for £100, from the City of London)	leisevG631
City of London	seysevG631
"messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments in or near the City of London or elsewhere within the realm of England"	
City of London (his dwelling house)	scosevC645
Clements Inn (houses)	bossevG590

Cripplegate (lease of gardens in Redcross Street)	potsevG543
George on Horseback in Great Eastcheap (left to the Worshipful Company of Leathersellers)	holsevC619
Gracious Street (lease of a house)	holsevC619
Ratcliffe, Shadwell and Wapping (leases of land)	holsevC619
Redcross Street	potsevG543
The Stare/Starre (Bread Street; capital message)	potsevG543
Westminster	consevX559

Sussex

Susan Jeffrey, widow, in her nuncupative will gave all that she had to **Richard Jeffrey** of **Battle**.

The husbandman, **John Turner**, (1636) owned a house and land in **East Grinstead** in Sussex from which he was receiving rent. He does not mention any property in Sevenoaks so that he was probably himself paying rent for wherever he lived.

Thomas Burgis was fairly young when he died in 1620 since his mother was still alive. Although he was described as a yeoman he appears to have been a servant in the household of **Mr. Binces** and he had probably come to Sevenoaks from East Sussex to join his household. Thomas's mother, who was a widow lived in **Buxted**, his sister was married to **George Hunter** of **Uckfield** and another married sister lived in **Maresfield**. Buxted is about twenty miles south of Sevenoaks with Uckfield and Maresfield close by.

In addition to a considerable amount of land in Kent, **Robert Holmden**, citizen and leatherseller of London, owned:

- "marshlands with appurtenances called the **Fifteen Acres** lying within the parish of **Pevensey**" near **Eastbourne**
- lands and tenements called **Amwood** in **Fletching** which is near Uckfield
- the lease of the **parsonage of Westfield**, three miles north of Hastings.

William Coxe of Knole left **John Robinson** of **Frant** 40s and his brother **Charles** 20s. **Grace Robinson** (was she the sister of John and Charles?) attended him in his sickness and was to receive 40s. How was William connected to the Robinsons? Had he come from Frant to become part of the household of Knole?

Henry Gifford, yeoman, was firmly established in Sevenoaks having had twelve children baptised there between 1570 and 1591 with three of them also being buried there (two as infants and the third a week after his fourth birthday). He was buried at the end of 1604 his wife having died in the summer of 1603. All his "**lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever situated**" were, however, "lying and being in **Rye** in the county of Sussex". Presumably he lived in a rented house in Sevenoaks.

Surrey

When **Thomas Turner**, Esquire, wrote his will in 1640, he had a brother living in **Bletchingley** and another in **Lingfield** whilst he himself owned land and "**Lock House**" in **Burstow**. All of these parishes are in Surrey, Burstow about eight miles south of Redhill, Bletchingley about three miles east of it and Lingfield six miles southeast. Redhill is about fifteen miles due west of Sevenoaks.

In addition to the lease of a house in "Sevenoaks Town", **Thomas Poore** (1649) had a "**house, barn, backside and ground thereto belonging**" in **West Croydon** which is in Surrey and a similar house, etc. in **West Horsley** (the name of this village is difficult to read but is West ??rsley or West ??rstey in the county of Surrey. There is a West Horsley in Surrey about four miles east of Guildford so that this is a possibility.). The latter he gave to his cousin, **Anthony Poore**, "**because of the convenience of it to his land. I mean it him forever if he have lawful heirs of his body**".

Robert Gavell, gent. of Sevenoaks, (1608) had a brother **Edmond Gavell**, gent. of **Weybridge** in Surrey; Edmond's son, to who Robert gave £100, was "lame of one arm".

The younger **John Soale** made two friends his executors; one of these was **John Jesson**, a mariner living in **Redcliffe** in Surrey.

Appendix 10

The Sub-Manors of Rumshed and Rumshott

A ring of farms distant about a mile-and-a-half from the parish church of St. Nicholas, Sevenoaks, which came to be known as Britains, Kippington, Clenches, Wickhurst, Panthurst, Rumshed, Knole and Blackhall, all became sub-manors of Otford probably in the twelfth century. Rumshed, whose name appears with a number of different spelling, Rumstead, Rumshede, Romshed being the most common, is to the south of Knole just on the Sevenoaks side of the the parish boundary with Seal and on the lower slopes of the Greensand Ridge. This sub-manor not only established its own manorial court at an early date but this court survived until the latter half of the nineteenth century.³²

There is a separate sub-manor in the same locality, just to the northeast of St. Julians, with the similar name of Rumshott which makes it often difficult to know to which establishment reference is being made.

32 Dunlop, p.58

Rumshed Manor

In the thirteenth century some houses had moats which were not always just for defence. They were seen as fashionable additions and, when well-stocked with fish, were very useful on religious fast days. By this time puddled clay was used as a lining material and this meant that one could be built at a house such as Rumstead Manor, not in an obvious position for such a feature. The Otford Archaeological Society have dated occupation of this moated house to shortly after 1280.³³

date:

1370s

William Senocke "is said to have been found abandoned in the hollow of a tree by Sir William Rumpsted (or Rumshed) around 1373 who named him and brought him up"

- 1425 **Alexander Peckham** was Lord of Romshed By 1534 it was owned by **Reynold/Reginald Peckham** who had inherited it from his father, **William**³⁴
- 1534 **Thomas Bedell, archdeacon of London**, bought from Reginald Peckham, Esq., for £80 land of the manor of Rumshed consisting of land in Sevenoaks, Seal, Tonbridge and Leigh³⁵:
- | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 63 acres land | 18 acres pasture | 67 acres pasture |
| 94 acres wood | 20s 6d rent | |
| and rent of 2 cocks; 8 hens; | | 3 boon weeks |
- 1556-7 **Nicholas Bedell** sold Romshed to **John Stacey** of Hollenden in Leigh where he probably lived; a Feet of Fines of 1546 registers him in a land transaction there.
- 1557 Two months later, John Stacey sold it to **Richard Lone**, son of Robert Lone of Ellow in Suffolk for £10 less than he paid for it but he probably

34 Hollobone

35 Gordon Ward Notebooks; Rumshed IV, p.8; Kent Arch.Soc. (Records Branch): Kent Feet of Fines, Henry VIII; No 1239 gives spring 1535 for this purchase

kept some land at Seal.³⁶ At that time the tenant of Romshed was "one Maw"³⁷

1581 Richard Lone died; his son, Samuel, was his heir but he was imprisoned in 1581 for his Catholicism. **Samuel Lone's** steward was **Paul Sydney**.

William Frankwell was Samuel's tenant at sometime³⁸. When Frankwell wrote his will in 1609 he made Samuel Lone one of his executors but he did not die until 1625.

1601 Court held at Rumsted 6th April 1601

Richard Polhill, gent.;

William Children - excused

Homage: **Ambrose Martin; William Duble**
William Walter

sworn

excused

³⁶ Hasted, Vol.III, p.89

³⁷ Ward, unpub.

³⁸ Ward, unpub.

Homage present that Richard Polhill is a tenant of this manor and owes suit of court every three weeks and was formerly in default.

John Duble - meadow in Tonbridge

Ralph, father of John Duble, died after last court
all other land mentioned of the manor was in Tonbridge³⁹

1600- Samuel Lone and his son were both Catholics; "**Lone of Sevenoaks**
1620 **Park was almost automatically regarded as an enemy of the**
Parliamentary Party, for he was a Catholic". They were "**sequestered for**
recusancy" and, by degrees, forced to sell their lands. At some time
before 1613 Samuel moved to Mereworth about eight miles east of
Sevenoaks. Others of the Lone family, including Samuel's son George
who stayed in Sevenoaks, remained Roman Catholics

1622 **John Lone, Esq.** (of Bore Place?, Chiddingstone and Leigh paid
Samuel Lone £360 for the manor of Rumshed which included:
10 messuages, a cottage, 2 tofts (homesteads), 2 water mills,
10 orchards,
190 acres of land, 52 acres of meadow, 180 acres of pasture,
126 acres of wood and an annual rent of £12..

These 500 acres of land were in the parishes of Sevenoaks, Tonbridge, Chevening, Leigh and Sundridge⁴⁰ and must have been worth more than £360.

John could have been Samuel's brother but, although given in the sale as of Chiddingstone and Leigh. his main estates were outside Kent and he could have been a descendant of the Richard Lone of Ellow in Suffolk mentioned in 1557. The sale could have been made in order to avoid the loss of the Lone estates because of the recusancy indictments.

1631 Samuel died leaving Rumshed to his son George, also a Catholic. What had happened to John, the purchaser of 1622, is not known. He may have died leaving Rumshed to Samuel or he could have returned the estate when it was considered safe to do so. Throughout this period, however, both Samuel and George were continuously being indicted.

1641 George Lone's tenants of part of Rumshed included:
William Dowble (Duble?) In the southeast (of Rumstead)

Walters family holding the large field Toots, ?west
Childrens family on the southwest (of Rumstead)
His steward was **Nicholas Brattle**⁴¹ who could have been the
Nicholas Brattle who witnessed the will of Anthony Carleton in 1635.

1652 George Lone "had to sell fifteen acres of land called Little Kippington
to **John Cogger** for £195"⁴²

1654 George Lone sold to **Thomas Lambarde** of Westerham, for £2,580,
Rumshed and "all that impaled park and grounds or warren,
commonly called or known by the name of Sevenoaks Park."⁴³
Lambarde renamed the property Brick house in 1654⁴⁴ All-brick
houses did not begin to appear until about 1630⁴⁵ but, even in Tudor

⁴¹ Ward, unpub.

⁴² Dunlop p.117

⁴³ Dunlop p.118

⁴⁴ Rayner, p.53

⁴⁵ The first is said to have been built at Leeds in 1628 - Ashley, 1994, p.74

times it could have had brick chimneys. Alternatively, Lambarde, a wealthy man, could have rebuilt the house in brick.

Rumshott

William Olyver of Rumshott married Ellen Pelsett in June 1578. Ellen died as a result of childbirth in 1583 but William remarried and had some more children. His son, Edward was buried in 1624. He was still living at Rumshott in 1625 when Mercy, the wife of William Olyver of Rumshott was buried. Sometime during the next ten years he moved to Fawke leaving his son William living at Rumshott and, in 1634 when he was "well stricken in years" (he would have been about eighty) and by then designated as William Olyver of Fawke, he wrote his will .

Appendix 11

The Sub-Manors of Bradbourne and Kemsing

The Owners of Bradbourne

The owners, given below in their historical context, have been assembled from the combined accounts of Hasted, Phillips and Reynolds and Gordon Ward's Notebooks

date:

1199 *accession of King John*

about 1200 **Baldwin de Bretun**, Earl of Albemarle.

1204 **William Marshall**, Earl of Pembroke; his wife was **Alice, the daughter of Baldwin de Bretun** and he received the sub-manors as part of her dowry.

1216 *accession of Henry III*

1225 **Fulk de Brete** had some kind of interest in Bradbourne

1225 Henry granted to William Marshall all the oxen, stock and corn found both in granaries and on the land in the Manors of Kemsing, Sutton and Bradbourne which Fulk de Brete once held

1229 William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, died leaving five sons (William, the eldest, and his heir was married to **Eleanor, the king's sister**) and five daughters; the eldest, **Maud**, married **Hugh Bigod, Earl of Norfolk**

- 1230 Henry confirmed the new Earl of Pembroke in possession of the manors of Bradbourne, Sutton, Kemsing, and others on condition that, if his wife Eleanor survived him, she should enjoy them during her life.
- 1231 William Marshall died and, since he had no children, was succeeded by his brother, **Richard Marshall** who later that year had his homage for the lands of his brother accepted provided that he let Eleanor, his sister-in-law, have the manors of Sutton, Kemsing and Bradbourne for the rest of her life. Richard also died without a direct heir.
- 1272 *accession of Edward I*
- 1275 Eleanor, who had married the **Earl of Leicester**, died still in possession of the manors shown in the following table.

Owners of the Manor of Kemsing and possibly Bradbourne:	
1275	Roger Bigod , grandson of Maud, sister of Eleanor's husband
1283	Sir Otto de Grandison , to whom Bigod conveyed his lands in Kent
1328	William de Grandison , Otto's brother
1336	Sir Peter de Grandison , knight, William's eldest son
1348	Sir Otto de Grandison , Peter's brother to whom Peter conveyed his manor of Seal and Kemsing
1360	Otto died; succeeded by his son Sir Thomas Grandison

In 1332 **John Joce** was the tenant of Bradbourne -see below for more details of Joce.

date:

before 1377 **Walter de Pevenley** or **Pemley** bought Bradbourne from Sir Thomas Grandison⁴⁶

1422 *accession of Henry VI*

1420s owned by the **Ashe family** from the beginning of Henry VI's reign.

1472 **John Isley** of Sundridge

1528 **Anthony Isley**

before 1540 **Henry Isley**

1540 **Henry VIII** who exchanged it for Brasted
Tenants included:

John Webbe

from 1545 **William Darkenolde**, gentleman

⁴⁶ Reynolds says that Pevenley bought Bradbourne at the beginning of Edward III's reign (he acceded in 1327),
Hasted that it was sold by Sir Thomas Grandison whose father Otto, according to Phillips, did not die until 1360

- 1555 **Ralph Bosville**, gentleman, of Lincolns Inn and Clerk to the Court of Wards and Liveries, purchased Bradbourne from the Crown.
- 1581 **Henry Bosville**, son of Ralph
- 1590 **Raphe/Ralph Bosville**, son of Henry, who was only fourteen in 1590; he married Mary, the daughter of Sampson Lennard on 2nd April 1594 when he was only eighteen
- 1635 **Leonard Bosville**, son of Raphe, who died, childless in 1640.
- 1640 **Margaret**, brother of Leonard and her husband, **William Boswell**.

John Joce and his Court Cases Regarding Land

In 1332 John Joce was the tenant of Bradbourne but he also had an interest in other land in Sevenoaks and two cases which came to the Court at Westminster are recorded in the Kent Fines for Edward III⁴⁷.

At the first, in 1331, Joce was the defendant and the plaintiffs were **William Moraunt** and **Johanna, his wife** (who was represented at the Court by **William de Waurre**). It concerned a messuage in Sevenoaks with 90 acres of land, 8 acres of meadow, 8 acres of wood, 10s 3d (£0.506) rent and rent of 4 hens, with appurtenances, which **John de Vieleston** held for the term of three years.

It appeared that John Joce owned this messuage, etc. but was granting it to William and Johanna so that, at the end of the three years it would "[remain to William and Johanna and to the heirs of William](#)". John Joce was to receive 100 marks (£66.67) "[for the concession](#)" and the agreement was made in the presence of John de Vieleston who acknowledged his fealty to William and Johanna. Thus the

four men must all have attended the court at Westminster on the "morrow of St. Martin" (12th November).

In 1332, three weeks before Easter, "[John Joce of Bradbourne with Margaret his wife](#)" were the plaintiffs with **Thomas de Somerset**, chaplain, the defendant. The case concerned another messuage in Sevenoaks with a mill, 60 acres of land, 20 acres of pasture and 40s rent and appurtenances which Thomas de Somerset granted to "[John and Margaret and to his heirs by her but, if none, then to the heirs of his body but, if none, then after his death to remain to the right heirs of the aforesaid John Joce](#)". Here there was no mention of money being paid. Margaret was represented by **John de Wyngton**; were women not allowed to attend these cases themselves or was it just easier for men to undertake such a journey?

The Manor of Kemsing and Seal: some prices in 1275

Eleanor, Countess of Leicester, whose second husband was William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke, died in 1275 and the Chancery Inquisition Post Mortem⁴⁸ quotes yearly rents as given by the jurors, of various items connected with the manor of Kemsing and Seal.

These included:

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| - the curtilage (courtyard attached to a house) at Kemsing | 1s 6d (7.5p) |
| - the garden at Seal | 1s 6d (7.5p) |
| - 278 acres of arable land | 6d (2.5p) per acre |
| - 22 acres of arable land | 8d (3.3p) per acre |
| - 11 acres of meadow outside the park of Kemsing | 1s 6d per acre |

The pasture of the whole park at Kemsing which included a meadow was valued at £4 13s 8½d per year (£4.69). From property in Kemsing and Seal there was an annual income from rent of £32 4s 3d (£32.21).

In addition to money rents, land could be held in return for services to the lord; those mentioned in the Inquisition, where their money value is given, included:

- gavelerthe, ploughing 1s (5p) per acre
- gavelrip, reaping 8d (3.3p) per acre
- 18 cartloads of wood, including carriage 2d (0.83p) per cartload
- for a meadow of 4 acres, mowing, tossing,
collecting and carting 5d (2.1p) per acre
- 17 loads of malt 2d per load

There was a windmill at Kemsing and this, excepting repairs, was valued at 10s (£0.5).

Appendix 12

Assize Records: Items Stolen

Calendar of Assize Records - Grand Larceny

Items stolen in entries with connection to Sevenoaks; ambiguous items omitted

The value given in the Assize record is given in £ s d as shown in the record (£1 = 20s; 1s = 12d). The value in the unit value column is given in English decimal currency and where the total covers a number of items of the same type (for example, 2 shirts), the value of one item is given.

Kent Indictments Elizabeth I; 1565-1602

date ⁴⁹ & ref.				unit cost
Jul 1565	333	money	3s 6d	£ 0.175
Mar 1579	938	money	27s	£ 1.35
Feb 1585	1363	money	2s	£ 0.10
	1374	leather purse containing	2s 5½d	£ 0.12
Feb 1585	1398	purse containing	6s	£ 0.30
Jul 1590	1818	money	£ 4	£ 4.00
	1826	money from a chest	2s	£ 0.10
	1826	purse containing	16d	£ 0.07
Jul 1590	1852	purse containing	6s	£ 0.30
Feb 1593	3064	purse containing	20d	£ 0.08

Jul 1565	333	a gown	33s 4d	£ 1.67
Jul 1594	2171	a gown	10s	£ 0.50
Jul 1596	2363	a gown	30s	£ 1.50
Jul 1594	2171	a red petticoat	3s 4d	£ 0.17
Jul 1565	333	a kirtle	20s	£ 1.00
Feb 1585	1378	a doublet	6s	£ 0.30
Feb 1593	3064	a doublet	10s	£ 0.50
Jul 1590	1826	9 shirts and smocks	20s	
Jul 1596	2394	2 shirts	10d	£ 0.02
Jul 1590	1826	8 aprons	10s	£ 0.06
Feb 1593	3064	a tunic	3s 4d	£ 0.17
	3064	a shirt and a band	2s	£ 0.10
Jul 1565	333	2 white fustian sleeves	2s	£ 0.05
Jul 1565	333	8 kerchiefs	16s	£ 0.10
Jul 1590	1826	2 kerchiefs	3s	£ 0.075
Jul 1596	2363	2 neckerchiefs	3s	£ 0.075
Feb 1602	2935	7 neckerchiefs	6s	£ 0.04

Jul 1565	333	a cap	20d	£ 0.08
Feb 1593	3064	a hat	2s	£ 0.10
Feb 1602	2935	a band	2s	£ 0.10
	2935	a gorget	12d	£ 0.05
	2935	4 crosscloths	12d	£ 0.01
	2935	2 coifs	12d	£ 0.025
Jul 1590	1826	3 pairs of shoes	4s	£ 0.07 a pr.
Jul 1595	2254	a pair of shoes	8d	£ 0.03 a pr.
Feb 1585	1378	a pair of venetians ⁵⁰	6s 8d	£ 0.33
Feb 1593	3064	a pair of venetians	10s	£ 0.50
Jul 1565	333	pair of sheets	40s	£ 2.00 a pr.
	333	3 pairs of sheets	15s	£ 0.25 a pr.
Jul 1590	1826	2 pairs of sheets	20s	£ 0.50 a pr.
Jul 1565	333	3 pillowbars	5s	£ 0.08
Jul 1590	1818	a pillowbar	4s	£ 0.20
	1826	2 pillows	4s	£ 0.10

Jul 1565	333	a coverlet	20s	£ 1.00
Jul 1590	1826	a bedcover	60s	£ 3.00
Feb 1602	2935	a blanket	2s	£ 0.10
Jul 1590	1826	3 tablecloths	20s	£ 0.33
Jul 1565	333	3 tablenapkins	4s	£ 0.07
Jul 1590	1826	7 tablenapkins	7s	£ 0.05
Jul 1565	333	a towel	2s	£ 0.10
Jul 1590	1826	4 hand towels	4s	£ 0.05
Jul 1590	1826	2 latten candlesticks	6s 8d	£ 0.17
Feb 1602	2949	3 pieces of pewter	6d	£ 0.01
Jul 1565	333	pair of silver hooks	2s	£ 0.10 a pr.
Mar 1579	938	" " " "	5s	£ 0.25 a pr.
Jul 1565	333	a silver pin	12d	£ 0.05
Jul 1565	333	a silver ring	4s	£ 0.20
Mar 1579	938	6 silver rings	10s	£ 0.08
Feb 1588	1638	a sword	4s	£ 0.20
Jul 1590	1818	a sword	12d	£ 0.05

Jul 1565	333	a piece of kersey	9s	£ 0.45
Mar 1579	938	5 pieces of cloth	20s	£ 0.20 a pc.
Feb 1585	1363	3 pieces of linen	8d	£ 0.01 a pc.
Jul 1590	1818	1 ell of holland cloth	2s 6d	£ 0.125 ell
Feb 1598	2536	40 yds russet cloth	£ 4	
	2536	10 yds broadcloth	£ 5	£ 0.10 a yd.
	2536	10 yds white cotton	8s	£ 0.50 a yd.
	2536	10 yds green cotton	8s	£ 0.04 a yd.
Feb 1602	2935	2½ ells flaxen cloth	2s	
Jul 1593	2092	a saddle	4s	£ 0.20
Jul 1596	2363	a sack	6d	£ 0.025
Feb 1596	2348	17 partridges	8s	£ 0.024 each
	2348	a pheasant	2s	£ 0.10
Mar 1601	2843	2 stocks of bees	11d	£ 0.02 each
Jul 1587	1539	2 cows and 3 calves	£ 5	
Jul 1588	1705	black cow	30s	£ 1.50
Feb 1590	1793	black cow	40s	£ 2.00
Jul 1588	1705	3 steers	£ 3	£ 1.00

Jun 1573	663	7 sheep	16s	£ 0.114
Mar 1576	818	8 sheep	20s	£ 0.125
Mar 1579	939	7 sheep	20s	£ 0.143
Feb 1593	3059	a sheep	12s	£ 0.60
Feb 1595	2234	2 sheep	13s 4d	£ 0.33
Jul 1598	2601	2 sheep	10s	£ 0.25
Feb 1603	3024	a sheep	6s 8d	£ 0.33
Feb 1596	2345	a ram	10d	£ 0.04
Jun 1573	663	4 lambs	6s	£ 0.075
Jul 1598	2601	3 lambs	10s	£ 0.17
Mar 1582	1114	iron-grey gelding	60s	£ 3
	1114	gelding	40s	£ 2
	1114	bay gelding	£ 3	£ 3
Mar 1599	2680	bay gelding	£ 5	£ 5
	2680	black gelding	£ 5	£ 5
Mar 1582	1114	bright-bay mare	£ 5	£ 5
Feb 1588	1659	bay mare	40s	£ 2
Jul 1596	2384	roan mare	40s	£ 2
Mar 1601	2844	grey mare	£ 5	£ 5

Feb 1584	1284	100 lbs wool	£ 5	£ 0.05 a lb
Jul 1596	2363	1 lb wool	4d	£ 0.02 a lb
Feb 1588	1623	6 lbs hemp	4s	£ 0.033 a lb
Feb 1585	1397	a brass mould	10s	£ 0.50
Feb 1585	1397	a pair of shears	20d	£ 0.083
	1397	a pair of scissors	18d	£ 0.075
Feb 1588	1623	10 gals. butter	40s	£ 0.20 gal.
	1623	5 pieces of brawn	5s	£ 0.05 each
Jul 1590	1826	5 flitches of bacon	25s	£ 0.25 each
Jul 1596	2363	a cheese	4d	£ 0.02

Kent Indictments

James: Mar 1606 - Mar 1625

Charles I: Jul 1625 - Aug 1647

date & ref.				unit cost
Mar 1613	753	purse (1d) containing	17s	£ 0.85
Jul 1613	1027	15 gold pieces	£16 10s	£ 1.10
	1027	10 gold pieces	£ 5 10s	£ 0.55
	1027	in money	47s10½d	£ 2.39
Mar 1626	57	173 gold pieces	£173	£ 1

Mar 1625	947	13 aprons	13s	£ 0.05
	947	1 apron	1s	£ 0.05
Feb 1636	1309	2 aprons	1s	£ 0.02
Mar 1642	2018	21 aprons	24s	£ 0.06
Sep 1644	2183	apron	10d	£ 0.04
Mar 1625	947	4 shirts	8s	£ 0.10
Mar 1642	2018	4 shirts	£ 1	£ 0.25
Mar 1625	947	4 smocks	6s 8d	£ 0.08
Feb 1636	1283	a smock	1s	£ 0.05
Mar 1642	2018	9 smocks	30s	£ 0.17
Mar 1625	947	a petticoat	8s	£ 0.04
Feb 1636	1283	a petticoat	4s	£ 0.02
	1309	2 petticoats	3s	£ 0.07

Mar 1610	481	a doublet	8s	£0.40
	487	a woollen waistcoat	5s	£0.25
Mar 1642	2018	a holland waistcoat	2s	£0.10
Mar 1625	947	a waistcoat	5s	£0.25
	947	a waistcoat	3s	£0.15
Jul 1625	16	a waistcoat	4d	£0.02
Feb 1636	1309	2 waistcoats	2s	£0.05
Mar 1610	947	a child's coat	18d	£0.07
Mar 1625	947	a horseman's coat	26s 8d	£1.33
Mar 1642	2018	a horseman's coat	£2	£2.00
	2012	a cloth coat	£1	£1.00
Mar 1642	2018	2 pairs of stockings	5s	£0.12 a pr.
Jul 1646	2316	10 pairs of stockings	£1	£0.10 a pr.
Sep 1644	2186	a pair of sleeves	8s	£0.40
Mar 1625	947	3 hats	15s	£0.25
Mar 1642	2018	a hat	5s	£0.25
Mar 1625	947	3 hatbands	5s	£0.08
Jul 1625	16	a hat and band	8d	£0.03
Mar 1625	947	a coif wrought with gold	6s 8d	£0.33
Sep 1644	2183	4 coifs	10d	£0.01

Mar 1606	122	a pair of gloves	2d	£0.01
Jul 1625	16	a woman's ruff	1s	£0.05
	16	a kerchief	4d	£0.02
	16	a night cap	4d	£0.02
	16	2 crosscloths	4d	£0.01
Sep 1644	2183	3 crosscloths	8d	£0.01
Mar 1642	2018	a laced handkerchief	2s	£0.10
Sep 1644	2183	a neckerchief	6d	£0.02
	2183	2 bands	4d	£0.02
	2183	2 pairs of cuffs	6d	£0.01 a pr
Mar 1610	487	a pair of shoes	18d	£0.07
	487	a pair of boots	5s	£0.25
Mar 1625	960	a pillowbar	16d	£0.07
Mar 1625	971	a pillowbar	3d	£0.01
Mar 1642	2012	2 pillowbars	5s	£0.12
Mar 1642	2018	3 pillowbars	9s	£0.15

Jul 1623	856	a sheet	9d	£0.04
	947	a sheet	3s 4d	£0.16
Feb 1636	1283	a sheet	2s	£0.10
Jul 1636	1385	9 sheets	9s	£0.05 each
Mar 1642	2012	a pair of sheets	16s	£0.80 a pr.
	2018	3 pairs of sheets	30s	£0.50 a pr,
Sep 1644	2186	a pair of sheets	6s	£0.30 a pr.
	2197	a pair of sheets	2s	£0.10 a pr.
Mar 1606	156	2 tablecloths	5s	£0.125
Mar 1625	947	a tablecloth	4s	£0.20
Mar 1642	2018	a tablecloth	5s	£0.25
Mar 1606	156	a napkin	8d	£0.03
Mar 1625	947	11 napkins	6s 8d	£0.03
Jul 1625	16	a napkin	2d	£0.01
Mar 1642	2012	5 napkins	4s	£0.04
	2018	36 table napkins	£1	£0.03
Jul 1636	1385	3 cupboard-cloths	3s	£0.05
Mar 1625	960	a towel	1s	£0.05
Mar 1642	2018	a cloth carpet	£1	£1

Mar 1610	487	2 brass pots	30s	£0.75
	487	2 brass chafers	6s 8d	£0.16
	487	a little brass chafer	2s	£0.10
Mar 1625	947	2 brass chafers	8s	£0.02
	947	a brass chafing-dish	2s	£0.01
Mar 1606	156	a pewter pot	20d	£0.08
Mar 1610	487	2 pewter dishes	2s	£0.05
	487	a pewter platter	2s	£0.10
Mar 1625	960	a pewter quart-pot	1s	£0.05
	971	2 pewter dishes	18d	£0.075
Jul 1613	1008	20 pearl buttons	7s	£0.02 each
Mar 1642	2018	a silver spoon	2s	£0.10
Mar 1626	57	2 gold rings with diamonds	£2	£1.00
Jul 1613	1008	a chest	6d	£0.025

Mar 1610	503	6 yds of kersey	18s	£0.15 a yd
Mar 1627	177	1 yd of kersey	10d	£0.04 a yd
Jul 1635	1248	2 pieces of woollen cloth	£ 2	£1 a piece
	1248	2 pieces of linsey-woolsey	£ 1	£0.50 "
Jul 1646	2316	20 ells of holland ⁵¹	£ 3	£0.15 an ell
	2316	60 yds of Philip & Cheyney	£ 5	£0.08 a yd
	2316	480 yards of silk ribbon	£10	£0.02 a yd
Mar 1625	971	a basin	18d	£0.075
Mar 1610	487	a sack	2s	£0.10
Mar 1642	2018	a sack	2s	£0.10
Mar 1610	487	half load of wood	3s	£0.30 a load
Mar 1642	2018	load of wood	5s	£0.25 a load
Mar 1610	487	a hen	6d	£0.025
	487	a cock	1s	£0.05
	487	a capon	1s	£0.05

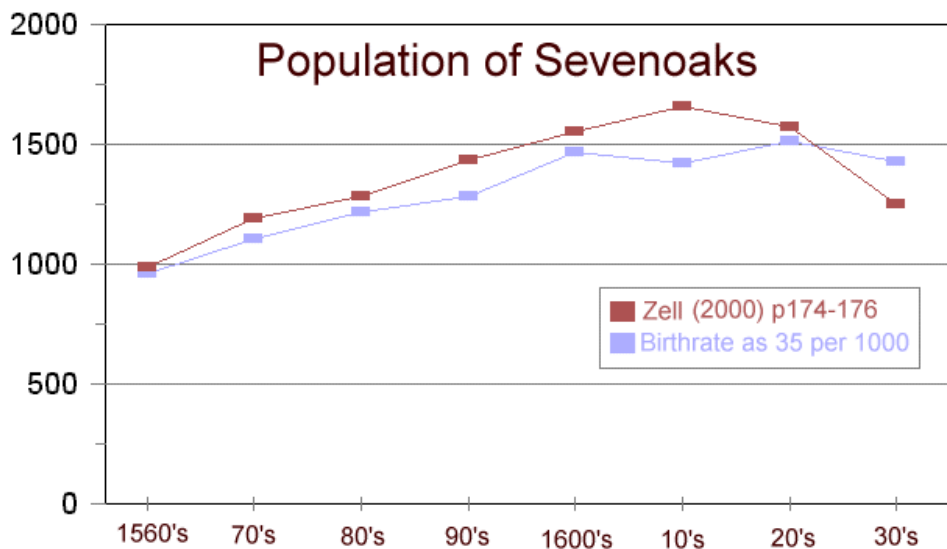
51 1 ell = 1.25 yards therefore holland was £0.12 per yard

Jul 1609	405	2 cows	£5	£2.50
	405	2 cows	£6	£3.00
	405	1 heifer	26s	£1.30
Feb 1617	774	a sheep	16s	£0.80
Feb 1635	1154	2 sheep	18s	£0.45
Mar 1647	2387	3 sheep	39s	£0.65
Aug 1647	2560	a sheep	13s	£0.65
Mar 1610	479	iron-greygelding	£1	£1.00
Jul 1610	526	iron-grey gelding	£3 6s 8d	£3.33
Mar 1642	2018	a grey gelding	£6	£6.00
Mar 1625	952	a bay gelding	£4	£4.00
	952	a bay mare	£4	£4.00
Jul 1639	1751	a bay mare	£4	£4.00
Mar 1625	952	a grey mare	£3 3s 4d	£3.16
Jul 1637	1463	a grey mare	£5	£5.00
Mar 1642	2018	a grey mare	£7	£7.00
	2018	a grey mare ⁵²	£5	£5.00
Feb 1639	1692	a fleabitten-grey gelding	£5	£5.00

Mar 1606	122	a bill	10d	£0.04
	122	a chisel	6d	£0.025
Mar 1613	753	a knife	4d	£0.02
Jul 1625	16	a bodkin	1s	£0.05
Jul 1619	798	4 flitches of bacon	£3 10s	£0.875
Mar 1625	960	4 lbs of beef	3s 4d	£0.04 a lb.
Mar 1626	55	3 pecks of wheat	3s	£0.05 a peck
Mar 1642	2018	6 bushels of malt	14s	£0.12 a bushel.

Appendix 13

Population of Sevenoaks



Appendix 14

The Recusants of Sevenoaks

This list gives the people of Sevenoaks mentioned in the Assize records as having been recusants. The date is that of the Assize sitting followed by the entry number:

Ass.J.I - Assizes of James 1

Ass.C.I - Assizes of Charles I

Where one person was the subject of a number of indictments (ind.) or similar types of writ, these have been grouped together unless there was a considerable time between the two. The writs issued were:

wr.c: writ capias

wr.d: writ distringas

wr.e: writ exigent

wr.v: writ venire facias

More details are given of the Lone family at the end of the list.

Brookwood, Mary	wife of Richard	1637 Jul	Ass.C.I;1477;ind.
Brookwood, Richard	yeoman	1637 Jul	Ass.C.I;1477;ind.
Butterfield, Elizabeth	wife of John	1637-42	Ass.C.I; ⁵³ ;ind.
Butterfield, John	labourer	1631 Jul	Ass.C.I; 786;ind.
Butterfield, John	labourer	1635 Feb	Ass.C.I;1188;ind.
Butterfield, John	yeoman	1630-42	Ass.C.I; ⁵⁴ ;ind.
Chapman, Agnes/Alice	wife of John	1637 Jul	Ass.C.I;1477;ind.
Chapman, Anne	wife of John, yeoman, of Sev.	1639-40	Ass.C.I; ⁵⁵ ;ind.
Chapman, Joan ⁵⁶	spinster	1626 Mar	Ass.C.I; ⁵⁷ ;ind.
Christian, Alexander	labourer	1632-33	Ass.C.I; ⁵⁸ ;wr.c

⁵³ 1436, 1477, 1619, 1693, 2033

⁵⁴ 616, 712, 1436, 1477, 1619, 1693, 1757, 1818, 2033, 2102

⁵⁵ 1757, 1818

⁵⁶ Joan Chapman and Catherine Hadley: maintained by Richard Stockwood

⁵⁷ 88, 109

⁵⁸ 849, 914

Hadley, Catherine	spinster	1626 Mar	Ass.C.I; ⁵⁹ ;ind.
Humfrey, John	labourer	1631	Ass.C.I; ⁶⁰ ;wr.c
James, Andrew	yeoman	1642 Mar	Ass.C.I;2033;ind.
Jeffery, William	clothworker	1646 Jul	Ass.C.I; ⁶¹ ;ind.
Jones, Edward	gent.	1633-34	Ass.C.I; ⁶² ;ind.
Kent, Anne	spinster	1642 Mar	Ass.C.I;2033;ind.
Lone, Anne	spinster	1638-40	Ass.C.I; ⁶³ ;ind.
Lone, George		1624 Mar	Ass.J.I; 931;ind.
Lone, George	gent./Esq.	1626-47	Ass.C.I; ⁶⁴ ;ind.
Lone, George	gent.	1626 Jul	Ass.C.I; 160;wr.v

59 88, 109

60 718, 801

61 2333, 2565; both were indictments for attending a conventicle and thus Jeffery may have been a dissenting recusant rather than a catholic

62 910, 1072

63 1477, 1693, 1818

64 88g, 282g, 316g, 426g, 475e, 712e, 786e, 910g, 1072g, 1188g, 1394e, 1477e, 1693e, 1757e, 1818e, 1961e, 2033e, 2102e, 2199e, 2524g

Lone, George ⁶⁵	gent.	1626 Mar	Ass.C.I; 107;ind.
Lone, George	gent./Esq.	1627-48	Ass.C.I; ⁶⁶ ;wr.c
Lone, George	gent.	1627 Mar	Ass.C.I; 225;wr.d
Lone, George	gent.	1632 Jul	Ass.C.I; 852;wr.e
Lone, George	Esq.	1632-33	Ass.C.I; ⁶⁷ ;ind.
Lone, George	Esq.	1633	Ass.C.I; ⁶⁸ ;wr.v
Lone, George ⁶⁹	Esq.	1639 Feb	Ass.C.I;1706;ind.
Lone, George	Esq.	1639 Jul	Ass.C.I;1753;wr.v
Lone(m), Agnes	wife of George, gent.	1626 Mar	Ass.C.I; 88;ind.
Lone(m), Bridget	wife of George, gent/Esq.	1633-37	Ass.C.I; ⁷⁰ ;ind.

65 a popish recusant, for failing to have his child baptised, contrary to statute

66 286g, 332g, 493g, 559g, 621g, 718g, 801g, 849g, 984e, 1068e, 1068g, 1110e, 1198e, 1259e, 1320e, 1397e, 1896e, 2038e, 2326e, 2587e

67 845: for maintaining John Butterfeild and Elizabeth Steely, both of whom are recusant, as his servants from 1 Dec 1631 until 1 Mar 1632.
907: as entry 845 but from 1 Mar 1632 until 12 Jul 1632

68 912, 983

69 for maintaining Francis Shakerly, a recusant, as his servant from 1 May to 1 July 1638

70 910, 1072, 1394, 1477

Lone(m), Mary	wife of George	1642 Mar	Ass.C.I;2033;ind.
Mullineux, Edmund	gent./yeoman	1633-42	Ass.C.I; ⁷¹ ;ind.
Mullineux, Ursula	wife of Edmund	1637-39	Ass.C.I; ;ind.
Munnenex, Edward	yeoman	1642 Jul	Ass.C.I;2102;ind.
Richards, Grace	spinster	1626,29	Ass.C.I; ⁷² ;ind.
Richards(m), Joyce	widow	1626-39	Ass.C.I; ⁷³ ;ind.
Steely, Elizabeth	spinster	1630-31	Ass.C.I; ⁷⁴ ;ind.
Shakerly, Francis	labourer	1639 Feb	Ass.C.I;1693;ind.
Shakerly, Francis	yeoman	1642-44	Ass.C.I; ⁷⁵ ;ind.
Shetterloe, Francis ⁷⁶	yeoman	1642 Jul	Ass.C.I;2102;ind.
Smith, Mary	spinster	1638 Jul	Ass.C.I;1619;ind.

⁷¹ Edmund Mullineux, gent. and Ursula Mullineux, his wife, of Westerham were both indicted for recusancy a number of times between 1625 and 1630; Edmund: 910, 1072, 1394, 1436, 1477, 1619, 1693, 1757, 1818, 2033, 2102; Ursula: 1477, 1619, 1693

⁷² 88, 475

⁷³ 88, 475, 910, 1072, 1477, 1757

⁷⁴ 616 (Steely), 712 (Staly), 786 (Stilley); taken as the same person since all are Elizabeth, spinster

⁷⁵ 2033, 2102, 2199

⁷⁶ not Francis Shakerley since both men were indicted in entry 2102

Smith(m), Hannah Mary	widow	1637 Jul	Ass.C.I;1477;ind.
Spurr, John	haberdasher	1647 Aug	Ass.C.I;2524;ind.
Stephenson, ?? ⁷⁷	wife of Edward	1647 Aug	Ass.C.I;2525;ind.
Stockwood, Richard ⁷⁸	gent.	1626 Jul	Ass.C.I; 109;ind.
Stockwood, Richard	gent./yeoman	1627-47	Ass.C.I; ⁷⁹ ;ind.
Stockwood(m), Alice	wife of Richard, yeoman	1641 Aug	Ass.C.I;2033;ind.
Stockwood(m), Mary	wife of Richard, gent	1626-41	Ass.C.I; ⁸⁰ ;ind.
Theobald, Anne	spinster	1640 Feb	Ass.C.I;1818;ind.
Theobald, Oliver	gent./ yeoman	1640-42	Ass.C.I; ⁸¹ ;ind.
Theobald, Robert	gent./ yeoman	1640-42	Ass.C.I; ind.
Wilby, Francis	yeoman	1642 Mar	Ass.C.I; 2033;ind.
Wood, John	yeoman	1642 Mar	Ass.C.I;2033;ind.

⁷⁷ see note to Jeffery, William

⁷⁸ indicted for maintaining Joan Chapman and Catherine Hadley, both recusant, in his house at Sevenoaks from 1 Dec 1625 to 8 Mar 1626

⁷⁹ 109, 1188, 1436, 1619, 1757, 2033, 2524

⁸⁰ 88, 109, 1188, 1757, 2033

⁸¹ 1818, 2033 (both Oliver and Robert Theobald)

The Lone Family

The Lones were a gentry family whose first known Catholic was Samuel who was imprisoned for recusancy in 1581, At the beginning of the seventeenth century he moved to Mereworth leaving his son, George, born in 1589, as the centre of Catholicism in Sevenoaks.

In the Assize records, George Lone (or Loane) is sometimes referred to as "Esq." and sometimes as "gent." (these are indicated by "e" or "g" after the entry no. in the above list). This would be taken as one man, the son of Samuel Lone, but in entry 1068, listing those issued with a "writ, capitas", "George Loane, gent. and George Loane, esq. of Sevenoaks" appear together.

Only "gent." appears between 1626 and 1628 and, except for one reference to "gent." in 1647, all references between 1635 and 1648 are "Esq.". Between 1629 and 1635 both are used. In 1626, Samuel's son was thirty-seven and in 1648, fifty-nine. Thus these descriptions could have been for a man in his late thirties described as a gentleman moving up in his forties to Esquire with 1629 to 1635 being when the change was taking place. But what about entry 1068?

George Lone also had a son called George but he cannot have been born before about 1610 at the earliest and probably much later. Thus he would have been too young to be one of the Georges listed.

An additional complication is the indictment in 1626 of Agnes, wife of George Lone, gent. George's wife, at least from 1633 to 1637, was Bridget but it is possible that Agnes was his first wife who died between 1626 and 1633. In 1642, Mary, wife of George Lone, was indicted; she could have been the third wife of Samuel's son or the wife of his grandson who would, by 1642, have been old enough to be married.

See the wills of Richard Lone (Samuel's father) and Samuel Lone in [Sevenoaks Wills & Families](#) for more details of this family.

Appendix 15

The Family and Bequests of John Blome, mercer

John Blome (sometimes written Bloome) was a rich merchant living in Sevenoaks at least from when he married about 1580 until his death in 1625; the transcript of his will, written on 14th April 1624 is given in **Sevenoaks Wills & Families**. In this account:

blue - indicates quotes from wills dark green - quotes from other documents

The Purchase of Land	page 15.2
John Blome's Family	page 15.3
A Good and Loving Friend	page 15.6
Bequests to the Poor	page 15.7
Building and Development	page 15.8
Table 15.1: Items in the New Built Messuage Bequeathed to William	page 15.10
Table 15.2: Items in the House Bequeathed to George	page 15.12
Son Edward's Inheritance	page 15.14
Son John's Inheritance	page 15.15
Other Land and Leases	page 15.16
John's Doubts	page 15.17
Land in Chiddingstone	page 15.19

The Purchase of Land

In the late 1580s, John Blome was already buying property in Sevenoaks and this continued throughout the rest of his life. In 1624 he had "[lately purchased](#)" a shop in the leather market. Thirty-five years earlier his purchases included housing and land from the estate of **Edward Wymble**⁸². In his will Wymble had decreed that, on his wife's death, his property was to be sold for the benefit of his three daughters, one of whom had, by the time of the deed quoted by Ward, already sold her reversionary interest to John Blome.

The deed records the details of the sale made by Edward Wymble's overseers to John Blome who had already acquired the "[interest, rights and title, whatsoever belonged or by any means appertained unto Elizabeth Wymble](#)". When the time came to sell the land, John Blome showed the overseers "[the writing of his said bargain](#)" dated 8th May 1587 to the overseers and asked the price they wanted. Told that this was £180, John offered £140. The overseers then "[required of him to give us ten shillings in earnest, with this proviso, that we would proclaim at the market cross on the market day that such housing and land was presently to be sold and our price was between £140 and £180; if any were disposed to buy it, to](#)

come within a fortnight with present payment". No better offer was received and John Blome thus bought the housing and land for £140.

In his will, John describes the purchase made from one "Wymble" as a "barn and yard now also to the said messuage belonging" but this need not have been the subject of the above deed. In addition to owning land and shops, John had long leases on other land in Chiddingstone and Seal as well as Sevenoaks. The arrangements made in his will for the various pieces, many of which were identified by the name of the person from whom he had purchased them, were complex.

John Blome's Family

John had four sons, George, William, Edward and John. Since George was born in 1581, John (s163) would have been born in the late 1550s making him nearly seventy when he died. Assuming Julian was the mother of all John's children, she must have been about eighty when she died.

<i>will:</i>		s163 John - Julian s164									
<i>bur:</i>		14 Apr 1624		14 Apr 1626		29 Mar 1643					
s165		s171		s166		s189		s167		s168	
George - Sara		Mary - Mathew Petley		William -		Edward - Elizabeth		Elizabeth		s170	
bap: 1 May 1581		21 Apr 1584		18 Dec 1586		1 Feb 1590		21 Mar 1619		30 Apr 1593	
bur: 5 Jun 1640		William s190								7 Oct 1593	
		s181		s182		s183		s185		s187	
		Grace		Jane		John		Edward		Richard	
bap:		29 Jul 1616		23 Aug 1621		20 May 1628		11 Mar 1619		26 Dec 1621	
bur:								22 Apr 1620		Leonard	
s175		s172		s173		s174		s176		s178	
Sara		John		Mary		Friswide		Sara		Ann	
bap:		24 Feb 1613				4 Feb 1616				22 Jun 1623	
bur: 5 Oct 1621				5 Jan 1615						2 Dec 1623	
										12 Jun 1625	

John's daughter Mary married Matthew Petley on 5th June 1616. The wife of his son George was called Sara and she was given a Grant of Administration for his estate on 2nd September 1640⁸³. In his will of 1624, John Blome mentions George's eldest daughter Sara and another daughter Mary. There was also a daughter baptised Friswide in February 1616 who presumably died before 1624

without her burial being recorded in Sevenoaks. A "Sara, daughter of George" was buried in October 1621 so that George and Sara must have had two daughters born between October 1621 and the birth of Ann in June 1623 a period of only 20 months. The Sara mentioned by her grandfather must have been born very soon after the death of the first Sara.

Robert Holmden of Sevenoaks, and a citizen and leatherseller of London, mentions his cousin George Bloome in his will dated 20th July 1619. Robert left £10 to George's wife, Sara, and considerable sums to their three children: John, Sara and Frisend. This Sara must have been the daughter who died in 1621 who could have been the eldest child of George and Sara. This supposition is made more likely in that Robert gives them in the order "[Sara Bloome and Frisend Bloome](#)" and it was usual to mention children with the eldest first. Friswide/Frisend must have died sometime between the late summer of 1619 and the spring of 1624.

George, as John's eldest son, inherited a large number of pieces of land. After his death, or if he relinquished their possession and occupancy, they were to go to George's eldest son., John "[And for default of such issue, to the second son of the said George Blome . . And for default of such issue to the third son](#)". But no sons other than John were recorded for George. Perhaps John, writing his will when George's family was not complete, intended to cater for the possibility of George having other sons.

A Good and Loving Friend

In 1616 **Eme White** “heartedly” desired her “very good friends and neighbours, John Bloome of Sevenoaks, mercer” and two yeomen to be the supervisors and overseers of her will. At the beginning of 1619, the overseers **Edward Sisley** appointed included his “very loving friends . . . John Blome . . . and William Blome desiring them to be aiding to my said wife with the execution of this my will”. This included ensuring that his wife “before she intermeddle with my estate” entered into a bond with sureties to cover the payment of his debts and bequests.

In November 1622, **Dorothy Olyver** of Fawke in Seal, a widow in her eighties, ordained and entreated her “good friend John Bloome of Sevenoaks, mercer,” to be one of the overseers to her will. By this time John must have been in his sixties and had, no doubt, performed such tasks for many of his friends and relations, these just being three surviving examples.

Bequests to the Poor

John's bequests in his will start with a number to the poor which total £3.80:

- 16s to the sixteen almshouses in Sevenoaks
- 6d each to forty other of the poorest people of Sevenoaks
- 4d each to forty of the "second sort of the poor" of Sevenoaks
- 2d each to forty poor children of Sevenoaks
- 20s to be distributed to the poor of Edenbridge.

He also left £10 "towards the new buildings of the schoolhouse at Sevenoaks" but this was to be paid only within six months after it was "[begun to be new built](#)"¹⁵.

Building and Development

By 1624 John owned a large number of properties which he divided mainly between his sons. The house in which John was himself living had an "old barn and two stables lately erected at either end of the said barn and the cart house adjoining thereunto. And the gardens, orchards, yards and backsides now laid thereunto". This, together with three parcels of land called Connyberry Fields estimated as about five acres, was left to his son John.

Another property was a "messuage, tenement, barn and other edifices" lately "new built with the garden, orchard and three parcels of land" at the Lower end of Sevenoaks Town which had been purchased from Edward Charman. This messuage, which he left to William, was large and well equipped - see Table 15.1 for the items which were to remain as heirlooms to this house.

Son George was already living in the "messuage or tenement" which he was to inherit together "with the warehouses and other edifices, gardens, orchards and backsides" which John had purchased from **Edmund Porter**. The items in this house which were also bequeathed to George are given in Table 15.2. With this messuage went a barn and yard and another messuage purchased from "one Wymble" and an acre and a half being "that part of the great orchard and so much of the waterpit within the same orchard as is marked out to be laid to the said

messuage and the hopgarden and parcel of meadow ground" in Sevenoaks which John had purchased from **Archibald Parkins** and **William Darknowle**⁸⁵, clerk, except:

- so much of the great orchard "as is now laid out for a way to the lands called Connyberry Fields" which were given to his son John
- "so much of the waterpit in the great orchard as is marked out and appointed to be laid to the house wherein I now dwell".

Thus, at this time, John was in the middle of carrying out various improvements, making access ways and laying water pipes from the waterpit to his house.

85 these were the two overseers of the will of Edward Wymble

Table 15.1:
Items in the New Built Messuage Left to William

in the :	
chambers over the two parlours	2 joined bedsteads and trundlebeds with the valence and curtains of green say, 2 featherbeds, 2 feather bolsters, 2 pillows, 2 pairs of blankets and 2 green rugs with the tables and court cupboards and all the window curtains and hangings thereto belonging
great parlour	the drawing table, 6 joined stools, the court cupboard, the andirons, fire shovel and tongs with copper heads and the window curtains
little parlour	the joined table, 12 joined stools and the court cupboard
hall	the long table and form
pantry	the new cupboard

kitchen	the iron jack, the half hundred weight four spits, the pair of iron racks and two great iron dripping pans with the table, form and dresserboard
bakehouse	the cupboard, kneading trough and moulding board
milkhouse	the cheese press and the long table
and about the brewhouse	the furnace and all the brewing vessels

Other property which William was to inherit:

- a tenement, garden and orchard purchased from **William Bennett**
- all John's lands and tenements at Diborn Hill in Sevenoaks purchased from **Henry Bostocke**
- the messuage, barn and two orchards in Sevenoaks purchased from **Edward Lampard**. From the profits of this William was to pay his sister, Marie Petley, an annuity of £5 for her "better maintenance and advancement" if her husband died before her.

He was also eventually to have the messuage or tenement left to his mother and the house, etc. left to his sister Mary but only for their own lifetime.

Table 15.2: Items in the House Left to George

all the counters, chests, presses, shelves, boxes and valences whatsoever belonging and now used to and with the shops and warehouses belonging to the message bequeathed to him AND:	
in the:	
hall	the tables and forms
parlour	the drawing table, six joined stools, the great cupboard and court cupboard, the andirons, fire shovel and tongs with copper heads
chamber over the parlour	the best bedstead with the trundlebeds, the drawing table, six joined stools, the court cupboard, andirons, fire shovel and tongs and the two great chests
chamber over the hall	the bedstead, trundlebed and great cupboard

and about the same house	the furnace and all the brewing vessels together with the painted cloths and wainscott; 3 featherbeds, 4 feather bolsters, 4 feather pillows, 3 flockbeds, 3 flock bolsters, a green rug, a tapestry coverlet, 2 homemade coverlets and 4 pairs of blankets
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George was also to have:

- "all the coals, iron, hay, hop poles, lathes, timber, boards and wood that shall be at the time of my death within any the houses, yards, backsides or orchards by this my will devised to him".
- the continuance of the lease of the upper of two parcels of the Schoollands in Sevenoaks paying 10s yearly towards the rent.

Son Edward's Inheritance

The property left to John's third son, Edward, was

- the “[messuage or tenement, with the stable, backside and garden](#)” in Sevenoaks “[next the Corn Market](#)” in which Edward was already living; if John had no sons to inherit, this property was to go to Grace, daughter of John's son William. Edward's wife had died soon after giving birth to a son who also died when he was only a year old. Thus, unless Edward married again, Grace would have come into a considerable inheritance.
- a tenement with three shops under it "[situated over against the Corn Cross in Sevenoaks](#)" together with two corn shops in the Butchers Row and the stable adjoining one of the shops "[purchased, amongst other things, of Kutyeus Tynny](#)".
- one other shop in the Butchers Row purchased from **Thomas Walter**.
- all John's portion of two other shops in the Butchers Row next to the Leather market purchased from **Francis Everest** "[and one of his brethren](#)".
- one other shop in the same Butchers Row purchased from **William Pococke**.

- one other shop in the same row purchased from **Harris of Tonbridge**.
- three tenements with the gardens, orchards and backsides in Sevenoaks purchased from **Edward Ayelard**
- the continuance of the lease Edward of the lower of the two parcels of Schoollands "[together with the way as the same is now railed out and the use of the waterpit within the said Schoollands](#)". He, like his brother George who had the upper parcel, was to pay 10s yearly towards the rent.

Son John's Inheritance

Besides the house in which John Blome lived described above, John's youngest son, John, was to have a shop in Butchers Row, five tenements with their gardens and orchards and another two "[messuages or tenements with the barn, yards, garden, one orchard and one parcel of land containing, by estimation, one acre of land lying and adjoining altogether. And three other parcels of land called Upper Barbers and Nether Barbers containing, by estimation, eight acres with their appurtenances near Kippington in Sevenoaks](#)".

He was also to have all his father's "goods, implements of household stuff and utensils whatsoever which shall be in or about my now dwelling house or any the outhouses or yards thereunto belonging other than and except such goods, household stuff and utensils as by this my will are given unto my wife and except my ready money and debts whatsoever and all my plate which then shall be in or about my said house".

Other Land and Leases

The other land and leases bequeathed to members of the family included:

- a messuage or tenement in Sevenoaks left to his wife, Julian, for life or until she remarried "purchased of John Masters with the garden plot thereto adjoining which I bought of **William Bennett**". On her death this was to go to their son William.
- the house, shop, garden and orchard in Sevenoaks left to his daughter, Marie Petley, "for and towards her own maintenance during her life" purchased from **Chadd Lytton**. "And I desire my son-in-law, her husband, to permit and suffer her to take and receive the yearly rents and profits

thereof to dispose the same at her pleasure". On Marie's death, these were to go to her son William.

- the rents and profits of the tenement with the appurtenances in Seal on which John had a lease were to go to **Sara, wife of John's son George**, "for her own proper use and maintenance" and, after her death, to her son John for as many years as the lease had still to run.
- the two inner parcels of the Schoollands were bequeathed to **John's son William** who was to pay the residue of the school rent reserved by the lease.
- the shop in the Leather market which had been "lately purchased of **Edward Vant**" was given to **George's son John**

John's Doubts

Working out how to divide all this property between his sons and others who had claims upon him must have taken a good deal of deliberation but, "having thus advisedly and upon good deliberation disposed and settled" all his lands, etc.

amongst his sons as seemed to him best "for every of them and their several issue respectively" he then became "doubtful whether in the purchase of any the lands and tenements . . I have made any of my sons joint purchasers with me, which if I have done, my will and meaning herein expressed . . may thereby be frustrated and made void and suits in law and controversies may thereupon arise between my said sons (which god forbid), therefore and . . to the end that every of them and their several issue respectively may peaceably and quietly have, hold and enjoy all and every the lands and tenements to them devised . . I will and ordain that if any of my said sons . . shall at any time hereafter . . claim, challenge or demand any of the lands or tenements aforesaid (other than such only as are given or devised to him or them by this my will) or do refuse, upon reasonable request . . to make and execute such sufficient release (to my overseers) of their right, tithe, claim and demand of and in any of the lands (arising) by reason of any such joint purchase . . that then every of my said sons . . so claiming . . shall loose all benefit of this my will as well of money, goods and chattels as of the lands and tenements to him or them bequeathed, given or devised in any wise".

An idea of the complicated arrangements, presumably made to reduce the taxes levied upon him, are those made for two parcels of land in Sevenoaks which John's son William had purchased from **William Hodsoll**. William then granted a lease for them, for 99 years, to his father and John left these leases to his sons George and Edward. The first parcel, about 5 acres called Bromfield, went to George; the other, adjoining Bromfield and about 3 acres, "together with the

carrying way for carts and other carriages now used thereunto through Bromfield" to Edward.

Land in Chiddingstone

Having arranged the disposal of these properties John still had land in Chiddingstone from which an annuity was to be paid to his wife until her death. After this John had the "desire that every one of my children and their children, as well those which shall be born hereafter as those which are already born may, after the death of my said wife, have some certain portions out of those lands for their better advantage. And for that I have received a good opinion of my youngest son John Blome, that he will instantly and truly pay the same portions if he shall happen to live till the sum shall become due". Therefore he gave John and his heirs all this land out of which he was to pay the amounts given in Table 15.3.

These payments totalled £280; to ensure that they were paid John was, within six months of his father's death and before he received the rents and profits of any of the land at Chiddingstone, to "enter into such further security to the overseers of this my will . . . shall think fit, for the true payment of all the aforesaid several sums of money to my said other children and their children . . . And if my said son

John Blome shall refuse to give such further security, that then this my gift and devise to him and his heirs of my said lands at Chiddingstone shall be utterly void and of none effect. And then, and in that case, I will and devise all those my lands in Chiddingstone with their appurtenances to my son William Blome and his heirs, the said William Blome giving such security to my said overseers . . . as my son John Blome should have done".

Table 15.3: Amounts to be Paid from Land at Chiddingstone

amount	relationship to John	
£40	son William	within one year
£40	son George	within two years
£40	son Edward ⁸⁶	within four years
£10	daughter Marie ⁸⁷	within three years
£40	children of daughter Marie	equally divided between them
£20	grandson John	son of George
£30	granddaughter Mary	daughter of George
£30	granddaughter Grace	daughter of William
£30	granddaughter Jane	daughter of William

86 "if any of them had died, to be equally divided between all the children then living of the son who had died"

87 "if she had died, to be divided between all her children then living"

Appendix 16

Churchwardens of Sevenoaks

The following list of churchwardens, taken from the parish registers, is given in alphabetical order; the will has survived for those shown in red, the date of burial (if known) is given at the end of the line, otherwise the date of the will. The only evidence that the churchwarden and the man whose will has survived is the same person is that usually the later was of a reasonable age to have been a churchwarden in the given year.

Approximately seventy different people were appointed as churchwarden between 1599 and 1646

Allen, Joshua		1638	
		Joshua Allen had an apprentice in 1648	
Becket, John		1621	
Blome, Edward	s168	1626-27	
Blome, John	mercier; s163	1603,16	senior in 1616;1626b
Browne, Francis	tailor/householder	1630-31	1635w

Burgess, Thomas		1639	
	the Thomas Burgis whose will has survived was buried in 1620		
Chowning, John		1631	
Chowning, John		1645-46	
Cooper, John		1643-44	
Crawley, William		1614-5, 1617	
Cronke, Richard		1611	
Cronke, Richard		1630	
Dennis, George		1632	
Everest, Mathew	husbandman	1604	1616b
Farnaby, Thomas	schoolmaster	1642	1647b
Fletcher, Richard		1627-28	
Floate/Flote, Austen		1628	
	Austen Floate/Augustine Flote; had a servant in 1624		

Floate/Floter, William	carpenter	1623-24	1640b
		man from William Floate's buried	1625
Frankwell, William	yeoman/householder	1624	
	could have been the William whose will has survived who died in 1625 or his son William who was having children between 1617 and 1629		
Fraunces, Arthur	householder	1602	
Frenche, John		1638	
Hacksupp, Francis		1625-26	
Haymes, John		1646	
Holmden, Thomas		1612	
Holmes, Thomas	gent.	1609	1624b
Lawrence, Edward	mercator	1629	
Lawrence, William	bricklayer	1610	1627w
Leigh, John		1609	
Leigh, Thomas	gent.	1635	had children 1633-34
Long(e), William	yeoman	1615	1621b

Masters, John		1599	
	signed registers from 1560 to 1599; presumably copies made in 1599.		
Masters, John		1607-08	
	could have been same John Masters as was churchwarden in 1599		
	could also have been the mercer (will 1626) who was buried in 1628		
Miller, Thomas		1623	
Newman, William		1605	
Olyver, Moses	#1606; yeoman/householder	1599	1606w
	signed registers from 1560 to 1599; presumably copies made in 1599		
Olyver, William		1603	
Olyver, William		1632	
Olyver, William		1644-45	
Petley, Ralph	gent.	1642	had a child Sep 1641
Petley, William	householder	1601	buried Nov.1611 had a servant in 1600

Pier(s)point, Thomas	gent.	1635	had children 1622-24
could be the Thomas Pierspont to whom Robert Warcopp's made bequests			

Plumley, William	1600-01
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Pococke, George	s49; gent.	1604	1613b
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Pococke, John, jun.	1616
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Pococke, John	1640
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Porter, Edward	1639
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Sisley, Edward	yeoman	1612	1619b
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Skynner, Robert	1636
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Smith, Godwyn	shoemaker?	1633
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Smith, Thomas	shoemaker	1634	children 1626-33;
			man from Thomas Smith's buried Mar 1626

Smith, William	1610
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Smith, William	wheelwright	1622	children 1616-33
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Sole, John	1629		
could be one of the John Soales of Riverheads whose wills have survived			
Sone, William	1633		
Stileman, Thomas	1640-41		
Terry, Eustimus	1606		
Thistleton, John	1606		
Thomas, Richard	s195	1602	1614b
Thornton, John	1641		
Tuttesham, Thomas	1613		
Walker, William	1607-08		
Wall, William	1617-18		
Wall, William	1643		
Walter, John	1619-20		1630w
Walter, Richard	1622		
Walter, William	1614		

Weeks, Richard	1637
Well, Roger	1605
Weston, Edmund	1636

Whiting/Whyting, Robert	1637
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witness to Richard Besbeeche's will in 1633

Appendix 17

Petition Regarding the Water Supply

The people of Sevenoaks presented a petition to the House of Commons on 19th February 1640/1, the following details being taken from the Collections of Sir Edward Dering, Bart., 1627-1644⁸⁸

To: the honourable the Knights, Citizens and Burgesses in this present Parliament assembled

The humble Petition of the poor Inhabitants of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, showing:

That the Town of Sevenoaks is a place consisting of many poor Inhabitants who, through their poverty are constrained to drink water instead of beer; and that the said Town, standing upon a hill, is watered only with three public springs, two whereof are out of the Town and the third in the Glebe land of the Rectory of Sevenoaks, near unto the Church.

That, time out of mind, the Rectors there have given free liberty to your petitioners, and other formerly poor Inhabitants of Sevenoaks, to fetch water at the said spring, whereby your petitioners were refreshed and the Rectors there sustained no damage thereby.

That about 4 years since, Doctor Gibbon, now Rector of the said parish, did with a strong high stone wall bar your petitioners from fetching any water there.

That, thereupon, the Justices of that division, taking it into their consideration, did order the said Doctor Gibbon to convey the said water by a pipe from the said spring to the wall which he had built, that your Petitioners might come thither and receive the water there.

That, although there be a pipe to convey the water, the pipe is for the most part defective and the said doctor can, at his pleasure, stop the said water; and the said water is often wanting by means of the said wall, whereby your petitioners want that refreshing that they formerly found by the said water and, thereby, are constrained to drink and make use of well water whereby your petitioners are become more inform and subject to infection and sickness.

Most humbly therefore beseecheth your honours, that the said Doctor Gibbon may answer the premises and that your petitioners may have free liberty to come to the said well, as they formerly have had.

And your petitioners shall, as in duty bound, pray, etc.

(There are no signatures on the copy preserved by Edward Dering)