

Sevenoaks Wills & Families before 1650

A hundred and thirty wills dated prior to 1650 are known to have survived for the parish of Sevenoaks; these are listed below. They have been used as source documents in the writing of:

A History of Sevenoaks up to 1650

This document, which forms section 2 of that history, gives transcripts of many of these wills and details of the families where these can be deduced from the wills themselves, parish records or other sources. No Sevenoaks inventories have been found for this period. The transcripts are given in alphabetical order so that testators from the same family can be linked together.

The wills are first listed in date order. The wills written in Latin have not been investigated nor have the wills of the Sackville-Wests since these mainly concern

events outside Sevenoaks. The reference at the end of each line is used in some of the appendices to the history..

	1	2	3
P ⁴ Sevenok, William	1432	PCC: Luffenam 16	<i>not investigated</i>
P Mill, John	1460	PCC: Stokton 21 gent.	<i>written in Latin</i>
P Beal, John	1473	PCC: Wattys 8	<i>will not found</i>
P Vaphopkyn, David	1474	PCC: Wattys 15	<i>written in latin</i>
P Bone, Thomas	1487	PCC: Milles 1 bailiff	<i>written in Latin</i>
P Mugworthy, Thomas (Mr.)	1503	PCC: Blamyr 29 vicar	mugsevP503
P Bedill, Walter	1508	PCC: Adeane 28	<i>written in Latin</i>
P Gardyner, Henry (Essex)	1509	PCC: Bennett 20	<i>not investigated</i>
P Newman, Peter	1510	PCC: Bennett 32	newsevX510

1 year will was proved

2 CKS - Centre for Kentish Studies, County Hall, Maidstone (01632 694363);
PCC - reference to the probate copy held at the Family Records Centre, 1 Myddleton Street, London,
EC1 RUW (0181 392 5300)

3 will reference; this starts with the first three letters of the testators's surname and the first three letters of the testator's parish (always "sev" here). The digits are the last three of the year in which the will was written (where this is known) whilst the date in column 3 is the year it was proved. The letter before the digits is 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.

4 where proved: P - at the PCC; R - at Rochester; S - at the Deanery of Shoreham

P	Brook, Clemens	1510	PCC: Bennett 38	widow	brosevW510
P	Tottisherst, Robert	1512	PCC: Fetiplace 8	gent.	totsevG512
P	Holway, Thomas	1512	PCC: Fetiplace 9		holsevX512
P	Pette, Richard	1513	PCC: Fetiplace 30		petsevX513
P	Yardley, John	1522	PCC: Maynwaring 2	Sergeant of Arms	not found
P	Clemens, Robert (Sir)	1537	PCC: Dyngeley 13	clerk	<i>will not found</i>
P	Potkin, John	1545	PCC: Alen 2	gent.; London	potsevG543
P	Leighton, Robert	1558	PCC: Welles 19		leisevX558
P	Constable, William (al. Gryffyne)	1559	PCC: Chaynay 38		consevX559
P	Nevill, Thomas	1567	PCC: Stonarde 27	haberdasher	nevsevC567
P	Beale, Emma ⁵	1574	PCC: Martyn 27	widow	beasevW556
P	Farrow, Paul	1580	PCC: Arundell 15		farsevX578
P	Lone, Richard (& Sundridge)	1581	PCC: Darcy 27	gent.	lonsevG581
P	Varncham, John	1586	PCC: Windsor 65		<i>not investigated</i>
P	Pococke, Thomas	1587	PCC: Spencer 30	yeoman	pocsevY587
P	Lennarde, John (Knole in)	1591	PCC: Sainberbe 27	Esq.	lensevG587
P	Bosville, Henry (Bradbourne in)	1593	PCC: Nevell 57	Esq.	bossevG590
P	Sibbell, Edward	1593	PCC: Nevell 29	gent.	sibsevG593
P	Pett, John	1593	PCC: Nevell 57	gent.	petsevG593

5 Eme Beale of London, widow and late of Sevenoaks"; this is the only mention of Sevenoaks in the will

P	Burges, William (Kippington in)	1594	PCC: Dixy 75	clothier	bursevT594
P	Children, George	1595	PCC: Scott 74	yeoman; nun.	chisevy595
P	Hadsoule, Hellen	1596	PCC: Drake 25	widow	hadsevW595
P	Pococke, William (senior)	1596	PCC: Drake 60	yeoman	pocsevY596
P	Lambe, John	1605	PCC: Hayes 85	tanner	lamsevA605
P	Gifford, Henry	1605	PCC: Hayes 8	yeoman	gifsevY604
P	Olyver, Moses (Panthurste in)	1606	PCC: Stafforde 32	yeoman	olysevY606
P	Pearson, Clemence	1606	PCC: Stafforde 61	spinster ⁶	peasevW606
P	Webbe, Richard	1606	PCC: Stafforde 39	carpenter	websevA606
P	Gavell, Robert	1608	PCC: Windebanck 8	gent.	gavsevG608
P	Sackville, Robert (Knole in)	1609	PCC: Dorset 23,57	Earl of Dorset	
P	Sackville, Thomas (Sir)	1609	PCC: Dorset 1	K.G.; Earl of Dorset	
P	Pococke, George	1613	PCC: Capell 65	gent.	pocsevG613
P	Spratt, John	1614	PCC: Lawe 36	vicar of Sevenoaks	sprsevP614
S	Thomas, Richard	1615	CKS: Prs/w/16/142		thosevX614
S	Vane, Robert (Riverhead in)	1616	CKS: Prs/w/17/75	yeoman	vansevY615
P	Sackville, Cicely (Knole in))	1616	PCC: Cope 9	Countess Dowager of Dorset	
S	Weery, Elizabeth	1616/7	CKS: Prs/w/17/114	single woman	weesevw616
S	Spratt, Beatrix	1616	CKS: Prs/w/14/204	widow	sprsevW615
S	Cox, William (Knole in)	1616	CKS: Prs/w/3/136		cosexvX616

S	Everest, Mathew	1616	CKS: Prs/w/5/132	husbandman	evesevH616
P	Cranewell, Giles	1616	PCC: Cope 88	gent.	crasevG613
S	Smith, Percevall	1617	CKS: Prs/w/14/212	yeoman	smisevY616
S	Petley, Elizabeth	1617/8	CKS: Prs/w/12/161	widow; innholder	petsevW617
P	Cronck, Jone	1617	PCC: Weldon 58	widow	crosevW617
S	Wylde, Thomas (al.Hinge)	1617	CKS: Prs/w/17/117	yeoman	wylsevY617
S	Wills, Walther	1617	CKS: Prs/w/17/119		wilsevX610
S	White, Emme	1618/9	CKS: Prs/w/17/127	widow	whisevW616
P	Sackville, Anne (Knole in)	1618	PCC: Meade 84	Countess Dowager of Dorset	
P	Sackville, John (the elder)	1619	PCC: Parker 110	Esq.; Sussex	
P	Wright, William (Riverhead in)	1619	PCC: Parker 14	gent.	wrisevG617
P	Sisley, Edward	1619	PCC: Parker 90	yeoman	sissevY619
P	Holmden, Robert	1620	PCC: Soame 5	leatherseller	holsevC619
P	Burges, Thomas	1620	PCC: Soame 63	yeoman	bursevY620
P	Long, William	1621	PCC: Dale 99	yeoman	lonsevY621
P	Jylbert, John	1621	PCC: St. John 79	gent.	jylsevG621
P	Pococke, John (the elder)	1622	PCC: Swann 17	yeoman	pocsevY619
P	Nash, Stephen	1623	PCC: Swann 54	nun.	nassevX622
P	Frost, Thomas (Knole in)	1623	PCC: Swann 60	gent.	frosevG623
P	Wright, Joane	1624	PCC: Byrde 89	widow	wrisevW623
S	Pococke, Thomas (Weald in)	1624	CKS: Prs/w/12/166	yeoman	pocsevY624
S	Brown, William	1624	CKS: Prs/w/1/160		brosevX624
S	Holmes, Thomas	1624/5	CKS: Prs/w/8/20	gent.	holsevG624
P	Morley, Anne	1624	PCC: Byrde 104	widow	<i>not investigated</i>
P	Sackville, Richard (Knole in)	1624	PCC: Byrde 27	Earl of Dorset	

P	Warcop, Robert (Riverhead in)	1625	PCC: Clarke 30	gent.	warsevG625
P	Frankwell, William	1625	PCC: Clarke 53	yeoman	frasevY609
P	Garland, Elyas	1625	PCC: Clarke 68	nun.	garsevx625
S ⁷	Bare, John (Weald in)	1625	CKS: Prs/w/1/166	husbandman	barsevH625
S	Price, John (Riverhead in)	1625	CKS: Prs/w/12/171	yeoman	prisevY624
S	Winter, Edmund	1626/7	CKS: Prs/w/17/138	see More Families & Transcripts	
P	Blome, John	1626	PCC: Hele 59	mercier	blosevT624
S	Lawrence, William (senior)	1627	CKS: Prs/w/10/104	bricklayer	lawsevA627
S	Morley, Thomas	1627	CKS: Prs/w/11/24		morsevX627
P	Smith, Richard	1628	PCC: Barrington 66	nun.	<i>not investigated</i>
S	Overy, Martin	1628	CKS: Prs/w/12/102	tanner	ovesevA628
S	Masters, John	1628/9	CKS: Prs/w/11/28	mercier	maisevT626
S	Weery, George	1628	CKS: Prs/w/17/142	shoemaker	weesevA628
S	Vane, Alice	1629	CKS: Prs/w/17/80	widow	vansevW627
S	Rebankes, Martin (Weald in)	1629/30	CKS: Prs/w/14/21	tailor	rebsevA629
P	Cole, John	1629	PCC: Ridley 35	yeoman	colsevY629
S	Lamparde, Edward	1630	CKS: Prs/w/10/109	husbandman	lamsevH630
S	Wimble, William (al. Hall)	1630	CKS: Prs/w/17/151	labourer	wimsevO629
S	Clampard, Richard	1630	CKS: Prs/w/3/174		clasevX630
S	Smith, John (senior)	1630	CKS: Prs/w/14/250	wheelwright	smisevA630
P	Theobald, Stephen	1631	PCC: St. John 107		tebsevX631
P	Leigh, Walter (Riverhead in)	1631	PCC: St. John 85	gent.	leisevG631
S	Walter, John	1631	CKS: Prs/w/17/153		walsevX630

P	Jeffery, Susan	1632	PCC: Audley 82	widow; nun.	jefsevw632
S	Hope, John	1632	CKS: Prs/w/8/51	gent.	hopsewG632
S	Battie, John	1632	CKS: Prs/w/1/194		batsewX632
P	Seyliard, William	1632	PCC: Audley 110	gent.	seysewG631
P	Besbeeche, Richard	1633	PCC: Russell 80	gent.	bessewG633
P	Knight, Edward ⁸	1634	PCC: Seager 66	mercier	knisevT634
P	Petley, Rose (Bradbourne in)	1634/5	PCC: Sadler 5	spinster	petsewW634
S	Turner, Richard	1634	CKS: Prs/w/16/161	haberdasher	tursevt634
S	Brown, Francis	1636	CKS: Prs/w/1/215	taylor; nun.	brosewa636
S	Turner, John	1636/7	CKS: Prs/w/16/164	husbandman	tursevH636
S	Wimble, Agnes	1637	CKS: Prs/w/17/165	widow	wimsewW637
P	Carleton, Anthony	1638	PCC: Lee 150	gent.	carsewG636
S	Turner, William	1638	CKS: Prs/w/16/166	baker	tursevT638
S	Carrier, Rachel	1639/40	CKS: Prs/w/3/201	widow	carsewW639
S	Mantle, John	1639	CKS: Prs/w/11/45	taylor; nun.	mansewa639
S	Floate, William	1640	CKS: Prs/w/6/41	carpenter	flosewA640
P	Bearding, John (Blackhall in)	1640/1	PCC: Evelyn 3	husbandman	beasevh640
S	Standford, Martha	1640	CKS: Prs/w/15/21	widow	stasewW635
S	Hills, Richard	1641	CKS: Prs/w/8/83	yeoman	hilsewY639

P	Sharpe, Rebecca (Bradbourne in) ⁹	1641	PCC: Evelyn 91	daughter	shasevW641
S	Jeffrey, Thomas	1641	CKS: Prs/w/9/159	servant	jefsev0641
S	Hall, Walter	1641	CKS: Prs/w/8/82	husbandman	halsevH641
P	Turner, John	1644/5	PCC: Rivers 33	citizen & skinner	tursevC639
P	Pococke, Elizabeth	1644/5	PCC: Rivers 40	spinster	pocsevW644
S	Hills, John	1645	CKS: Prs/w/8/92	yeoman	hilsevY645
P	Farnaby, Thomas	1647	PCC: Fines 221	schoolmaster	farsevP646
P	Soale, John (Riverhead in)	1647	PCC: Fines 205	innholder	soasev0647
P	Soale, John (th'elder.)	1647	PCC: Fines 259	¹⁰	
P	Everest, Peter	1647/8	PCC: Essex 32	husbandman	evesevH644
P	Tomlin, Abraham	1648	PCC: Essex 79	millar	tomsev0640
P	Scott, George	1648/9	PCC: Fairfax 23	grocer; London	scosevC645
P	Duglas, Walter	1649	PCC: Fairfax 113		dugsevX649
P	Poore, Thomas	1649	PCC: Fairfax 106		poosevX649
P	Turner, Thomas	1649	PCC: Fairfax 156	Esq.	tursevG640
P	Blome, Edward	1649	PCC: Fairfax 179		<i>difficult to read</i>

9 there is no mention of Sevenoaks but the Index of Wills proved in the PCC gives Brabourne as in the parish of Sevenoaks with a query and Rebecca Sharpe as of the parish of St. Andrews, Holborn, London. **Bradbourne** is part of Sevenoaks but Brabourne is a village a few miles south west of Ashford. Although this is probably where Rachel Sharpe came from, the will has been included here.

10 unusual for a will of this date, it was written in Latin and has therefore not been investigated in detail

Other wills mentioned:

R	Everest, Thomas	1598	CKS: Drb/Pw 18; Drb/Pwr 191.52	Tonbridge
R	Everest, Peter	1627	CKS: Prs/w/5/140	Chiddingstone
P	Mills, Edmond	1582	PCC: Windsor 58	Shipbourne
P	Olyver, John	1512	PCC: Fetiplace 16	Kettles, Seal
R	Olyver, Alice	1520/1	CKS: Drb/Pwr 7.214	Seal
P	Olyver, William	1526/7	PCC: Porch 16	Fawke, Seal
R	Olyver, Thomas	1561/2	CKS: Drb/Pw 7; Drb/Pwr 13.43	Seal
R	Olyver, Christofer	1557/8	CKS: Drb/Pwr 12.400	Seal, Sevenoaks
R	Olyver, William	1576	CKS: Drb/Pw 12; Drb/Pwr 15.10	Smythet, Seal
R	Olyver, Thomas, the elder	1580/1	CKS: Drb/Pw 14; Drb/Pwr 17.86	Kettles, Seal
R	Olyver, Thomas, the younger	1586	CKS: Drb/Pwr 17.154	Kettles, Seal
P	Olyver, John (Apsland)	1639/40	PCC: Coventry 45; Prob 10/602	Apsland, Seal
P	Potkyn, Peter	1520	PCC: Maynwaring 2	London
P	Potkyn, William	1538	PCC: Dyngeley 15	London
P	Pratt, Richard	1591	PCC: Harrington 48	Tonbridge
R	Swaynsland, Edward	1560	CKS: Drb/Pw 7; Drb/Pwr 12.405	Seal
R	Swaynsland, John	1553	CKS: Drb/Pw 4; Drb/Pwr 11.301	Seal
R	Swaynsland, John	1555	CKS: Drb/Pw 5; Drb/Pwr 12.73	Seal
R	Swaynsland, John	1568	CKS: Drb/Pw 9; Drb/Pwr 13.360	Seal
R	Swaynsland, Thomas	1540	CKS: Drb/Pwr 9.313	Gravesend

Some of these are included in the [Families and Extra Transcripts Section](#).

In transcribing the wills, the overall aim has been to produce understandable text whilst retaining the individuality of the original documents. Thus, for example, the various spellings of cattle (cattell, catell, etc.) are usually given in their original form (if only because it is not always clear whether cattle or chattels is meant) in other cases the modern spelling is used. The spelling of a particular name (either of a person or a place) has usually been standardised throughout the will although the scriptor may have varied the spelling. In some cases variations from modern spelling have been noted in footnotes; “shalbe” or “shalbee” seems to have been used by certain scriptors and, in some cases, this form of “shall be” has been retained.

“=” was often used when a word was split between two lines. This symbol has often been retained in the transcripts instead of using the modern hyphen.

The transcripts of the wills are given in black but, in the descriptions of the families, etc, blue denotes a quote from a will, green a quote from some other source.

Where there is sufficient data, family trees are included. In giving dates of significant events, the symbols “<” and “>” are sometime used. For example: “<1630” means “before 1630”, “>1556” - “after 1556”.

In order to make it simpler to refer to two people with the same name, some of the families have been entered into a number of databases and the number in these is used as a means of identifying specific people. Where these numbers are used:

- s indicates a person in the Sevenoaks database
- # indicates a person in the Seal database
- x indicates a person in the database set up for a number of villages in the area.

Three indexes have been produced for Section 2 of this history:

- for people; the aim here has been to produce a comprehensive index of all the names occurring in the wills and other documents used.

The other two may not include all the references to particular places and items:

- for land and geographical places; generally, for the name of a plot of land, etc., if no further location is given either it is in Sevenoaks or its location is not known
- general items; in a will, only one mention of an item such as “sheets” or “garden” is indexed only once even though it may appear a number of times.

B

Will of John Bare (Weald in)	1625	CKS: Prs/w/1/166	husbandman	B.2
Will of John Battie	1632	CKS: Prs/w/1/194		B.4
Beal, John	1473	PCC: Wattys	8	<i>will not found</i>
Will of Eme Beale ¹¹	1574	PCC: Martyn	27	widow B.5
Will of John Bearding (Blackhall in)	1640/1	PCC: Evelyn	3	B.8
Bedill, Walter	1508	PCC: Adeane	28	<i>written in Latin</i>
The Besbeeche Family				B.10
Besbeeche, Richard	1633	PCC: Russell	80	B.13
The Blomes of Sevenoaks				B.26
Blome, Edward	1649	PCC: Fairfax	179	<i>difficult to read</i>
Blome, John	1626	PCC: Hele	59	mercier B.26

11 “Eme Beale of London, widow and late of Sevenoaks”; this is the only mention of Sevenoaks in the will

Bone, Thomas	1487	PCC: Milles	1	<i>written in Latin</i>	
Henry Bosville of Bradbourne					B.55
Bosville, Henry	1593	PCC: Nevell	57	Esq.	B.59
Will of Clemens Broke	1510	PCC: Bennett	38	widow	B.73
Will of Francis Brown	1636	CKS: Prs/w/1/215		taylor	B.76
Will of William Brown	1624	CKS: Prs/w/1/160			B.77
Burgis Wills					B.80
William Burgis, clothier					B.80
Burges, William (Kippington in)	1594	PCC: Dixy	75		B.81
Burges, Thomas	1620	PCC: Soame	63		B.85

Will of John Bare husbandman of Sevenoaks Weald

written 1st September 1625; transcript from original

1 In the name of god Amen. The first day of September

2 in the first year of the Reign of our Sovereign
3 lord Charles by the grace of God king of England,
4 France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. 1625
5 I, John Bare of Sevenoaks Weald in the parish of Sevenoaks
6 in the county of Kent, **husbandman**, being in good remembrance
7 and memory make this my testament and last will in
8 manner and form following: **First** and principally,
9 yielding my soul to almighty god, my maker, with
10 assured hope of Salvation through his mercy in the
11 merit and mediation of his dear son Jesus Christ, my
12 saviour, and my body to the earth in decent manner to
13 be buried in the churchyard of Sevenoaks aforesaid.
14 And as for all my moveable goods and chattels, I
15 will, give and bequeath unto **Elizabeth, my loving wife**,
16 whom I make my full and whole executrix and I
17 appoint **John Walter** my supervisor or overseer
18 of this my last will and to this I have set my hand.
made in the presence of the mark **X** of John Bare
Robert Spilsted, Roger Nickoll and Zachias Oliver

1 I, John Battie, do give unto **Mr. John**
2 **Towll** of the Town of Sevenoaks all my
3 goods, chattels and debts or moveables what
4 soever. Also my declared ?? that my
5 wife have the use of all of them so long
6 as she liveth. Hereto I set my hand
7 this sixteenth day of May 1632.

the **X** mark
of John Battie
witness **John Wood**,
parish clerk¹²,
Richard Crassidy

12 and probably the writer of this will

This will (PCC: **Martyn 27; Prob 11/56**) although written in 1556 was not proved until 28th June 1574. There are no Beales in the parish register for Sevenoaks. Perhaps Eme came from Sevenoaks but her husband from London; it looks as if both her husband and she herself had been married previously since she had a son John Lonnde and a stepdaughter Anne.

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The 22nd day of May in the year of our Lord god
1556. And in the second and
- 2 third years of the reigns of our sovereign Lord and Lady Philip and Mary by
the grace of god king and Queen of England,
- 3 Spain, France both, city of Jerusalem and Ireland, defender of the faith,
Archduke of Austeye¹³, Duke of Burgundy, Milliane
- 4 and Brabant, Count of Haspestannders Tyroll, I, Eme Beale of London,
widow and late of Sevenoaks in the
- 5 county of Kent, being of good and perfect memory, laud and praise unto
Almighty God, make, ordain and disposeth my

6 present testament and last will in manner and form following, that is to say,
First and principally, I bequeath and commend
7 my soul unto almighty god, my maker and redeemer, trusting and faithfully
believe, through the merits of Christ's most precious
8 passion, all my sins be clearly forgiven. And my body to be buried in open
burial where god for it shall dispose. **Item:** I
9 give and bequeath to the box ordained for the poor in the parish of **Saint**
Mary Hill 12d. **Item:** more I will be
10 distributed among the poor in the said parish of Sevenoaks within the space
of six days next after my decease 20s in money,
11 where most need shall be, at the discretion of executor under named. **Item:**
more I give and bequeath unto **Anne**
12 **Beale, my late husband's daughter**, three pewter platters, three pewter
dishes, three saucers and a brass pot of two
13 gallons. The residue of all my goods, cattell and debts whatsoever they be
after my debts paid, the cost of my burying done
14 and this my present testament and last will in all things fulfilled, I wholly
give and bequeath the same unto **John Lonnde**,
15 **citizen and draper of London, my natural son**, which said John Lonnde of
this my present testament and last will
16 I make and ordain my sole executor. And as to the disposition of all and
singular those my lands and tenements, rents,

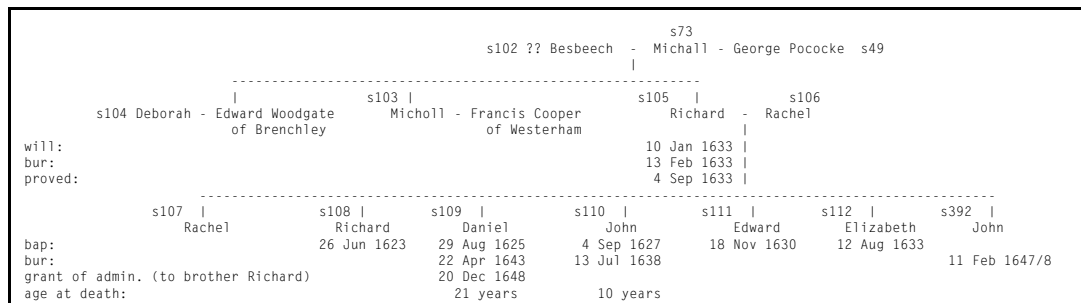
17 re--tions and issues whatsoever they be, withall and singular their
appurtenances, set, lying and being in the said parish
18 of Sevenoaks in the said county of Kent and elsewhere, I wholly give and
bequeath all the same lands and tenements, rents,
19 re--tions and issues, withall and singular their appurtenances unto the said
John Lonnde, my son, to have and to hold
20 all the said lands and tenements, rents, re--tions and issues, withall and
singular their appurtenances as aforesaid unto the
21 said John Lonnde, to his heirs and assigns forever of the chief lord or lords of
the fee thereof by the issue therefore due
22 and accustomed. In witness whereof to this my present testament and last
will I have set my seal the day and year first
23 written. These witnesses at the sealing, reading and delivering of this
present testament **Henry Smith, draper,**
24 **Richard Turke, fishmonger,** and **John Skampion, scrivener.** By me Henry
Smith, by me Richard Turke
25 John Skampion.

1 **The nuncupative will** of John Bearding of
2 **Blackhall**¹⁴ in the parish of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, **husbandman**,
declared by
3 him the seven and twentieth day of November Anno domini one thousand,
six hundred and
4 forty in these words following, viz. the money which is owing to me by my
Master and the
5 money which **Robert Oliver** owes me, I give unto **Nan Cruft**. The sixteen
pounds which
6 is owing to me by **John Porter**, I give to **my brother and sisters** equally
amongst them to
7 be divided, one year's use of that sixteen pounds I give to **William Carter**.
And for my
8 burial I allow my wages due to me and my wearing apparel and one ewe
sheep.
9 And I desire my **Dame Hunt** to get my will performed and my body buried
and out of

- 10 them to content herself. These were his words in the presence of **Parnell**
11 **Hunt, Entity**
Himsen, Anne Cruft, signum Parnell Hunt, Entity Himsen, signum Anne
Cruft.

The Besbeech Family

From the will of Richard Besbeech and the parish records, the following tree can be drawn:



Richard Besbeech's will (PCC: Russell 80, Prob 11/164) was written on 10th January 1632/3 and proved on 4th September 1633, Richard having been buried in February. His wife, Rachel, who was pregnant when Richard wrote his will, was to be his executrix. Their daughter Elizabeth was baptised in the August following Richard's death in February but she could have been a month or two old when she was baptised.

Richard Besbeece witnessed the will of Thomas Holmes on 9th September 1624 which was written in a professional hand and Richard's signature looks like that of a professional. He also witnessed the will of George Weery on 3rd June 1628, signing his name in the same way. Both wills look to have been written by the same person - most likely Richard himself.

George Pococke married Michall Besbiche, widow on 21st July 1595; if Richard married a year or so before 1620, he was probably only a year or two old when his mother married George who was buried on 17th May 1613. Richard's mother was still alive when he wrote his will and had thus been a widow for twenty years - see the **Pococke** wills for more details. Before his death, George Pococke mortgaged some land partly to enable £80 to be paid his stepson, Richard Besbeece, after his death. This might have been money left by Richard's father to be paid when he was twenty-one.

No baptism was recorded for Richard and Rachel's daughter Rachel. Given the dates of birth of the others, she was probably the eldest child and, if Richard's wife had come from a different parish, she may have gone "home" for her birth. Richard left £40, part of which was to put Rachel "**forth and to place her in service for a certain time and after the expiration of her said term that then the remainder to be paid unto her upon the day of her marriage**".

The eldest son, Richard, 9½ years old when his father wrote his will, was left £60, part of which was to go "towards the binding of him apprentice and the residue" at the end of his apprenticeship. He was also to have, at the age of twenty-five, all his father's land in Goudhurst and Horsmonden. Daniell was to have £200 "if he shall be fit either to make a scholar or otherwise meet for the service of some lawyer . . . to be employed and put forth to the best use for him"

John, at the age of twenty-five, was to have all the lands called River Hill lands together with the farm house, barns, stables, etc. and other land in Sevenoaks and all Richard's lands in Chevening, plus £4 yearly from some land in Sevenoaks. Edward and Daniell, were to have half the profits of the lands and woodlands given to Richard and John until the elder boys were twenty-five but Edward does not seem to have had anything else.

1 In the name of god Amen. The
2 tenth day of January Anno one thousand six hundred thirty two. In the
eighth year of
3 the reign of our Sovereign Lord Charles by the grace of God King of
England,
4 Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. I, Richard Besbeech
of
5 Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, **gent.**, sick in body but, thanks be given to
god, of
6 good and perfect memory, do make this my last will and testament in
manner and form follow-
7 ing, that is to say that **First** and above all things I give and commend my
soul into the hands of
8 Almighty God, my creator and redeemer in whom, through the merits of
Christ, my saviour,
9 I persuade myself and hope only of forgiveness of my sins and everlasting
life. And my body
10 I commit to the earth from whence it came to be buried in the parish church
of Sevenoaks

11 aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the poor of the parish of
Sevenoaks the full sum of
12 twenty shillings of good and lawful money to be distributed unto them
within one month
13 after the probate of my will. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my**
goddaughter, Hannah Cole,
14 the sum of twenty shillings likewise of good and lawful money within one
month after the
15 probate of my will by the hands of my executor which shall happen then to
be. **Item:** I give the sum
16 of ten shillings to **my goddaughter Michall Craft** to be delivered unto her
within one month
17 after the probate of my will as before is specified. **Item:** I give unto **my**
goddaughter Marie
18 **Boreman, the daughter of Michael Boreman,** also the sum of ten shillings to
be given
19 unto her in money as aforesaid. **Item:** my will and intent is that my executor
and overseer,
20 hereunder mentioned and which shall be, do see and cause that the sum of
five pounds of good and
21 lawful money be spent at the day of my burial upon the neighbours in wine
and cakes. And

22 also my will is to give on the day of my burial the sum of twenty shillings to
the Ringers
23 indifferently, either to be spent or divided amongst them. **Item:** I give unto
Michael Boreman
24 **of Sevenoaks, my smith and workman**, the sum of five pounds of lawful
money to be paid
25 unto him within one month after the probate of my will by those that are my
executors. **Item:** I give
26 unto **my servant, Margaret Marshall**, all her wages whatsoever due unto her
since the time
27 I discharged her of my service and two ewe sheep of the best to be kept
upon my land where I now
28 dwell till Michaelmas come twelve month if the lease of the said land so
long hold. **Item:** I give
29 unto **Moses Wood, my servant**, two ewes to be kept upon my lands at **River**
Hill so long as
30 my executors shall hold the lease of the house wherein now I dwell. **Item:** I
give unto **Jone**
31 **Remington, my apprentice**, two ewes to be kept upon my farm land at River
Hill during
32 the time that my executors shall hold the lease of the house likewise
wherein now I live. **Item:** I

33 give unto **my tenant, John Stringer of Goudhurst** my two white back
working oxen
34 immediately to be delivered by the hands of my executors unto him after my
decease. **Item:** I give
35 unto **my tenant Thomas Tourt of Horsmonden** my two great steers to be
delivered unto him
36 by my executors hereafter mentioned immediately after my decease.
Provided always that my said
37 tenants, John Stringer and Thomas Tourt, shall at all times necessary and
convenient from
38 the first of May lend the said oxen to my executors to carry and ?? to my
farm at Riverhill
39 so that they be returned to them again at Hollantide¹⁵ or before. And also
my will is that my said
40 tenants shall lend the said oxen to remove the goods out of the house where
now I dwell (after
41 the expiration of the lease) to Riverhill. **Item:** I give unto **John Remington of
Goudhurst** my
42 branded cow to be delivered unto him by the hands of my executors within
a month after the probate

43 of my will. **Item:** I give unto **my sister Deborah, wife of Edward Woodgate of**
44 **Brenchley,** my
black cow to be delivered unto her by my executors within a month after the
probate of my

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45 will. **Item:** I give unto **my loving mother Michall Pococke, widow,** my white
faced heifer to be
46 delivered unto her by the hands of my executors within a month after the
probate of this my last
47 will and testament. **Item:** I give unto **my sister Micholl, the wife of Mr.**
Francis Cooper of
48 **Westerham,** my great red cow to be delivered unto her in manner aforesaid
by my executors. **Item:**
49 I give unto **my son Richard Besbeeck** all my land lying and being in
Goudhurst called
50 **Triggs and Highams** with all and singular th'appurtenances thereto
belonging to him and his
51 heirs for ever - after he shall come and attain unto the age of five and
twenty years and not
52 before. **Item:** I also give unto my said son Richard when he shall attain the
foresaid term of five

53 and twenty years, all my other lands lying in the parish of Horsmonden in
the county of
54 Kent, part whereof I purchased, not long since, of **Sir Robert Charpie, knight,**
and **Robert**
55 **Saxby, yeoman and clothier,** withall and singular the appurtenances
thereunto being and
56 belonging to him the said Richard and his heirs forever. **Item:** I give unto
my son John Besbeeche,
57 and to his heirs forever, after he shall accomplish the age of five and twenty
years, all
58 my lands called and known by the name of River Hill lands, together with
the farm house,
59 barns, stables and other edifices thereto belonging being in the parish of
Sevenoaks in the
60 county of Kent with all my lands in the parish of **Chevening** in the county
aforesaid to
61 him, the said John, and his heirs forever. Also I give unto him, my said son
John, all my lands,
62 withall and singular th'appurtenances, which now **Luke Greenwell** holdeth
of me being in
63 the parish of Sevenoaks aforesaid, to him, the said John and his heirs forever
after he shall

64 accomplish the age of five and twenty years as aforesaid. Provided always
and my meaning
65 is that **Rachel, my wife**, shall have and enjoy the said lands wherein now
Luke Greenwell
66 dwelleth so formerly given unto my son John during her natural life. And
my will and mind
67 is that if the said Rachel, my wife, do undertake the executorship of this my
will and testament
68 with the probate of it, that then she shall receive the rents and revenues of
the said lands
69 both in Goudhurst, Horsmonden, Sevenoaks and Chevening for and towards
the bringing
70 up and educating of my children. **Item:** all the rest of my goods, chattels,
moveables and
71 household stuff not mentioned or bequeathed in this my last and present
will and testament.
72 As also all my debts paid, my legacies fulfilled, my funeral duties
discharged and my body
73 decently brought to the earth, I give and bequeath unto Rachel, my wife,
whom I make my full and
74 sole executrix of this my will and testament. And also I ordain Edward
Woodgate of

75 Brenchley, my brother-in-law and John Stringer of Goudhurst my overseers
of this
76 my last will and testament. And that they, upon their oaths taken before
the Judge of the
77 Court shall swear they shall not see anything done partially by my executrix
but that
78 all things contained in this my last will and testament to be fulfilled by my
executrix
79 according to my mind and will herein mentioned. And my will is that my
executrix shall put in
80 bond of a thousand pounds with two thousand pounds ?? to my said
overseers with two subsidiary
81 men bound excepting her two brothers for the more sure and better
accomplishment of all that I have
82 given and bequeathed in this my last will either in lands or moveables
which if she cannot nor will not
83 perform, that then I make and ordain the said Edward Woodgate and John
Stringer, my fore-
84 named overseers, full and sole executors of this my present will and
testament. And moreover,
85 my will and mind is that, if the said Edward Woodgate and John Stringer do
take the executor

86 ship upon them, that then I make and ordain Richard Immott, my brother-
in-law of Edenbridge,
87 and Francis Cooper of Westerham, my brother-in-law, my overseers of this
my present will and
88 testament. Further my will and mind is that my son Richard shall have and
to him I give the
89 sum of three score pounds, part thereof to be given towards the binding of
him apprentice and the
90 residue to be paid to him at the expiration or end of the term of years of his
apprenticeship. And I
91 also give to **my daughter Rachel** the sum of forty pounds part whereof is to
put her forth and to
92 place her in service for a certain time and after the expiration of her said
term that then the
93 remainder to be paid unto her upon the day of her marriage. **Item:** I do
further give and bequeath
94 unto **my son Daniel Besbeech** that if he shall be fit either to make a scholar
or otherwise

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95 meet for the service of some lawyer, the full sum of two hundred pounds of
good and

96 lawful money to be employed and put forth to the best use for him by my
executor or
97 executors. Also I will that **my son Edward**, together with my son Daniel,
shall equally
98 have and indifferently partake betwixt them both, half the profits of my
lands and woodlands
99 given to my sons Richard and John in Goudhurst and Horsmonden or
Sevenoaks and Chevening
100 until the said Richard and John shall accomplish the years of five and
twenty as aforesaid.
101 Also, whereas my wife Rachel is now quick with child and she thinketh if it
please God
102 she bringeth forth a son, that then I give unto him an hundred pounds of
lawful money part
103 whereof to put it forth apprentice (if it so long live) and the remainder to be
paid unto him
104 when he shall accomplish the age of one and twenty years. But if it be a
daughter, that
105 than I will unto it an hundred pounds as before to be employed for the
better training of her
106 up in some service and the remainder to be paid unto her at the day of her
marriage, if she so

107 long live, by the hands of my executor or executors. **Item:** I give unto **Mr.**
108 **Turner, vicar**
109 of Sevenoaks, the sum of ten shillings to preach at my funeral. In witness
110 whereof, I,
111 have subscribed my name to every page in the presence of and witnessing
112 of us. But
113 before the ensealing and delivering hereof and subscription of my name to
114 every leaf or page,
115 my will and meaning is that Thomas Tourt of Horsmonden shall enjoy and
116 continue his
117 term and time in the house and lands and tenements in Horsmonden
118 wherein he now dwelleth
119 for the space of twenty one years from the feast of St. Michael th'archangel
120 last past
121 before the date of this my present will and testament in as firm, full and
122 ample manner as
123 he enjoyed the same during the term and time of his last lease lately
124 expired. And my will and
125 meaning is that my son Richard shall enjoy the lease of **Scopemead** in the
126 parish of
127 Goudhurst in as large and ample manner as is expressed in the said lease
128 after my decease.

118 **Item:** I give unto my son John, moreover and besides, the full sum of four
pounds yearly
119 arising out of certain lands called **Benedicks** and **Gowlding** being in the
parish of Sev
120 enoaks and now in the occupation of **George Denier** of Sevenoaks after my
decease. All the
121 rest of my goods and moveables, chattels and household stuff before
mentioned not bequeathed
122 given to my wife Rachel, I do also join with her my brother-in-law, Edward
Woodgate and
123 John Stringer in the said goods, lands and moveables indifferently and
equally to be divided
124 between them if my said wife Rachel refuse the executorship. And further
my will and meaning
125 is that no part of the ground or lands at Riverhill farm shall not be let or
parted from
126 the said farm and that all the dung, compost or soiledge made at Riverhill
shall only be
127 bestowed upon the said lands of Riverhill farm. And I will that my
hopgarden now at River
128 Hill and the two long meads called the Upper and Lower meads shall at no
time

129 hereafter be ploughed up or fallowed by my heirs, executors or assigns or
concerted to any
130 other use than now it is at this present which if my executor or executors fail
to perform
131 that then I will that they shall pay yearly unto the poor of the parish of
Sevenoaks the full
132 sum of ten pounds of good and lawful money it being demanded within one
year after my
133 decease by the said poor of the parish of Sevenoaks or any for them. And
that the hay there
134 growing shall be spent upon the said three parcels of land before
mentioned. Richard Besbeech
135 as his last will and testament. In presence and witnessing of us, **William
Turner¹⁶, Robert
136 Isley, Thomas Wickenden, Robert Whiting, Richard Cronke.**

16 vicar of Sevenoaks and probably the scriptor of this will

The Blomes of Sevenoaks

Two wills for Blome have survived, that of John Blome, a rich mercer dating from the 1620s is given below with a description of John Blome's family and bequests in Appendix 15. The film of Edward Blome's will is very difficult to read and thus it has not been investigated; it was proved in 1649 by his widow, Dorothy; "Mr. Edward Blome" was buried on 1st November 1649. He could have been John's son Edward whose (first?) wife, Elizabeth was buried on 21st March 1619, ten days after their son was baptised. See end of will (page B.54) for a note on John's daughter, Marie Petley.

Will of John Blome, mercer

written on 14th April 1624; proved on 9th May 1626.

transcript from probate copy

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The fourteenth day
- 2 of April Anno Dm. 1624, I, John Blome of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent,
- 3 **merc**er, being in good health and of perfect memory and understanding
(thanks be to
- 4 god) do make and ordain my last will and testament in manner and form
following:

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5 **First** and principally I commend my soul into the hands of my heavenly
6 father trusting through his merits
7 and the merits of Jesus Christ, my only saviour and redeemer, to be made
8 partaker of life everlasting
9 whensoever it shall please god to take me out of this transitory world. And I
10 commend my body to the
11 earth whereof it was formed, the same to be buried within the church of
12 Sevenoaks aforesaid as near
13 unto my pew as conveniently may be. And I give to the sixteen almshouses
14 in Sevenoaks 16s.
15 To 40 other the poorest people within the same parish 6d a piece, to 40 of
16 the second
17 sort of the poor there 4d a piece. And to 40 poor children of that parish 2d a
18 piece. To
19 be distributed at the discretion of my executor, the vicar, churchwardens
20 and overseers for
21 the poor of the said parish. Also I give to the poor of **Edenbridge**¹⁷ 20s to be
22 distributed
23 by the minister and overseers for the poor of the same parish. **Item:** I give
24 towards the new

17 "Eatonbridge"

15 buildings of the schoolhouse at Sevenoaks aforesaid £10 to be paid within
six months
16 next after the same shall be begun to be new built. **Item:** I give and
bequeath to **Julian, my wife,**
17 twenty pounds of lawful english money to be paid within one year next after
my
18 death. And I give to her the joined bedstead standing in the chamber over
the
19 kitchen in the house wherein **my son George Blome** now dwelleth. And one
20 other bedstead standing in the chamber over the little parlour in the house
wherein
21 I now dwell with the mats, cord and curtain rods to the same bedstead
belonging.
22 And I give unto her one of my best featherbeds, one good feather bolster,
two feather
23 pillows, a pair of good blankets, a green rug and a pair of green say¹⁸
curtains.
24 Also I give her the best flockbed and the flock bolster, a pair of blankets and
25 one coverlet of the value of 13s 4d. And I give her the one half of all my
linen,

18 a woollen material like serge

26 brass and pewter in and about my dwelling house at the time of my death.
The
27 same beds and the furniture thereof, linen, brass and pewter to be set out for
her by
28 the overseers of this my will. And I give unto my said wife one annuity or
yearly rent
29 of twenty pounds of lawful english money during her life to be issuing and
going
30 out of my lands in **Chiddingstone** in the said county of Kent. To be paid
quarterly at
31 the four most usual feasts of payment in every year by equal portions, the
first
32 payment to be made at that feast of the said four feasts which shall first
happen next
33 after my decease. And I will that for nonpayment thereof within 14 days
next after every
34 feast, my said wife or her assigns shall enter and distrain upon or any the
lands charged
35 with the same rent and detain the distress and distresses until she be fully
satisfied.
36 And I devise to my said wife for term of her life (if she so long remain sole
and unmarried)

37 the message or tenement with the appurtenances in Sevenoaks aforesaid
which I
38 purchased of **John Masters** with the garden plot thereto adjoining which I
bought
39 of **William Bennett**. Provided always, nevertheless, and my will and mind is,
40 that if my said wife shall not rest contented with the gifts and legacies
devised
41 and bequeathed to her by this my will but shall sue for her dower out of any
the lands
42 or tenements whereof I have been seized during the coverture betwixt us,
that
43 then she shall loose the benefit of all gifts and legacies whatsoever given to
her
44 by this my will. And in that case I will the same to be equally divided
amongst all
45 my sons. **Item:** I will and devise to **my daughter, Marie Petley**, for and
towards her
46 own maintenance during her life, my house, shop, garden and orchard with
47 the appurtenances in Sevenoaks aforesaid which I purchased of **Chadd**
Lytton. And I
48 desire **my son-in-law, her husband**, to permit and suffer her to take and
receive the yearly rents

49 and profits thereof to dispose the same at her pleasure. And after her
decease, I devise the same
50 house, shop, garden and orchard with the appurtenances to **William Petley,**
her son, and
51 his heirs for ever. And for the better maintenance and advancement of my
said daughter
52 after the death of her said husband if she shall happen to survive him, I give
unto her
53 one annuity or yearly rent of five pounds of lawful english money to be
issuing out of the
54 messuage or tenement, barn and two orchards with the appurtenances in
Sevenoaks aforesaid
55 which I purchased of **Edward Lampard** to be paid to her quarterly (viz.) at
the four most
56 usual feasts of payment in every year by even portions or within 21 days
next after

page 3:

57 every the same feasts, the first payment thereof to begin at that feast of the
said four feasts
58 which shall first happen after the decease of her said husband. And I will
that for default of
59 payment thereof my said daughter, or her assigns, shall enter into and upon
the premises and hold

60 the same porternd? of her life and all the rents and profits thereof shall take
and enjoy to her own use.

61 **Item:** I will that **Sara, wife of my son George Blome**, shall have and receive
to and for her

62 own proper use and maintenance the rents and profits of the tenement with
the appurtenances in **Seal** in the

63 said county of Kent for so many of the years to come of my lease therein as
she shall happen to

64 live and, after her death, I give the same lease to **John Blome, son of the said
George Blome**, if

65 he shall be then living. But in case he die before his mother, then I
bequeath the said lease and

66 all the years therein to come after her death to my said son George Blome,
his executors and

67 administrators. **Item:** I bequeath to **Sara, the eldest daughter** of my son
George Blome, the

68 sum of £20 to be paid by my executor at her age of 18 years or day of her
marriage which shall

69 first happen. And, whereas I hold by lease from **my son William Blome** for
99¹⁹ years

19 written as "99" throughout

70 from our Lady day 1621 two parcels of land, the one called **Bromfield**
containing by esti=
71 mation five acres, the other adjoining to the said Bromfield containing by
estimation
72 three acres in Sevenoaks aforesaid, parcel of the lands which my said son
William Blome
73 purchased of **William Hodsoll**, I bequeath the said parcel of land called
Bromfield to my said
74 son George Blome for so many of the years to come therein as he shall live.
And after his
75 death I bequeath the same parcel of land to John Blome, his son, during the
residue of the
76 said term of 99 years if he, the said John, shall so long live. And the said
other parcel of land
77 containing three acres as aforesaid together with the carrying way for carts
and other
78 carriages²⁰ now used thereunto through Bromfield, I bequeath to **my son**
Edward Blome
79 for so many years of the said term of 99 years as he shall live. And after his
death I will that

80 such his issue male as shall be then living shall hold and occupy the same
three acres during the
81 residue of the said term of 99 years if any of them shall so long live. And I
will that my son
82 George Blome shall hold and occupy the upper of the two parcels of the
Schoollands lying next
83 Sevenoaks and adjoining to Bromfield aforesaid during the continuance of
my lease therein. And the
84 lower of the same two parcels, together with the way as the same is now
railed out and the use of the
85 waterpit within the said Schoollands, I bequeath to my son Edward Blome
during my lease either
86 of them paying 10s yearly towards my rent reserved upon my lease thereof.
And the two inner parcels
87 of the Schoollands lying to the lands of **Thomas Holmes** I bequeath to my
son William Blome,
88 he paying the residue of the school rent reserved by my lease. And I give
and bequeath to my son
89 George Blome, all the coals, iron, hay, hop poles, lathes, timber, boards and
wood that shall be at
90 the time of my death within any the houses, yards, backsides or orchards by
this my will devised to

91 him. And I give and bequeath to **my son John Blome**, all my goods,
implements of household
92 stuff and utensils whatsoever which shall be in or about my now dwelling
house or any the
93 outhouses or yards thereunto belonging other than and except such goods,
household stuff and
94 utensils as by this my will are given unto my wife and except my ready
money and debts what-
95 soever and all my plate which then shall be in or about my said house.
Item: I will and devise to my
96 son George Blome the messuage or tenement which he now inhabiteth with
the ware=
97 houses and other edifices, gardens, orchards and backsides and
appurtenances to the same messu-
98 age belonging and now in his occupation, which I purchased of **Edmund**
Porter together
99 with the barn and yard now also to the said messuage belonging which I
purchased of one **Wymble**
100 with that part of the great orchard and so much of the waterpit within the
same orchard as is
101 marked out to be laid to the said messuage and the hopgarden and parcel of
meadow ground

102 thereunto adjoining containing by estimation one acre and a half with the
appurtenances
103 in Sevenoaks aforesaid which I purchased of **Archibald Parkins** and **William
Darknowle, clerk,**
104 (except so much of the same great orchard as is now laid out for a way to the
lands
105 called **Connyberry Fields** given by this my will to my son John Blome. And
except also so much
106 of the waterpit in the said great orchard as is marked out and appointed to
be laid to the
107 house wherein I now dwell). To have and to hold the said messuage or
tenement and premises to
108 my said son George Blome for term of his life if he, the said George, shall so
long

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109 inhabit and occupy the same. And from and after his death, or from and
after that he shall in any
110 sort relinquish or leave the actual possession and occupation of the said
messuage and premises,

111 then and in either of those cases which shall first happen, I give and devise
the same to John
112 Blome, eldest son of the said George Blome, and to his heirs male of his
body lawfully
113 to be begotten. And for default of such issue, to the second son of the said
George Blome
114 lawfully begotten or to be begotten. And for default of such issue to the
third son of the
115 said George Blome and the heirs males of the body of the same third son
lawfully
116 to be begotten. And for lack of such issue to the right heirs of me, the said
John Blome
117 forever. And my will and mind is that all the counters, chests, presses,
shelves, boxes
118 and valences whatsoever belonging and now used to and with the shops
and ware-
119 houses, parcel of or belonging to the said messuage so devised to my son
George Blome
120 as aforesaid, and the tables and forms in the hall, the drawing table, 6 joined
stools,
121 the great cupboard and court cupboard in the parlour, the andirons, fire
shovel and tongs

122 with copper heads in the same room, the best bedstead with the
trundlebeds in the chamber
123 over the said parlour, the drawing table, six joined stools, the court
cupboard, andirons and
124 fire shovel and tongs and the two great chests in the same chamber, the
bedstead,
125 trundlebed and great cupboard in the chamber over the hall, the furnace
and all the brewing
126 vessels together with the painted cloths and wainscott in and about the
same house and three
127 featherbeds, four feather bolsters, four feather pillows, 3 flockbeds, three
flock bolsters,
128 one green rug, one tapestry coverlet, two homemade coverlets and four pairs
of blankets
129 now being within and about the same house (which I will and devise to be
particularly expressed
130 in inventories indented and interchangeable, signed by and between the
said George Blome
131 and the overseers of this my will presently after my death) shall be annexed
and shall remain to
132 and with the said messuage as heirlooms to such persons successively and
in such manner and form as by this

133 my will I have devised and limited the said messuage. And I give to the
said John Blome, son of the
134 said George Blome, and his heirs, the shop in the **Leather Market** which I
lately purchased
135 of **Edward Vane**. **Item:** I give and devise to my son William Blome the
messuage, tenement, barn and
136 other edifices which I lately new built with the garden, orchard and three
parcels of land with the
137 appurtenances, situated lying and being in at the **Lower end of Sevenoaks**
Town and which I purchased
138 of **Edward Charman**. And all that my other tenement, garden and orchard
with th'appurtenances
139 which I purchased of one William Bennett. To have and to hold to the same,
the said William
140 Blome for term of his life. And after his death to the first son of the body of
the said William
141 Blome lawfully begotten and to the heirs males of the body of the same first
son lawfully to be
142 begotten. And for default of such issue to the second son of the body of the
said William Blome and
143 the heirs males of the body of the same second son lawfully to be begotten.
And for default of such

144 issue to John Blome, the son of my son George Blome, and the heirs males
of the body of the
145 said John Blome lawfully to be begotten. And for default of such issue to
Richard Blome, the
146 **eldest son of my son John Blome** and the heirs males of his body lawfully to
be begotten. And
147 for default of such issue to **Leonard Blome, second son** of my said son John
Blome and the
148 heirs males of his body lawfully to be begotten. And for default of such
issue to the right heirs
149 of me the said John Blome for ever. And my will is that all those my goods,
implements of house=
150 holdstuff and utensils, now standing and being in and about the said new
builded messuage
151 hereafter particularly mentioned, shall be and remain as heirlooms within
the same messuage to such
152 person and persons successively and in such sort, manner and form, as by
this my will I
153 have devised and limited the said new builded messuage. That is to say,
the two joined bed
154 steads and trundlebeds in the chambers over the two parlours with the
valence and curtains

155 of green say, the two featherbeds, two feather bolsters, two pillows, two
pairs of blankets
156 and two green rugs with the tables and court cupboards now placed and
used in the
157 said two chambers. And all the window curtains and hangings thereto
belonging, the drawing
158 table, six joined stools, the court cupboard, the andirons, fire shovel and
tongs with copper
159 heads and the window curtains standing and being in the great parlour, the
joined table,
160 12 joined stools and the court cupboard in the little parlour, the long table
and the form in the

page 5:

161 hall, the new cupboard in the pantry, the iron jack, the half hundred weight
four spits, the pair
162 of iron racks and two great iron dripping pans with the table, form and
dresserboard in the kitchen,
163 the cupboard, kneading trough and moulding board in the bakehouse, the
cheese press and the long
164 table in the milkhouse. And the furnace and all the brewing vessels in and
about the brewhouse. Of all

165 which goods, implements and utensils, I request my said overseers presently
upon my death to take on
166 an exact inventory under their hands to testify the particulars thereof and to
remain to the persons in remainder
167 to whom I have limited the same. **Item:** I devise to my said son William
Blome and his heirs all my lands
168 and tenements with their appurtenances at or near **Diborn Hill** within the
parish of Sevenoaks afore
169 said which I purchased of **Henry Bostocke**. And all that messuage, barn and
two orchards with the
170 appurtenances in Sevenoaks aforesaid which I purchased of Edward
Lampard paying to my
171 daughter Marie Petley the yearly rent or annuity of £5 by this my will given
to her out of the
172 same for term of her life. Also I devise to the said William Blome and his
heirs the reversion
173 of the messuage and garden with the appurtenances which I purchased of
John Masters given to my wife
174 for her life as aforesaid. **Item:** I will and devise to my son Edward Blome my
messuage or tenement,
175 with the stable, backside and garden now thereunto belonging with their
appurtenances, now in his occu=

176 pation, situated in Sevenoaks aforesaid, next the **Corn Market**, to have and
to hold the same to the said
177 Edward Blome and, after his decease, to the first son of the said Edward
Blome and the heirs
178 males of the body of the same first son lawfully to be begotten. And, for
default of such issue, to
179 the second son of the said Edward Blome and the heirs males of the body of
the same second son
180 lawfully to be begotten. And, for default of such issue, I devise the same
messuage and premises to **Grace**
181 **Blome, daughter of my son William Blome**, and her heirs for ever. Also I give
unto my said son
182 Edward Blome and his heirs all that tenement with three shops under it
likewise situated over
183 against the **Corn Cross** in Sevenoaks aforesaid towards the south, together
with two corn shops
184 in the **Butchers Row** and the stable adjoining to one of the same long shops
which I purchased, amongst
185 other things, of **Kutyeus Tyrry**. And one other shop in the said Butchers Row
which I purchased
186 of **Thomas Walter**. And all that my part, purport and portion of and in two
other shops in the

187 Butchers Row aforesaid next the Leather Market in Sevenoaks aforesaid
which I purchased
188 of **Francis Everest** and one of his brethren. And one other shop in the same
Butchers Row which
189 I bought **William Pococke**. And like wise one other shop in the same row
which I purchased of one
190 **Harris of Tonbridge**. And also all of those three tenements with the gardens,
orchards and backsides
191 thereunto belonging with their appurtenances in Sevenoaks aforesaid which
I purchased of **Edward**
192 **Ayelard** and are now in the several occupations of **Robert Wymble, Robert**
Stanley and John Medhurst. Item:
193 I give and devise to my son John Blome all that my now dwelling house in
Sevenoaks afore
194 said with the old barn and two stables lately erected at either end of the
said barn and the cart
195 house adjoining thereunto. And the gardens, orchards, yards and backsides
now laid thereunto and
196 thereunto belonging and the shop in the Butchers Row aforesaid now in the
occupation of **William**
197 **Davies, butcher**. And all those three parcels of land **Connyberry Fields** with
their appurtenances

198 containing, by estimation, five acres in Sevenoaks aforesaid which I
purchased, amongst other things,
199 of Archibald Parkins, William Darknowle and **John Rumney**. Together with
that part of the water
200 pit now marked and laid out of the water pit within the great orchard,
devised to my son George
201 Blome. And so much of the same great orchard as I have appointed and
marked out for a way from my
202 now dwelling house to the said Connyberry Fields. To have and to hold the
same messuage, lands
203 and premises to my son John Blome for term of his life. And after his
decease I give the same
204 to **Richard Blome, the eldest son of my said son John** Blome and the heirs
male of his body
205 lawfully to be begotten. And for lack of such issue I devise the same to
Leonard Blome, the second
206 **son** of my said son John Blome and the heirs male of his body lawfully to be
begotten. And
207 for default of such issue to the right heirs of my said son John Blome for
ever. **Item:** I will and devise
208 to my son John Blome and his heirs my tenement, garden and orchard with
the appurtenances

209 in Sevenoaks aforesaid which, amongst other things, I purchased of John
Rumney and which are now
210 in tenure and occupation of **Richard Mansfield and Henry Smith**. And all
those my two other messuages
211 or tenements with the barn, yards, garden, one orchard and one parcel of
land containing, by estima=
212 tion, one acre of land lying and adjoining all together. And three other
parcels of land called **Upper**

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213 **Barbers and Nether Barbers** containing, by estimation, eight acres with their
appurtenances near ??
214 **Kippington** in Sevenoaks aforesaid which I purchased of **William Coggar**.
And also all those my
215 two tenements, garden and backside with the appurtenances in Sevenoaks
aforesaid which I purcha
216 sed of **Richard Hayward**. And my two other tenements with their
appurtenances in Sevenoaks afore
217 said which I purchased of **John Hall**. And having thus divided amongst my
children all my lands and
218 tenements whereof I am at this present seised (except only my lands at
Chiddingstone in the said county

219 of Kent which I purchased of **Thomas Browne** and which I have, by this my
will, charged with one annuity
220 of £20 to my wife during her life) and having a desire that every one of my
children and their children,
221 as well those which shall be born hereafter as those which are already born
may, after the death of my said
222 wife, have some certain portions out of those lands for their better
advantage. And for that I have received
223 a good opinion of my youngest son John Blome, that he will instantly and
truly pay the same portions if he
224 shall happen to live till the sum shall become due, I do give and devise to
my said son John Blome
225 and his heirs all those my lands lying and being within the parish of
Chiddingstone in the county of
226 Kent, withall and singular their appurtenances, paying to my son George
Blome within two years
227 next after the death of my said wife, if he shall then be living, or if he shall
then be dead, to and among
228 all the children of the said George Blome then living, the sum of forty
pounds equally to be divided
229 amongst them. And to John Blome, son of the said George Blome, £20 and
to **Mary, daughter of the**

230 said George £30 over and above the £40 payable to the children of the said
George Blome
231 upon his death as aforesaid. And paying to my son William Blome within
one year next after the death
232 of my said wife if the said William shall then be living, or if dead then to and
amongst all the children
233 of the said William Blome then living, the sum of forty pounds part and part
alike. And to the two
234 daughters of the said William Blome £30 a piece over and above the £40
payable to the children
235 of the said William upon his death as aforesaid. And also paying to my son
Edward Blome
236 within four years next after the death of my said wife, if he shall then be
living, or if he shall
237 then be dead to and amongst such children of the said Edward Blome as
shall then be living, the
238 sum of forty pounds. And to my daughter Marie Petley within three years
next after the death
239 of my said wife, if the said Marie shall then be living or if dead to and
amongst all the children of my
240 said daughter then living ten pounds. And also to and amongst all the
children of the said Marie

241 then living the sum of forty pounds to be equally divided between them. All
which several portions and
242 sums of money, amounting in the whole to two hundred three score and ten
pounds²¹, I will to be paid by my
243 said son John Blome as so much given to my other children and their
children out of my said lands
244 in Chiddingstone. Provided always, nevertheless, for the more sure and
certain payment of all the
245 said several sums of money so appointed to be paid by my son John Blome
to my other children
246 and their children as aforesaid, my will and mind is that my said son John
Blome shall, within six
247 months next after my death and before he take and receive the rents and
profits of any of my said lands at
248 Chiddingstone, give and enter into such further security to the overseers of
this my will, or the survivor of
249 them, by charging those lands or other ways as they shall think fit, for the
true payment of all the
250 aforesaid several sums of money to my said other children and their children
in manner and

21 the sums given actually total £280 rather than £270; was this an error in the original will or a copying error?

251 form aforesaid and according to the true intent and meaning of this my will.
And if my said son
252 John Blome shall refuse to give such further security, that then this my gift
and devise to him and his
253 heirs of my said lands at Chiddingstone shall be utterly void and of none
effect. And then, and in that case, I
254 will and devise all those my lands in Chiddingstone with their
appurtenances to my son William Blome and
255 his heirs, the said William Blome giving such security to my said overseers,
or the survivor of them, as
256 my son John Blome should have done for the payment of the several
portions or sums of money to my sons
257 George Blome and Edward Blome and to my daughter Marie Petley and
their children respectively
258 as aforesaid. And having thus advisedly and upon good deliberation
disposed and settled all my lands and
259 tenements to and amongst my said sons as seemed to me most behovefull
for every of them and their
260 several issue respectively, now for that I am doubtful whether in the
purchase of any the lands
261 and tenements by this my will devised as aforesaid, I have made any of my
sons joint purchasers with

262 me, which if I have done, my will and meaning herein expressed touching
the disposition of those
263 lands and tenements may thereby be frustrated and made void and suits in
law and controversies
264 may thereupon arise between my said sons (which god forbid), therefore and
for the better ??

page 7:

265 between them, and to th'end that every of them and their several issue
respectively may peaceably and
266 quietly have, hold and enjoy all and every the lands and tenements to them
devised by this my will accordingly
267 as I have hereby limited and disposed the same and according to my intent
and meaning herein specified and
268 declared, I will and ordain that if any of my said sons, or any of their issue or
other heirs of any of them, shall
269 at any time hereafter, by entry, action, or suit in the law whatsoever, claim,
challenge or demand
270 any of the lands or tenements aforesaid other than such only as are given or
devised to him or them by this my
271 will or do refuse, upon reasonable request to him or them made, to make
and execute such sufficient

272 release or other assurance in the law of all his or their right, tithe, claim and
demand of and
273 in any the lands and tenements aforesaid accruing or growing by reason of
any such joint
274 purchase to him or them, his or their issue, or other heirs to whom I have
devised or limited those lands
275 or tenements as by the overseers of this my will hereafter named, or the
survivor of them (or if they
276 shall both be dead, then by counsel learned in the law indifferently to be
named and chosen by either party
277 shall be thought meet and advised at his or their charges in the law
requesting the same release or
278 other assurance, that then every of my said sons, their issue or other heir so
claiming or suing
279 for any part or parcel of the lands or tenements aforesaid or refusing to make
and execute such sufficient
280 release or other assurance as aforesaid contrary to this my will, shall loose
all benefit of this my will as well
281 of money, goods and chattels as of the lands and tenements to him or them
bequeathed, given or devised in any wise.
282 And I will that the same money, goods and chattels, lands and tenements of
that my son, his issue or other heir,

283 who shall impugn this my will in that behalf, shall remain and come to and
amongst my other sons who
284 shall be obedient hereunto and to their heirs, executors and administrators,
equally to be divided amongst
285 them. And the residue of all my goods and chattels, money, plate,
implements of household stuff and
286 other utensils whatsoever and wheresoever unbequeathed (my funeral
expenses, debts and legacies
287 deducted and discharged), I wholly give and bequeath to my son William
Blome whom I make and
288 ordain sole executor of this my last will and testament. And I nominate and
appoint overseers
289 thereof my especial good friends **Nathaniel Studley, Esquire** and **Anthony
Carleton, gentleman.**
290 And I give to the said Mr. Studley for his good advise and counsel and
extraordinary pains to be
291 taken concerning this my will forty shillings. And I give to the said Mr.
Carleton for his pains
292 therein twenty shillings. Requesting them to be aiding and assisting to my
executor for the better per=
291 formance of this my will in every respect. In witness whereof to every leaf
thereof (containing in

292 the whole eleven leaves or sheets) I have set my hand and seal the day and
year first above written.
293 Sealed, published and delivered by the said John Blome, the testator, to be
his last will and testament, the
294 day and year of the date hereof first above written in the presence of
Nathaniel Studley, **He. Deane**,
295 Edward Lampard, **William Barker**. John Blome

John's Legacy to his daughter, Marie

Marie Blome married Mathew Petley in Sevenoaks on 5th June 1616. John left his daughter, Marie Petley, towards her "own maintenance during her life, my house, shop, garden and orchard with the appurtenances in Sevenoaks aforesaid which I purchased of **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". When she died, the house, etc. was to go to her son, William.

Henry Bosville of Bradbourne

The will of Henry Bosville (PCC: Nevell 57; Prob 11/82) was written on 18th January 1589/90 and proved on 6th July 1593. Henry Bosville, Esquire, was the son and heir of Ralph Bosville, gentleman of Lincolns Inn and Clerk to the Court of Wards and Liveries, to whom Henry VIII had sold the sub-manor of Bradbourne in 1555.

Henry's lands were already entailed to his eldest son, Raphe "[with remainder for default of issue](#)" to each of his other sons in turn. His other four sons were each to be paid an annuity out of his lands:. The annuities for Lewkner, George and Francis are given at the beginning of the will but Henry, the youngest and perhaps about six in 1590, was very much an afterthought his annuity being practically the last item in the will.

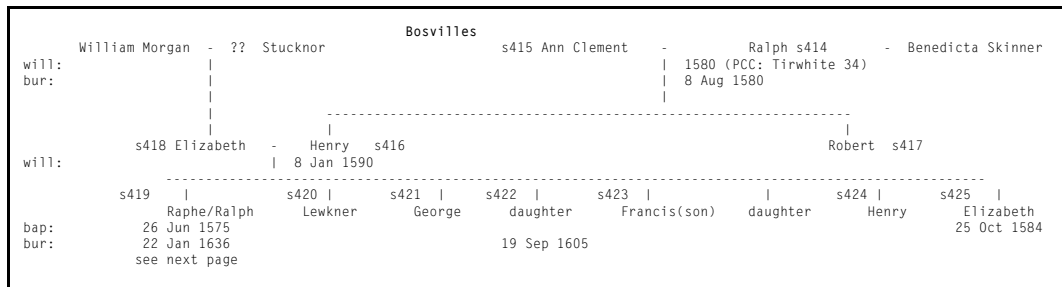
The middle three sons were also left some houses and land but it appears they were only to get this There were three houses in London and a manor house called Blackhall in Sevenoaks. Blackhall, in the north-east of Sevenoaks, had lands of 104 acres and was leased out at a yearly rent of £80 13s 4d. In addition, the heir could pay any of his brothers a lump sum and thus reduce the annuity payable, every £100 paid reducing the annuity by £10.

Annuities for Henry's Sons

Lewkner Lewkner's widow, if he should die leaving a wife	£30 £30
George	20 marks (£13 6s 8d)
Francis	20 marks (£13 6s 8d)
Henry, fifth and youngest son	£20

The *Bosvilles* of Bradbourne

Henry Bosville's family:



Ralph, Henry Bosville's father, married twice. His first wife and the mother of his two sons was the daughter of Sir Richard Clement, knight, of the Mote, Ightham, Kent and widow of John Castillon, Esq., of Surrey. Benedicta was daughter of Anthony Skinner of London.

On 28th January 1563 **Robert Bristow**, a ward to Mr. Bosville, was buried. "Mr. Bosville" was probably the Ralph who wrote his will in 1580.

Henry, the son of Ralph and Ann Clement, married the daughter of William Morgan of Chilworth, Surrey who was the sole heir of her mother, the daughter and heir of Sir Roger Stucknor of Bodiam Castle. They had a large number of children the order of the sons being known from the will but how many daughters and where they came within the family is not known. Their eldest son, Ralph, had three children:

	s419	Raphe/Ralph	-	Mary Lennarde (daughter of Sampson Lennarde)	s426
bap:		26 Jun 1575			
mar:		2 Apr 1594			
bur:		22 Jan 1636			

	s427	Margaret	-	Sir William Boswell, knight	s428
bap:		2 Oct 1595			Leonard - Anne Ridley
mar:		29 Oct 1629			21 May 1598
bur:		31 Aug 1682			7 Jan 1640
		James	s431		
bap:		19 May 1631			
					s429
					Jane
					14 Oct 1599

Leonard's wife was the eldest daughter and co-heir of Sir Thomas Ridley, knight.

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Henry Bosville
2 of Bradbourne in the county of Kent, **Esquire**, being of perfect health and
memory, god be thanked
3 for it, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and
form following: **First:** I
4 commend my soul into the merciful hands of my saviour Jesus Christ,
hoping by his mercy
5 to be saved, my body to be buried, if I die in England, where my wife
meaneth to be buried. And
6 touching my temporal affairs, whereas I have by my deeds under my hand
and seal and delivered
7 as my deeds before witnesses given and assured unto **my son Raphe** all my
lands entail with
8 remainder for default of issue to **Lewkner, my son**, entail and so over with
other remainders entail,
9 my meaning is not to alter at all the said estate of inheritance saving that I
do by those present
10 devise unto my sons these annuities following: **First:** I devise unto my son
Lewkner one annuity

11 or yearly rent of thirty pounds issuing out of all my lands and payable unto
him at Michaelmas and

page 2:

12 Th'annunciation of our Lady during his natural life. If it shall fortune the
same or any part thereof
13 to be behind and unpaid by the space of thirty days after any of the said
feasts in which it ought to
14 be paid during his life, then I will that the same Lewkner shall distrain for
the same within
15 my lands within England. And if it shall fortune the said Lewkner to die
having a wife, then I
16 devise unto the said woman, his wife, one annuity or yearly rent of thirty
pounds during her
17 natural life to be issuing out of my lands. And if there shall be default of
payment thereof
18 unto her at any time during her natural life, at the feast of St. Michael and
Th'annunciation of our Lady
19 then I will that she distrain therefore in all my lands until she be paid
thereof together with the
20 arrearages thereof if any be. Provided always that if he do not within four
months after he come

21 to the full age of one and twenty years upon request made by the said
Raphe, my son, and if he
22 make and request then upon request made at any time by his issue male,
convey and assure unto him,
23 my said son Raphe, then if he make no request then unto his issue male
upon request at
24 the costs and charges of my son Raphe and to his heirs, all his rights unto
all my lands in rent.
25 Then the said rent charge of thirty pounds granted unto him and thirty
pounds by year to his
26 wife to be utterly void and of none effect. Also I devise, will and bequeath
unto **George, my**
27 **son**, one annuity or yearly rent of twenty marks issuing out of all my lands
to have to him during
28 his natural life. And if it shall fortune the same to be behind and not paid
by even portions, that is to
29 say, six pounds thirteen shillings four pence at the feast of St. Michael
Th'archangel, and six pounds
30 thirteen shillings four pence at the feast of Th'annunciation of St. Mary,
yearly, during his life
31 then he distrain upon all my lands until he be therefore fully satisfied and
paid. Provided he

32 make the like assurance of my lands in Kent in such manner and form unto
my son Raphe and
33 his issue in all respects as I have limited and appointed my son Lewkner to
do by these present.
34 And if it shall fortune my son Raphe to die without issue male before such
conveyance and
35 assurance made to him by my son George, then I will that he make the like
assurance unto
36 my son Lewkner upon the like request or else this grant and rent charge
made to him to be
37 utterly void unto him and of none effect. Also I devise unto **Francis, my
son**, one annuity
38 or yearly rent of twenty marks issuing out of my lands and tenements, to
have unto him
39 during his natural life. And if it shall fortune the same to be unpaid
40 . . 47 *etc, etc*

48 . . Also I will, nominate, constitute and appoint Raphe Bosville,
49 my eldest son, to be my executor of this my last will and testament, willing
and requiring him
50 honestly and justly to perform this my last will and testament according to
my true meaning. And,

51 if it shall fortune him to die before he come to have issue male of his body,
then I will my son
52 Lewkner be mine executor. And if he die without issue male of his body,
then I will that my
53 son George be mine executor. And I will that so long and as oft as my
executors shall be within
54 age of one and twenty years, that **my father-in-law, William Morgan,**
Esquire, my brother-in
55 **law, Edward Maddison, Esquire and Christopher Johnson, Esquire, doctor**
of physic. And if one of
56 them shall die, then the other three surviving administer my ?? and do in
all things as if they were
57 executors during the minority of my son Raphe. And if he die then, during
the minority of him that
58 is my executor after my said son Raphe's death. **Item:** I devise unto every of
them, the said William
59 Morgan, Edward Maddison and Christopher Johnson twenty pounds a
piece if they, or any two
60 of them shall be living at my death, towards their pains and travel about my
will. And I will that
61 they allow unto them selves of my goods all such charges as they shall be
at in executing my will. Also,

62 whereas I have in ready money seventeen hundred pounds, seven hundred
whereof may
63 appear by two several writings when they are laid together being indented,
one part whereof I

page 3:

64 have left in the custody of my wife and the other in the keeping of the said
Mr. Doctor Johnson. And the rest, being
65 one thousand pounds is readily to become by laying two writings indented
together which my father
66 Morgan and my brother Maddison have in their custody. And also in my
name and my children in good debts
67 six hundred four score pounds and more besides other desperate debts and
my plate, leases, goods, hops and
68 cattell as may appear by my inventory, my will and meaning is that there
be bought to every of my
69 daughters, with the convenient speed that may be, one yearly annuity and
rent charge of twenty
70 pounds by year a piece to them for their lives excepting **my daughter**
Elizabeth to whom there is
71 assured already one annuity of twenty pounds for her life with a condition
of redemption so that either

72 she shall have the annuity or a hundred and ten pounds. Also I will that
my said dear friends,
73 viz: my father Morgan, brother Maddison and Mr. Doctor Johnson, if they
shall be living at my death,
74 and if one of them be dead then the other two surviving, with all the
convenient speed that is
75 possible, they can with the residue of my ready money, debts, hops and
cattell, do purchase lands within
76 forty miles of my house in Kent, unless there be a greater pennyworth of
lands offered further of the
77 which I would then should be accepted and that the conveyance of such
land be first unto **my**
78 **eldest daughter** until she have received the sum of four hundred pounds.
And afterwards unto every of
79 my daughters successively one after another beginning with the next in
years and ending with the youngest
80 until every of my said daughters have grown unto them, of the profits of the
said lands, four
81 hundred pounds a piece. And I will that after the said sums be grown up
and my debts paid, that
82 the said lands so purchased be and remain by such conveyance unto my
heirs male for the time being

83 in tail. And for default of such issue to remain to my sons entail not to
come unto them jointly as joint
84 tenants but successive beginning with the next in years unto him. And
afterwards to my right heirs in
85 fee. And furthermore, I will that either of them, the said William Morgan,
Edward Maddison and Xtofer
86 Johnson, Esquire, at their will and by agreement amongst themselves, shall
receive the portions of my
87 daughters that shall so arise unto them by the profits of the land so
purchased. And which of them that
88 shall so receive it to become bound from time to time with two sufficient
sureties unto such my daughter
89 or daughters whose money he shall so receive to pay unto her or them such
portion or portions of money at
90 their day of marriage if they shall notice of their said marriage or marriages
forty days before but,
91 if they shall not have such notice, then forty days after he or they shall have
knowledge of the solemnization
92 of the marriage of such my daughter or daughters or else at her or their
several age or ages of twenty
93 years, which of them shall first happen with condition also that, if such
daughter or daughters die

94 before their portions delivered them, that then he or they to pay unto her
sisters the said sum
95 of money equally to be divided amongst them and proportionally at their
ages of twenty years or at
96 their several days of marriage which of them shall first happen or forty days
after their several
97 days of marriage if he or they have not notice of such marriage or marriages
forty days before the solemnization
98 thereof. But I will that none of their portions be bettered by interest. **Item:**
I request **my wellbeloved**
99 **wife and my brother Robert Bosville** to be assistants of my will and that
there be a strong coffer
100 provided and my said ready money to be put therein and kept under three
locks in my wife's custody and
101 she to keep one key and my father-in-law, brother-in-law aforesaid and Mr.
Doctor Johnson, or some
102 two of them, to keep the other two keys until the money shall be bestowed
according to my will as
103 aforesaid. And for that I am steadfast in belief that my wife will marry and
no reason that a stranger
104 should be invited with my goods and children impoverished, thereby
having many, I do appoint

105 and my will is that she shall have but only the occupation of my goods and
household stuff being at my house
106 at **London** and commonly there occupied when I am there and that she
become bound within forty days after
107 my death unto my eldest son Raphe Bosville to deliver unto him when she
shall marry all such goods
108 and household stuff, or the value thereof, as they shall be praised at. And I
will that my goods be praised
109 immediately after my death before such bond taken and that at their
uttermost value. And also I will that
110 she have to her own use, all her jewels, the chain she commonly weareth
being above three score pounds in
111 value. And I desire my wife to remember that her children be flesh of her
flesh and bone of ??
112 And therefore that she would have as great a care as she can over them,
calling upon my sons' teachers
113 that they profit in learning. And that my daughters be brought up in
quality and as shall be fit for them.
114 And that after their years of consent in marriage, she have a special regard
of them that they be not allured
115 to cast away themselves in marriage. **Item:** I devise unto my sons,
Lewkner, George and Francis, my house

page 4:

116 in London wherein **my mother-in-law** died. And also the house in London
near **Clements Inn** internext
117 with the other wherein I have dwelt myself for the most part of nine years.
And also my manor
118 house called **Blackhall** with the lands that I let therewith to lease for years
containing near
119 hundred and four acres whereupon was received the yearly rent of
fourscore pounds thirteen shillings
120 four pence by the said lease. To have and to hold to them for and during
their natural lives. Provided
121 always, if my heir male for the time being do continue the payment unto
them of their several annuities
122 aforesaid, that then my will and meaning is that their estates and rights
therein do cease only during
123 the payment unto them of their said annuities and as often as any default
of payment shall be made unto
124 them, then I will that they enter upon the said houses and land so devised
unto them until of the said
125 annuities and th'arrearages thereof, if any be, they be fully satisfied and
paid. Provided that all bequests
126 made unto any of my sons fore of here after named be paid except they
release to my heir as aforesaid.

127 And I will that if any have, or shall at any time during my life, enter into
bond to pay unto any of my younger
128 sons money, that then for every hundred pounds that shall be payable unto
any my younger sons, if the
129 sum be limited to be payable at a day after my death, ten pounds yearly of
his annuity and ten
130 pounds yearly of the lands limited unto him or they conditionally to cease
and ?? and so ratably
131 if there shall be less than a hundred pounds. And if any of my daughters
shall have such bonds made unto
132 them, payable at any day after my death, then I will that so much of such
daughter or daughters
133 portion shall cease and be void unto her or them. And moreover if the
Master of the Wards for the time
134 thereof do bestow either upon my heir male his own wardship of my said
heir or upon my father-in-law and brother
135 Maddison and Doctor Johnson, or any of them, the wardship of my said heir
male to his own use, then I
136 will that, after such grant made, there be paid unto the said Master of the
Wards, as to his own use, three
137 hundred pounds. Furthermore, my will and mind is that none of my goods
at Bradbourne be sold or

138 removed but that they, and my books, remain unto my heir male as
heirlooms. And also I will that
139 my heir male, at his full age, do make over the body of my father at
Sevenoaks a tomb and there to be
140 the image of a man lying in a gown and over him annexed by the side of
the wall and into it to have the whole
141 pedigree²² of the Bosvilles graven in brass and colors? in the coats be at the
heraldry. And if my
142 cousin Bosville's son of **Newhall** will not lend his pedigree to make it by
them, that it be made by
143 the pedigree fetched from the heraldry. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
Henry Bosville, my
144 **fifth son**, one annuity or yearly rent of twenty pounds issuing out of all my
lands. And if it
145 shall fortune . . . *as above*
. . .
150 . . . And I will that my sons' annuities
151 be ordered and laid out upon them in such manner as my said father-in-
law, brother Maddison
152 and Doctor Johnson, or any two of them, shall appoint. And if any
surplusage shall be, I will that some

22 "pettigree"

153 one of them, as they shall agree amongst themselves, shall remain in one of
their hands putting
154 bond to repay it to their or him at his or their full age of one and twenty
years. Witnesses to this
155 my will, Edward Maddison, Robert Bosville, **Francis Barker, Robert Petty**

In her will (**PCC: Bennett 38**) Clemence left 6s 8d to the high altar and, in addition, money for a cope (40s), a silver cross (10s) and towards a new silver censer (10s). She also left 4s to the four people who bore her body to the church for burial. There were a large number of money bequests ranging from 4d to 40s and Clemence also left many household and clothing items; all her "wearing gear" not otherwise bequeathed was to go to poor people.

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The 8th day of the month of September in the
year of our
- 2 lord 1510, I, Clemence Broke, **widow**, of the town of Sevenoaks in the
county of Kent, whole in mind, ordain, make
- 3 and dispose this my present testament and last will in this manner of form:
First: I bequeath and recommend my soul to
- 4 almighty god, my maker and saviour and to our blessed lady saint Mary
and to all the holy company of heaven, my body
- 5 to be buried in the church of Sevenoaks. Also I bequeath to the high altar
of Sevenoaks church 6s 8d. **Item:** I bequeath

6 unto a cope for the same church 40s. **Item:** I bequeath for a cross of silver
10s. **Item:** I bequeath towards a new censer of
7 silver 10s. **Item:** I bequeath to a priest for a quarter to sing for my soul ²³
Item: I bequeath to **Sir Doctor Broke, my son,**
8 6 silver spoons, my silver piece, my best featherbed with all that longeth
thereto with all the hangings in the same chamber.
9 **Item:** I bequeath to **Thomas Broke** 6 silver spoons and a masar, a
featherbed and all that longeth thereto. **Item:** I bequeath to
10 **Margaret Broke, the wife of Thomas Broke,** my best gown, my best kirtle
and my best girdle and a brass pot.
11 Also I bequeath to **Johane Broke** 6s 8d. Also I bequeath to **Robert Broke** 3s
4d. Also I bequeath to Margaret
12 Broke a cow. **Item:** I bequeath to **Clemence Powlle** 40s in money and
money worth. Also I bequeath to the said Clemence
13 my best featherbed²⁴ and a blue ??²⁵, 4 pairs of sheets, a plain laten basin
and a brass pot. **Item:** I bequeath to

23 blank left here, at least in the probate copy

24 but she had already given her best featherbed to her son, Sir Doctor Broke

25 "helyn"

14 **Johane Colens** a mattress, a bolster and a pair of sheets. **Item:** I bequeath
to **Isabel Powsey** my black gown. **Item:** I
15 bequeath to **William Browne** 12d and 2 pairs of sheets. **Item:** I bequeath to
Richard Frende 12d. **Item:** I bequeath to
16 every of my godchildren 4d. Also I will that all mine other wearing gear
should be given to poor people. Also I
17 bequeath to **James Cyssey** 8d. **Item:** I bequeath to **John Boltby** 8d. **Item:** I
bequeath to **Alice Chelsam** my russet gown
18 and a kirtle. Also I bequeath to **Thomas Chelsam** 6s 8d. **Item:** £14 to be
levied of **Sir Burton** priest, late
19 chaplain with my **lord of Buk** to be disposed for the wealth of my soul after
the disposiciency²⁶ of mine executor and
20 **Sir Repe, vicar**²⁷. Also I bequeath to 4 to bear me to church 4s. And the
residue of all my goods not bequeathed
21 I give to Sir Doctor Broke, my son, to dispose for my soul, whom I make
mine executor. And my son Thomas
22 Broke to be overseer. His testibus Sir Repe, vicar, Thomas Broke et duo
Edmund Browne.

26 discretion?

27 Edward Repe, vicar from January 1504/5 until at least December 1514 (John Rooker, Parish Church of Sevenoaks, 1910); he could have written this will

*Nuncupative Will of **Francis Brown**, tailor*

written 31st September 1636; proved 20th May 1636 by Francic's wife Susanne
transcript from original

1 The nuncupative will of Francis Brown late, whilst
2 he lived of the parish of Sevenoaks and Deanery of Shoreham in
3 the county of Kent, **tailor** deceased, published and declared
4 by the said Francis, the last day of April in the year of
5 our Lord God one thousand six hundred thirty and six in the
6 presence of the witnesses who have hereunto subscribed their hands.

7 As concerning my goods, **First:** I give and bequeath unto **my brother**
Richard Browne,
8 my coat. Also I give and bequeath unto my wife all my goods,
9 household stuff and debts whatsoever owing unto me and as touching my
land, I give and bequeath the
10 same unto **my son, Daniel Browne**, and his heirs forever.

Thomas Smyth
the mark **X** of **Elizabeth Lawsfort**
Edward Waight
The mark of me ?? **Faigth**

This will (CKS: Prs: w/1/164) was written by Timothy Stone who was appointed one of the overseers of the will. The spelling of the word used where "executor", is expected is a word not met with elsewhere and could be a phonetic spelling perhaps showing that Stone had not had a formal education. John Stone, cutler, of Tonbridge whose will was written in October 1597 had an underage son called Timothy which is not a common name.

- 1 Sevenoaks in Kent on the 9 day of September in the year 1624
- 2 In the name of god Amen. The last will and testament of William Browne
being
- 3 sick of body but of perfect memory, thanks be to God, therefore **Firstly** I
bequeath my
- 4 body to the ground and my soul to God that gave it. **Item:** I will and make
my brother, Edward
- 5 **Browne**, my heir and sole arsigstor of this my last will and testament. **Item:** I
bequeath to my
- 6 **brother, Thomas Browne**, ten pounds and to **my brother, John Browne**, forty
shillings and to my

7 **brother, George Browne**, ten pounds and to **my brother, Walter Browne**, eight
pounds
8 and to **my brother, Robert Fresh**, forty shillings and to **my sister, Elizabeth**,
five pounds and to
9 **my sister, Martha**, forty shillings and to **my sister, Marti**, forty shillings. **Item:**
I will that
10 my arsigstor do pay these portions within twelve months and a day next
after my death
11 to those that are already the age of one and twenty years and to the others at
the age of one and twenty
12 years. Also I do²⁸ make **Austen Floate** and **Timothy Stone** my overseers of
this my
13 will and my will is that their charge shall be borne and to have some a ?? ??
I
14 will that these legacies be paid out of a parcel of land with a barn? thereon
commonly called
15 **Sorelcroft** lying in **Tonbridge** ?? I will that if my arsigstor do not pay these
16 legacies by the days afore named, that then it shall be lawful for Austen
Floate and
17 Timothy Stone to take all my money, lands and goods to make safe thereof
and to pay the

28 "all so ido"

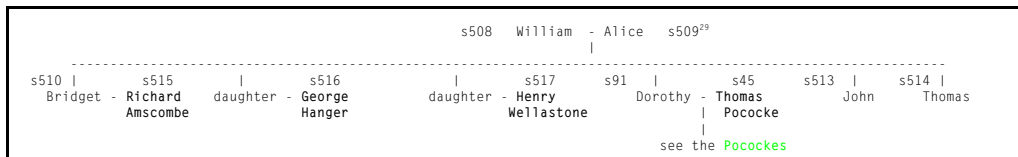
18 fore named legacies and to ?? the overplus to the forenamed Edward
Browne
19 for to his heirs, arsigstors or assigns. Further, I will that if my brother
20 John Browne do die before he has received his legacy, that then the sum
shall
21 be due to **Edmond Browne**, the son of Edward Brown, my brother. Further, if
22 any of the others do die before that they do receive their legacies, that then it
shall be
23 equally divided among the others.
Sealed and delivered in the presence of me
Timothy Stone the mark of William Browne
the mark of **Austen Floate**
the mark of **Richard Woode**
Nicholas Stott

Burgis Wills

There is no obvious connection between the testators of these two wills although the youngest son of William Burgis was called Thomas. Against Thomas the testator being William's son is that Thomas's mother was Margery whilst William's wife was Alice. Also his sisters were not William's daughters.

William Burgis, clothier

When William wrote his will on 4th March 1594, one of his four sons-in-law, George Hanger, owed him £400 and William ordained that this should be divided equally between his two sons, John and Thomas, to be paid according to the terms of the bill detailing the loan. But if George paid Thomas's £200 before the time specified in the bill or was prepared to employ some or all of it "[any way to the benefit and behoof of my said son Thomas, whether it be before my decease or before the time limited for the payment thereof which I pray him to do](#)" then George Hanger was to be discharged of as much as he had spent of the £200. Perhaps Thomas was of the age where he needed some money to be spent establishing him and William hoped George would do this.



About 1593, Thomas Pococke (s45) married for the second time, his wife being called Dorothy. One of William Burgis's sons-in-law was a Thomas Pococke but William does not give his daughter's name. It is likely however that she was the Dorothy who married s45.

Will of William Burgis, clothier

written 4th March 1593/4; transcript from probate copy

- 1 In the name of god Amen. I, William
- 2 Burgis of **great Kippington** in the parish of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent,
- 3 **clothier**, being of an old and weak body but, I thank god, of perfect remembrance,
- 4 do ordain and make this my last will and testament in manner hereafter

5 **First:** I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my maker, with
6 assured
7 faith and persuasion to be saved by the precious death and blood shedding
8 of my lord and saviour Christ Jesus. And my body to the earth to be buried
9 in the church
10 of Sevenoaks aforesaid in such manner as shall please my executrix here
11 under named.
12 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the poor people inhabiting in the
13 almshouses of
14 Sevenoaks aforesaid at the time of my decease the sum of ten shillings.
15 **Item:** I give
16 and bequeath unto the poor inhabitants of Sevenoaks aforesaid the sum of
17 forty
18 shillings. As well the said sum of ten shillings as the said sum of forty
19 shillings to
20 be given and distributed according to the discretion of my executrix here
21 under named within
22 one month after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my son-in-**
23 **law Richard**
24 **Amscombe** the sum of twenty pounds of lawful english money to be paid
25 unto him
26 within six months after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Bridget,**
27 **wife of the**

17 **said Richard Amscombe**, the bed and bedstead remaining in the little
parlour of my now
18 dwelling house with the furniture thereunto used and belonging to be
delivered unto
19 her within one month after my decease. And whereas **my son-in-law**
George
20 **Hanger** standeth indebted unto me by his bill in the sum of four hundred
pounds payable
21 unto such person or persons as I shall should thereunto nominate and
appoint by my last
22 will and testament within eighteen months after the decease of me and my
now wife. In
23 accomplishment of the purpose of the said bill, I give and bequeath unto
John Burgis,
24 **my son**, two hundred pounds, half thereof, to be paid unto him accordingly.
The other two
25 hundred pounds residue thereof I give and bequeath unto **my son Thomas**
Burgis to
26 be paid unto him accordingly. But if it shall please my said son-in-law,
George
27 Hanger, to disburse the said sum of two hundred pounds so by me given
and bequeathed

28 unto my said son Thomas Burgis or to employ the same any way to the
benefit and
29 behoof of my said son Thomas, whether it be before my decease or before
the time
30 limited for the payment thereof which I pray him to do, then my mind and
will is
31 that the said George Hanger shall be acquitted and discharged of the said
sum of two
32 hundred pounds, or so much thereof as he shall have so disbursed or
employed from and after
33 the time of such employment and disbursement, against my executrix for
ever. Provided
34 always that such disbursement or employment be done with the privity and
consent
35 of my said son Thomas Burgis. The residue of all my goods or chattels, real
or
36 personal whatsoever, I give and bequeath unto **my wellbeloved wife, Alice
Burgis**, whom
37 I make and ordain sole and only executrix of this my testament and last will.
And I
38 ordain and make overseers thereof **my sons-in-law Henry Wellastone and
Thomas**

39 **Pococke** revoking by this my last will and testament all former wills. In
witness
40 whereof I have hereunto put my hand and seal the fourth day of March
1593. And
41 in the six and thirtieth year of the reign of our most gracious sovereign
queen
42 Elizabeth, etc. Sealed and delivered in the presence of those whose names
are under
43 written. Per me **Henry Wellastone** By me **Richard Butler** By me **John
Burgis**.

Will of Thomas Burgis

written on 28th April 1620, proved on 7th July
Thomas was buried on 1st May; transcript from probate copy

Thomas Burgis was a fairly young man when he died since his mother, Margery, was still alive and his family seemed to live in the Uckfield area of East Sussex. Although he was described as a yeoman, he seems to have been a servant in the

household of Mr. Binces. His preamble shows his belief that he was one of the chosen people: "I bequeath my soul to the Almighty God in whose mercy I fully hope to have forgiveness of my sins and to enter into life everlasting prepared for all his elect and chosen people". He left over seventy pounds but most of it had been "put out to use" and his legacies were to be paid as "it grows due unto me as by the bonds may more at large appear".

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Thomas Burgis
2 of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick of body but, thanks
3 be to god, of perfect memory, do make this my last will and testament in
4 manner and form following: **First:** I bequeath my soul to the Almighty
5 God in whose mercy I fully hope to have forgiveness of my sins and to
6 enter into life everlasting prepared for all his elect and chosen people. And
7 my body to be buried in the churchyard of Sevenoaks at the discretion
8 of my executor. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto **my mother, Margery Burgis**
9 **of Bucksted²⁹, widow**, the sum of twenty pounds of currant money of
England
10 which is by me put out to use. The which I will shall be paid unto her by my
executor

11 with the use and all when it is payable to me by bond. **Item:** I will and
bequeath
12 unto **my brother George Hunter in Wuckefield³⁰** who married with my sister,
??
13 I give unto his three children ten pounds of currant money of England a
piece.
14 And ten pounds of like currant money of England to **Enswoth, his wife**, to be
15 paid by executor as by the bonds made over unto me may appear. **Item:**
16 I give and bequeath unto **my sister Prudence Grames of Maresfield³¹** ten
pounds
17 of like currant money to be paid unto her as it grows due unto me as by
18 the bonds may more at large appear. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **her**
husband,
19 **Richard Grames**, so much apparel which my master **Mr. Robert Hembeen**
gave unto
20 me to be delivered unto him per my executor presently after my decease, to
the
21 value of ten pounds and so soon as it can be praised. And further I give

30 is this Uckfield, between one and two miles from Buxted?

31 about 2 miles west of Buxted

22 and bequeath unto **Mathew Plumer, servant** in the house with me at **Mr.**
23 **Binces,**
24 twenty shillings in money to be paid by my executor presently after my
25 decease.
26 And for the performance of this my last will and testament, I ordain and
27 make
28 my brother-in-law Richard Grames my full and whole executor to see this
29 my
30 last will and testament duly performed. And further I ordain and make my
31 very good friends **William Barram and Alexander Showebridge** my overseers
32 to see this my will performed. And for their pains taken herein I give unto
33 my
34 executor and my overseers twenty shillings a piece to either of them within
35 one
36 month after my decease by my executor to be paid. And to this my last will
37 and
38 testament I have set my own hand and seal this present eight and
39 twentieth
40 day of April, Anno dm. 1620. Thomas Burgis mark above written
41 in the presence of **Edmund Porter** and **Robert Zouche**

C

Anthony Carleton, gentleman					C.2
Carleton, Anthony	1638	PCC: Lee	150		C.5
Will of Rachel Carrier	1639/40	CKS: Prs/w/3/201		widow	C.11
Will of George Children	1595	PCC: Scott	74	yeoman	C.14
Will of Richard Clampard	1630		CKS: Prs/w/3/174		C.16
Clemens, Robert (Sir)	1537	PCC: Dyngeley	13	clerk	
				<i>will not found</i>	
John Cole, yeoman					C.18
Cole, John	1629	PCC: Ridley	35		C.19
William Constable (al.Gryffyne)					C.22
Constable, William	1559	PCC: Chaynay	38		C.23

Will of William Cox (Knole in)	1616	CKS: Prs/w/3/136		C.26
Giles Cranewell, gentleman				C.29
Cranewell, Giles	1616	PCC: Cope	88	C.31
Will of Jone Cronck	1617	PCC: Weldon	58	widow C.40

Anthony Carleton, gent.

There are problems regarding the date Anthony Carleton's will (PCC: Lee 150; Prob 11/178) was written. It was given as: the "[two and twentieth day of February in the ninth year of the reign of our sovereign lord king Charles. And in Anno dominum 1635.](#)" But the ninth year of Charles I was from 27th March 1633 to 26th March 1634. In the probate copy there is no difficulty in reading the lines

quoted. It was not proved until 5th November 1638 when his wife Mary became his executrix. No burial was recorded for Anthony Carleton in Sevenoaks.

The arrangements regarding the land of Anthony Carleton were very complex. After the preamble the will describes the position regarding some copyhold lands to which Anthony had just become "[admitted tenant](#)"; these consisted of 20 acres of arable and pasture lands in the manor of Alrichsty "[in the county of Bedd](#)", presumably Bedfordshire. Afterwards, the same day in open court, he surrendered "[the same into the hands of the lord of the said manor to the use of my last will](#)". And whereas I, the said Anthony Carleton, for the consideration of the sum of one hundred twenty and five pounds have the nineteenth of February 1633 bargained, sold and surrendered all the said copyhold lands into the hands of the lord of the said manor of Earlesty³² to the use of Richard Baldock, the younger of Arhsty aforesaid and of his heirs and assigns forever, now for the better and more perfect and sure conveying and settling of the said copyhold lands unto the said Richard Baldock, his heirs and assigns, I do hereby limit and appoint the use of the first before mentioned surrender to be also to the use of the said Richard Baldock, his heirs and assigns, forever."

32 this is certainly not the same name as that of the manor mentioned above although Arlsty from which Richard the younger came could be the earlier one abbreviated

It would appear that the object was to allow Richard Baldock to inherit this land but the date has gone back to 1633; again "1633" is written very clearly in the probate copy. If we take it that these changes of ownership all took place the same year, we have:

19th February:	Anthony became admitted tenant but surrendered his tenancy to the lord of the manor for £125; Richard Baldock took over the tenancy
22nd February	Anthony's will written

But, since the will was written only three days Anthony surrendered his tenancy, the transactions do not seem to have been completed and he makes modifications to them in his will. The will was made yet more complicated by the recent death of his brother Erasmus from whom he was to receive some money which was to be put in bond for his underage daughter Margaret who seems to have been his only child. Again no burial was recorded for Erasmus.

What was meant by "All the rest and residue of the personal estate of me, the said Anthony Carleton, which was never the goods and chattels of Daniel Newman, gent. deceased, my predecessor"? (line 50)

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Anthony Carleton,
2 of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, gent., do make this my last will and
testament the
3 two and twentieth day of February in the ninth year of the reign of our
sovereign lord
4 king Charles. And in Anno dominum 1635. **First:** as a true member of the
mystical body of my
5 lord and saviour Jesus Christ, I do, with a sure heart and willing mind,
render and give
6 again into the hands of my lord god and creator my spirit nothing doubting
but for his
7 infinite mercies set forth in the precious blood of his dearly beloved son
Jesus Christ, my
8 redeemer, he will receive my soul into his glory and place it in the company
of his heavenly
9 angels, not for any desert of mine but of his merit, mercy and favour unto
me. **Item:** I give

10 and bequeath unto the poor of the parish of Sevenoaks, to be distributed by
my executrix
11 hereafter named, the day of my funeral the sum of forty shillings. And
whereas **Richard**
12 **Emery**, the younger, one of the late customary tenants of the **manor of**
Alrichsty in the county
13 of Bedd and **Agnes, his wife**, have surrendered into the hands of the lord of
the said manor
14 of Alrichsty twenty acres of arable and pasture lands with the
appurtenances lying in
15 the fealty of Alrichsty aforesaid to the use of me, the said Anthony Carleton,
my heirs and assigns,
16 forever, to which said copyhold lands according to the surrender, I, the said
Anthony Carleton,
17 am admitted tenant, to have and to hold to me and my heirs and assigns,
and afterwards the same
18 day, in open court, I, the said Anthony Carleton, did surrender the same into
the hands of the
19 lord of the said manor to the use of my last will. And whereas I, the said
Anthony Carleton,
20 for the consideration of the sum of one hundred twenty and five pounds
have the nineteenth of

21 February 1633 bargained, sold and surrendered all the said copyhold lands
into the hands of
22 the lord of the said manor of **Earlesty** to the use of **Richard Baldock**, the
younger of Arhsty
23 aforesaid and of his heirs and assigns forever, now for the better and more
perfect and sure
24 conveying and settling of the said copyhold lands unto the said Richard
Baldock, his heirs and
25 assigns, I do hereby limit and appoint the use of the first before mentioned
surrender to be
26 also to the use of the said Richard Baldock, his heirs and assigns, forever.
Item: whatsoever
27 sum or sums of money as is come to me by the last will and testament of
Erasmus Carleton, my brother,
28 deceased, and which I have put into the hands of my loving **brother Mr.**
Bigle Carleton and
29 have taken a bond of him for the sum in the name of **my daughter**
Margaret³³ and also all
30 other moneys whatsoever which shall happen to come to me after the death
of my said brother

33 Margaret, daughter of Anthony Carleton, gent. was baptised on 29th October 1622 and was therefore thirteen when Anthony wrote his will

31 Erasmus Carleton, I give and bequeath to my said daughter Margaret and to
be paid to her at
32 her age of one and twenty years or day of marriage which shall first happen.
And in the mean
33 time, my will and meaning is that all the said moneys, with the interest
thereof, shall be and
34 remain in the hands of my said brother Bigle Carleton if he live so long. And
if he die before the
35 said Margaret, my daughter, shall accomplish her said age of one and
twenty years or day of
36 marriage, then my will and meaning is that all the money that is and shall
be due to me or to the
37 said Margaret by the said bond or by the said will of my said brother
Erasmus shall be put
38 and placed out by the executor or executors of my said brother Bigle
Carleton upon good security given
39 unto some kinsman or friend of me, the said Anthony Carleton, for the use of
my said daughter
40 if **Mary, my wife**, shall think it fit. If not, then the said Mary to place it out
as aforesaid

page 2:

41 for the use, benefit and behoof of my said daughter to be paid her as
aforesaid. And further,
42 my earnest request and desire is to my said brother Bingle Carleton that he
would give to my said
43 daughter such consideration and increase for the same as he doth now
allow for the same. And if
44 my said daughter Margaret shall die before her said age of one and twenty
years or day of
45 marriage, then I give all the said money, with the increase, unto the heirs
males, and heirs females,
46 of the body of me, the said Anthony Carleton, begotten or to be begotten,
and if there shall be no such
47 heirs of me the said Anthony, then I give the one half thereof unto Mary, my
loving wife, and
48 the other half to my **nephew Mr. Mathew Carleton** to the end he should be
aiding and
49 assisting my said wife in what he may. All the rest and residue of the
personal estate of me,
50 the said Anthony Carleton, which was never the goods and chattels of
Daniel Newman, gent.
51 deceased, my predecessor, I give and bequeath the one half thereof to my
loving wife Mary Carleton

52 and the other half thereof to my said daughter Margaret to be equally
divided between them.

53 And I, the said Anthony Carleton, do make and ordain my sole and only
executrix of this my

54 last will and testament the said Mary, my wife. And do appoint the said
Mathew Carleton to be

55 my overseer of this my will requesting him to be aiding and assisting unto
my said wife

56 the best he can, the said Mary giving him content for his pains. In witness
whereof I, the

57 said Anthony Carleton, have to every leaf hereof set my hand and my seal to
the top. Anthony

58 Carleton, in the presence of **William Cox** and **Nicholas Brattle**

This will (CKS: Prs: w/3/201) is difficult to read partly because it includes words such as "chos?es" or "ches?es" which cannot be recognised.

Anno dom. 1639

- 1 In the name of god Amen.
2 I give and bequeath my soul unto the lord
3 and my body to the earth and I do desire that
4 my body may be buried in the churchyard by **my husband**.
5 I do ordain and make **my daughter Fraunces** my full and
6 whole executor of all my goods within and without to take all
7 and pay all {*blank left here in original*}
8 after my decease
9 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto my daughter Fraunces all my
10 fine choo?es and after her decease to her son those goods that is mentioned
11 **Item:** I give now unto her one pair of holland? sheets
12 **Item:** I give more one pair of flaxen sheets and all my other ?? sheets
13 **Item:** I give now unto her my painter? ?? or bason
14 **Item:** I give now unto her a cobbot, a tablet and a glass case with
15 ?? and stole and choo?es and chooson and this that belong so

16 she ?? {*again, rest of the line is blank*}

17 **Item:** I give her now some kettles³⁴, one brass kettle and one iron kettle

18 with ?? ?? posson and one iron possatie, a brass ??

19 ?? ?? ??

20 **Item:** I give now to her some ?? ?? ?? and more

21 I give her two pairs of pillowberes and now I give her

22 my bedstead and one featherbed and one flock

23 bed with the blanket and coverlets that

24 belong to both beds and now I give her three ?ish?? and

25 two bottles and a roudening? ?obe and a dozen baules and ??

26 and three and four wooden platters and I give her now

27 a great ?ale and marking ?? and four keller and now I give

28 her little table or bench, two shelves. **Item:** I give now to her

29 a chanpig? and all things belong to the dairy. I give to her

30 ?? ?? and one ?? **Item:** I give her now ?? kine

31 and a dozen of sheep and two pigs. **Item:** I give now

32 to her all my hay and ?? and all my wood, a lonilier?

33 those stose? with harrow and ladowes³⁵.

34 **Item:** I give to my ?? ?? two ewes and a barren ??,

34 "kitele"

35 ladders?

- 35 one chese and a brass basin.
36 **Item:** I give to my son ?? one shilling.
37 **Item:** I give to my two grandchildren of **William Gaimell**?
38 two sheep, one a piece. the mark of Rachell, widow to **Edward Carrier**

Nicholas Hauston³⁶

the mark of **Richard Senale's wife Margery**
the mark of **Thomas Senale's wife ??**

36 probably the writer of the will

George Children of Sevenoaks

George mentions neither wife nor children, his main heir and executor being his brother, John Children, the elder, of Boorne Place. In 1637, John Hollamby of Chiddingstone owned Boorne Place in Tonbridge (see [Hollamby in Families & Transcripts](#)). Whilst living in Sevenoaks when he died, George, who might have been a young man in the 1590s, could have been part of the large Childrens family of Tonbridge (see [More Families & Transcripts](#)). The Childrens in this will have been included in the Tonbridge database but it is not known how they were connected; it is possible, however, that George's brother was the John whose will of 1618 has survived.

Nuncupative Will of George Children, yeoman

spoken about 14th December 1595; George Children buried 26th December 1595
transcript from probate copy

- 1 In the name of god Amen. **Memorandum** that about the 14th
- 2 day of December in the year of our Lord god one thousand five hundred
- 3 ninety
- 4 five, George Children of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being
- 5 then of good

4 and perfect mind and remembrance did make his last will and testament
nuncupative
5 using these words or the like in effect, viz. **Imprimis:** he gave and
bequeathed unto
6 **Elizabeth, Amy, Margaret and Mary Children**, the natural and lawful
daughters
7 of **John Children**, th'elder, of **Boorne Place** in the county aforesaid, yeoman,
the
8 natural and lawful **brother** of him the said George Children, deceased, to
every
9 one of them the sum of five pounds a piece of good and lawful money of
England to be
10 paid unto them, and every of them, within one year after his decease.
Item: all the
11 residue of his goods, cattell and chattels and other things moveable and
unmoveable
12 whatsoever was due unto him, he gave and bequeathed unto the foresaid
John
13 Children, his brother, in the presence and hearing of **John Worceter and**
Bridget,
14 **his wife, Joane Harris**, the wife of Robert Harris, **Joane Clerke**, the wife of
John Clerke of Sevenoaks aforesaid.

This will was proved in May 1630 but when was it written? Has only the last page of this will survived?

- 1 This is ?? and will that the said Richard Clampard, the son
2 of **Richard Clampard the younger** should give unto **his brother**
3 **Thomas Clampard** forty shillings at one and twenty years of age
4 I give unto **my wife** eleven pounds.
5 I give unto **Dorothy Clampard** the bullock and one joined bedsted
6 dle and all things belonging to it. The **wife of Richard Clampard**
7 is to pay unto Dorothy Clampard six pounds wanting ten groats³⁷
8 the fourth day of August 1632.
9 I give unto **Ann Clampard** four pounds at one and twenty
10 years of age to be paid out of the moveables by her mother.
11 I give unto **Thomas Clampard** four pounds at one and twenty
12 years of age to be paid out of the moveables by his mother.
13 I give unto **Elizabeth Clampard** four pounds at one and twenty
14 years of age to be paid out of the moveables by her mother.

15 The wife of Richard Clampard is to put in security within
16 one and twenty days after his decease for the payment of this twelve
17 pounds as they rise of age.
18 I give unto Dorothy Clampard to be paid out of the moveables³⁸

Richard Clampard R
Elizabeth Clampard ³⁹
Thomas Christian
Waters Sibble

How were all these Clampards related? If the testator was the son of Richard Clampard the younger, his grandfather, Richard Clampard the elder would be assumed to have been alive. Ann, Thomas and Elizabeth were each to receive £4 at the age of twenty-one to be paid to them by their mother. "[The wife of Richard Clampard](#)" was to put in security for this payment of twelve pounds but was she the testator's wife?

38 the will just ends here with the witnesses following directly

39 her mark; the following two names look like signatures

John Cole, yeoman

The will of John Cole (**PCC: Ridley 35; Prob 11/155**) ends abruptly without any witnesses, etc. There are spaces on lines 19 and 25; presumably spaces were left in the original for the names of John's mother and wife when the will was being written, away from John Cole's home, by the scriptor who, when making notes, had forgotten to take these names. 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 in the presence of witnesses. No Coles were recorded in the parish register for this period.

		aged mother -	
		s587	
		John -	??
will		7 Feb 1629	
<hr/>			
s589	s591	s590	
Rachael	John	Harriet?	

1 In the name of god Amen. The
2 seventh day of February Anno domum one thousand six hundred twenty
3 eight. And in the fourth year of the reign of our sovereign lord king
4 Charles, etc. I, John Cole of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, **yeoman**,
being
5 sick and weak in body but of good and perfect memory, laud and praise be
given to
6 god for it, do make and ordain this my present last will and testament in
manner
7 and form following: That is to say, **First**: I commend my soul to god And my
body to
8 the earth to be buried where it shall please god to provide for it. And for all
such debts
9 as of right or in conscience I do owe to any person or persons, I do will them
to be paid
10 as speedily as conveniently may be after my decease. **Item**: I do give unto
my
11 **daughter Rachael** the sum of three score pounds, to **my daughter Harriet**?
the sum

12 of three score pounds more. And to **my son John** the sum of three score
pounds more
13 which said sums I will shall be paid to my said children severally and
respectively when
14 they shall attain to their several ages of one and twenty years. And if any of
them,
15 my said children shall happen to die before he, she or they shall attain to
his, her or their
16 said several age or ages, then my will is that the said portion or portions of
him, her or
17 them so dying shall remain and be unto the survivors of them equally
amongst them
18 or else wholly to the longest liver, to be paid at his, her or their said age or
ages afore=
19 said. **Item:** I do will that **my aged mother** shall either be orderly
20 and decently kept and provided for during her life by my executrix hereafter
named or
21 else my will and mind is, and I do hereby give and bequeath to my said
aged mother towards
22 her keeping during her life five pounds every year yearly to be paid at the
four usual
23 quarter days by even portions. The residue of all my goods, chattels and
estate after my debts

24 paid and my funeral expenses discharged and the legacies in this my will
performed, I do
25 wholly give and bequeath unto **my well beloved wife** whom I make
and ordain
26 my full and sole executrix of this my last will and testament. And for
overseers thereof
27 I do nominate and appoint my loving friends **Mr. Thomas Pett and Richard
Besbich**
28 whom I desire to be careful in what they may to see this my last will
performed. And for
29 their care and pains to be taken herein I do give to either of them, my said
overseers,
30 ten shillings. And I do hereby also will that if my said wife shall marry
again before
31 my said children's portions shall be paid as aforesaid, that then upon her
marriage she
32 shall give security to my said overseers for the payment of my said children's
portions
33 in manner and form according to my true intent and meaning herein
declared.

William Constable

The will of William Constable, alias Griffin, (PCC: Chaynay 38 Prob 11/42B) is difficult to read partly because some of the words used are unfamiliar. The date is given, on line 21, in an unusual format: "xxv of July A° ?? Elizabeth Regne". The year looks like "x" - ten but the will was proved in 1559 so that it must have been written in the first year of Elizabeth's reign - 25th July 1559. He asked to be buried in the church of Sevenoaks "if I change my life there".

William had a chest which was in the house of Robert Waddesborough at the Cock in Westminster; in it were some old gold coins - angels, ducats and french crowns - other money and clothes. Robert (who William describes as his "ost" or "oft") and his "fellow" Henry Williams were to be his executors. What occupation did he follow? He seems to have been connected with horses, leaving his saddle and bridle to Henry and owing money for horsemeat. He looked to be reasonably well off since the clothes he bequeathed included a "crimson taffeta doublet", a "black coat and spanish jerkin", his best cap, his two best shirts and all his boots.

1 In the name of god Amen. I, William Constable als. **Griffin** being sick in
body, nevertheless,
2 praised be god, in a good and perfect memory, do make my last will and
testament in manner and form following:
3 **First:** I bequeath my soul to Almighty God and to our lady Saint Mary and to
all th'holy company of heaven and my
4 body to be buried in the church of Sevenoaks if I change my life there. **First:**
I give and bequeath to **Anthony**
5 **Constable, my brother,** five pounds in gold being old as angels, ducats and
french crowns remaining in
6 my chest at the house of **Robert Waddesborough** at the **Cock in**
Westminster. **Item:** I give to **Elizabeth, my sister,**
7 in ?? five marks in money being in the custody of Robert Waddesborough
in my chest there. **Item:** I give
8 and bequeath to **my sister Margaret** five marks in money at the Cock
aforesaid and chest also. **Item:** I give
9 my crimson taffeta doublet remaining in the Cock foresaid in my chest to
my **fellow, Henry Williams.**

- 10 **Item:** I give to **my cousin Robert Constable** my black coat and spanish jerkin
and my best cap. **Item:**
- 11 I give to my said fellow and my said cousin, my two best shirts and all my
boots betwixt them in my chest
- 12 at the Cock aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Richard Williams at**
g?? brother to my fellow
- 13 Henry ?? ??⁴⁰ saddle and bridle. **Item:** I give and bequeath to my burial
after my legacies paid
- 14 and funeral discharged and to be bestowed to the poor ?? ?? ?? in my
chest
- 15 aforesaid. **Item:** I give unto ?? Start of Sevenoaks 5s in money in my own
keeping. **Item:** I give unto
- 16 **Thomas Mollder** £10 which he oweth me by a bill of his hand in my chest.
Item: I owe unto my ?? 4s or 40d for
- 17 horsemeat in Westminster. **Item:** I rebate and call again five pound of the
ten pounds appointed for my burial
- 18 to be given unto my said fellow Henry Williams and my ??⁴¹ Robert
Waddesborough whom I make my sole

40 looks like "--aggcolour flebyttten"

41 "ost" or "oft" - also used on line 16 (short for "ostler"?)

19 executors for the true performance and accomplishment of this my said last
will and testament, witnessing
20 the same I have subscribed my name with my own hand in the presence of
fellows Henry and Richard
21 ?? the 30th of July ?? Elizabeth Regne, by me William Constable.
Witness at the
22 making and reading of this will the day and year foresaid **William Wimble,**
Robert Jee, Edward ?? ??

Completely different phraseology is used in this will (CKS: Prs/w/3/136) compared with those investigated for the surrounding villages. It was probably written by Thomas Poore and the names of the witnesses all look like signatures. The will of a Thomas Poore was proved in 1649; it is possible that this was the same man since another scriptor, Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, was writing wills for forty-four years (1574 to 1618). There were Coxes in Seal but there is no way of connecting this testator with them.

The 31st of March Ao.dm.1616

1 In the name of god Amen. I, William Coxe of Knole in the parish of
2 Sevenoaks⁴² in Kent, Being at this time sick in Body but in good
3 and perfect memory and understanding, thanks be to Almighty god,
4 do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form
5 following, viz. **First:** I bequeath my soul to Almighty god, my creator

42 "Seavenocke" throughout

and to Jesus Christ, my redeemer, and to god the holy ghost, my ??, three persons, one eternal and everlasting god, and my Body to the Earth to be buried within the churchyard of Sevenoaks where it shall please my executor. **Item:** I give unto **my goddaughter, Susan Boreman** of Sevenoaks, six pounds in money, my ??, my biggest Trunk, two pairs of flaxen sheets, a featherbed tyle unmade up, a Tyle⁴³ bolster filled with feathers, two joined stools, a wheel⁴⁴ and two keelers. **Item:** I give unto **Ann Boreman, her sister**, my other trunk and two pairs of hempen sheets. **Item:** I give unto **Grace Robinson** that attendeth me in my sickness the sum of forty shillings. **Item:** I give unto **John Robinson of Frant** in Sussex the sum of forty shillings in money. **Item:** I give unto **Charles Robinson, his brother**, the sum of twenty shillings in money. Lastly I hereby make and ordain my brother-in-law **Michael Boreman** of Sevenoaks aforesaid, **Blacksmith**, executor of this my last will and testament unto whom I give my wearing apparel and the rest of my small store of goods, necessities and implements whatsoever, to defray the charge of my burial and other charges that he shall disburse for and about me. And so I beseech Almighty god to have mercy upon

43 the meaning of "tyle" is not known

44 probably a spinning wheel

24 me and at my last breath to receive my soul to his mercy.
Signed and sealed by the said The mark William
William Coxe the said last day of M Coxe
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

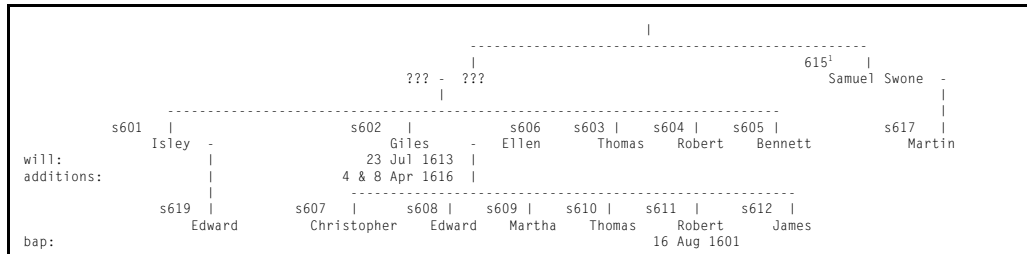
Edward Legg

Thomas Noreson

Thomas Poore

Giles Cranewell, gentleman

Although in his will (PCC: Cope 88; Prob 11/128) Giles describes himself as "of Sevenoaks" all the lands he mentions, except possibly his leases, are in Chiddingstone and Hever. The arrangements for their inheritance are also unusual: having given his land called Newlands to his son Christopher for his life, the remainder is then given, in turn, to four other sons, his daughter, four brothers (and to the heirs of each one) and lastly to his cousin and his heirs. What hope had the cousin of inheriting anything? This long list of possible inheritors is repeated for four other properties with just the order of the sons being changed.



1 "s" indicates a reference in the Sevenoaks database

"Robert, son of Giles Cranewell of Sundridge," was baptised in Sevenoaks on 16th August 1601; thus, although Giles does not mention it, some of his children would have been under age in 1613. Giles's first item, after a very brief preamble, was to will that all debts he owed "in law or in conscience be duly paid" by his executors and the second was to give to his son Christopher all his "common law books".

In the initial will written on 23rd July 1613, Giles left his daughter, Martha, all the leases he had at the time of his death "if she be not provided for and preferred in marriage in my life time". But Giles was still alive in the spring of 1616 and, presumably, Martha had not married. By this time, upon consideration and moved by "weighty causes", he decided to make void the gift of his leases to Martha and substitute them with a gift of £50 which was to be "raised with the profits of Winkers lease and with the fall of woods and timber in Chittenden"; the leases were now to go to his executors who were his wife and son Christopher. This change was made on 4th April 1616. But, from being too generous to his daughter, he seems to have gone too far the other way so that his executors thought £50 too little and, on 8th April, he changed it to £80. The will was proved on 30th September 1616.

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Giles Cranewell of
2 Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, **gent.**, do make this my last will and
testament in
3 manner and form following: **First:** I commend my soul to Almighty God.
And my
4 body to the earth. **Item:** I will that all debts that I do owe in law or in
conscience
5 be duly paid by my executors. **Item:** I give to **Christopher, my son,** all my
common
6 law books. **Item:** I give to **Johan Burwick, sometime my maid servant,**
twenty
7 shillings. **Item:** I give to the poor of the parish where I shall be buried ten
shillings.
8 **Item:** I give to **my daughter Martha** my lease of **Wynkers** with all other my
9 leases which I shall possess at the time of my decease if she be not provided
10 for and preferred in marriage in my life time. And if she be provided for and
11 preferred as aforesaid, then I give all my said leases to my executors. All
the

12 residue of my goods and chattels I give to **Ellen, my wife**, and Christopher,
13 my son, whom I make executors of this my testament.

14 This is the last will of me the said Giles Cranewell concerning my lands.
15 **First:** I give to Christopher, my son, for term of his life all that lands
commonly
16 called **Newlands** situated in **Hever** in the county of Kent, now or late in the occupa
17 tion of **John Wallis** or his assigns. The remainder to **Edward, my son**, and the
the
18 heirs of his body. The remainder in like estate to **Thomas, my son**, and the
heirs
19 of his body. The remainder in like estate to **Robert, my son**, and the heirs of
his
20 body. The remainder in like estate to **James, my son**, and the heirs of his
body.
21 The remainder in like estate to **Martha, my daughter**, and the heirs of her
body.
22 The remainder in like estate to **Isley, my brother**, and the heirs of his body.
The
23 remainder in like estate to **Thomas, my brother**, and the heirs of his body.
The

24 remainder in like estate to **Robert, my brother**, and the heirs of his body.
The
25 remainder in like estate to **Bennett, my brother**, and the heirs of his body.
The remain
26 der to **my cousin, Martin Swone**, and his heirs. The residue of my lands and
27 tenements whatsoever I give to my wellbeloved wife, Ellen, for term of her
life (if
28 she live sole and unmarried) and afterwards in manner and form following:
that
29 is to say, my mansion house called **Chittenden** and all the lands, meadows,
pastures
30 and woods therewith usually occupied now or late in the occupation of **John**
Woodgate
31 and **Edward Pullinger** or their assigns in the parishes of Hever and
Chiddingstone
32 in the county of Kent abutting upon the high way leading from **Ide hill** to
Bow
33 **beech**⁴⁵ towards the east, upon the highway leading from Ide Hill to Hever
towards

45 Bough Beech; 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 (line 37) is just over half a mile south of Chittenden on the Ide Hill to Bough Beech road.

34 the north and west and upon a lane leading from the tenement of **John**
35 **Wallis** to a
36 tenement called **Danes** towards the south and east and to the lands of **Sir**
37 **Thomas**
38 **Hopkins, knight**, towards the north and to the land sometimes **Mr. Cromers**
39 called
40 **Hilders** towards the east and south, I give and devise the same to
41 Christopher, my
42 son and the heirs of his body. The remainder to Edward, my son, and the
43 heirs
44 of his body. The remainder in like estate to Thomas, my son, and the heirs
45 of his
46 body. The remainder in like estate to Robert, my son, and the heirs of his
47 body.
48 The remainder in like estate to James, my son, and the heirs of his body.
49 The
50 remainder in like estate to Martha, my daughter, and the heirs of her body.
51 The
52 remainder in like estate to Isley, my brother, and the heirs of his body. The
53 remainder in like estate to Thomas, my brother, and the heirs of his body.
54 The
55 remainder in like estate to Robert, my brother, and the heirs of his body.
56 The remainder

46 in like estate to Bennett, my brother, and the heirs of his body. The
remainder
47 to my cousin, Martin Swone, and his heirs. And as touching my three
closes
48 or parcels of ground now or late in the occupation of **George Welles** or his
49 assigns situated in the parish of Chiddingstone aforesaid and adjoining to
50 Danes tenement, I give and devise them to Edward, my son, and the heirs of
his

page 2:

51 body. The remainder to Christopher, my son, and the heirs of his body. The
52 remainder in like estate to Thomas, my son, and the heirs of his body. The
53 remainder in like estate to Robert, my son, and the heirs of his body. The
54 remainder in like estate to James, my son, and the heirs of his body. The
55 remainder in like estate to Martha, my daughter, and the heirs of her body.
56 The remainder in like estate to Isley, my brother, and the heirs of his body.
57 The remainder in like estate to Thomas, my brother, and the heirs of his
body.
58 The remainder in like estate to Robert, my brother, and the heirs of his body.
59 The remainder in like estate to Bennett, my brother, and the heirs of his
body.
60 The remainder to my cousin, Martin Swone, and his heirs. And as touching
61 my three closes or parcels of land called **Stubbs Grove, Nix Croft** and the

62 **Heath** situated in Chiddingstone aforesaid now or late in the tenure or
occupation
63 of **Walter Hall** or his assigns, I give and devise them to Thomas, my son
64 and the heirs of his body. The remainder to Edward, my son, and the heirs
65 of his body. The remainder in like estate to Christopher, my son, and the
heirs
66 of his body. The remainder in like estate to Robert, my son, and the heirs of
67 his body. The remainder in like estate to James, my son, and the heirs of
68 his body. The remainder in like estate to Martha, my daughter, and the
69 heirs of her body. The remainder in like estate to Isley, my brother, and
70 the heirs of his body. The remainder in like estate to Thomas, my brother,
71 and the heirs of his body. The remainder in like estate to Robert, my
brother,
72 and the heirs of his body. The remainder in like estate to Bennett, my
brother,
73 and the heirs of his body. The remainder to my cousin, Martin Swone, and
74 his heirs. And as touching my parcel of land called **Droveden** and an acre
75 of meadow in the Ammery situated in the parish of Chiddingstone late in
the
76 occupation of **Robert Everest, deceased**, or his assigns, I give and devise the
77 same to Robert, my son, for term of his life. The remainder to **Edward, son**
78 **of my brother Isley** for term of his life. The remainder to Thomas, my son,
79 and the heirs of his body. The remainder in like estate to Edward, my son,

80 and the heirs of his body. The remainder in like estate to Christopher, my
son,
81 and the heirs of his body. The remainder in like estate to James, my son,
and
82 the heirs of his body. The remainder in like estate to Martha, my daughter,
83 and the heirs of her body. The remainder in like estate to Isley, my brother,
84 and the heirs of his body. The remainder in like estate to Thomas, my
brother,
85 and the heirs of his body. The remainder in like estate to Robert, my
brother,
86 and the heirs of his body. The remainder in like estate to Bennett, my
brother,
87 and the heirs of his body. The remainder to my cousin, Martin Swone, and
his
88 heirs, which said Martin Swone, so often before named is son to **my late
uncle**
89 **Samuel Swone**, deceased. Also I give and devise to **my youngest son,**
90 **James**, during his life, one annual or yearly rent or payment of four
91 pounds by the year to be issuing out of my said messuage and lands
92 called Chittenden now or late in the tenure or occupation of the afore
named
93 John Woodgate and Edward Pullinger or their assigns, situated in Hever

94 and Chiddingstone in the said county of Kent, to be paid at the feasts of
Saint
95 Michael the Archangel and the Annunciation of our lady by even portions
96 to begin at such of the same feasts as shall first happen next after the estate
of
97 Ellen, my wife, be ended or determined in the same lands. And if it happen
98 the said annual or yearly rent or payment to be behind and unpaid in
99 part or in all by the space of ten days next after any of the said feasts
100 in which it is before limited to be paid, that then and so often the said
James
101 may into the said messuage and lands enter and distrain and the distress
102 and distresses there taken to be led, devise, taken and carried away. And
the same

page 3:

103 detain and keep until the said annual or yearly rent or payment, with the
104 arrearage (if any shall be) be fully paid and satisfied. Dated this fourteenth
day
105 of July in the eleventh year of the reign of our sovereign Lord king James
over
106 England, etc. Anno dm 1613. Giles Cranewell. Sealed and published by the
above
107 named Giles Cranewell 23rd July Anno dm. 1613 in the presence of **Rob.**

108 **Holdsworth, Tho. Booth, John Seyliard.** ?? upon considerations and
109 weighty causes me moving, I do revoke and make void the gift within
mentioned
110 to my daughter Martha as touching my lease of Winkers and my other
leases.
111 And now my very will is that she shall have only fifty pounds of lawful
112 money of England to be levied and raised with the profits of Winkers lease
113 and with the fall of woods and timber in Chittenden in all convenient speed
after
114 my decease. And she shall not have Winkers lease nor none of my other
leases
115 but the same shall be to my executors. And the said testament and will
within
116 mentioned to stand in force in all and every other respect and respects.
Witnesseth
117 my hand this 4 of April 1616. And 13th year James Rg.. Giles Cranewell
118 For as much as the executors within named do think the portion of fifty
pounds
119 aforesaid to be too little, therefore it is my will that it be increased to
120 fourscore pounds to be delivered as before is limited. 8 April 1616 And
121 14th James Rg. Giles Cranewell.

First: I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty god, my maker, and in Jesus Christ, his son, my redeemer, in whom I trust to have remission of my sins and everlasting life. And my body I bequeath to the earth from whence it came to be buried in the parish churchyard of Sevenoaks

Witnesses: William Turner, mark of Edward Everest, Richard Wragge

D

Will of Walter Douglas

PCC: Fairfax 113

written 26th April 1649; Walter Douglas buried 5th May 1649

transcript from probate copy

- 1 In the name of god Amen.
2 I, Walter Douglas of the parish of Sevenoaks, being in perfect memory, do
make
3 this my last will and testament. **Imprimis:** I bequeath my body to the earth
from
4 whence it came and my spirit unto God that gave it. And for my personal
effects in
5 manner and form following: **Item:** I give unto **my son-in-law Thomas Welles**
6 the sum of ten pounds. And to **my son-in-law Thomas Hawse** the sum
7 of five pounds. And five pounds to **my son-in-law Richard Alchine**. **Item:** I
give unto
8 **my grandchild Christopher Hayward** the forty shillings **Richard Bell** oweth
me. To be paid

9 into the parish of Sevenoaks to put him to printing. **Item:** I do give unto my
sons-
10 in-law, Thomas Hawse, Thomas Welles, Richard Alchine, all the half of my
wheat and
11 all my goods and debts in whose hands soever they remain to be equally,
and in even
12 parts, divided between them. And that they shall have hereunto everyone
an equal share to
13 give me a decent burial. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand
and seal
14 this six and twentieth day of April one thousand six hundred forty nine. The
15 mark of Walter Duglas. **William Wall** The mark of **Samuel Gisup**.

No executors were appointed and the will was administered by Walter's three sons-in-law who were the principal legatees.

E

The Everests

A large number of wills have survived for members of the Everest family living in the Tonbridge/ Sevenoaks area. The earliest is that of Thomas, a butcher from Tonbridge, written in 1598 (CKS: Drb/Pw 18; Drb/Pwr 19I.52) when he owned a shop in the shambles of Sevenoaks which he left to his son Thomas.

In addition to the families of the two Sevenoaks testators, other Everests are mentioned in the parish records and details are given after the transcripts of the wills. The difficulties inherent in trying to build up family structures from wills and parish records alone is illustrated by the discussions regarding the Everests.

Other wills and further details of the Everests are given in the [Families and Extra Transcripts Section](#).

Mathew and Peter Everest	E.2
Will of Mathew Everest	E.5
Will of Peter Everest	E.7
Other Everests of Sevenoaks	E.11
The Other Peter Everests	E.12
Some Small Families	E.14

Mathew and Peter Everest

The two wills for Sevenoaks are:

- Mathew Everest (**CKS: Prs/w/5/132**) who was buried 11th January 1615/6 but his will does not appear to be dated; it was proved on 8th April 1616. He appointed his brothers, John of Tonbridge and Peter of Sevenoaks, as his overseers.
- Peter Everest (**PCC: Essex 32; Prob 11/203**); Peter Everest of Weald was buried on 17th January 1647/8 but his will which was proved on 4th February 1647/8 was written on 2nd October 1644.

A Peter Everest wrote his will in 1627 (**CKS: Prs/w/5/140**) when he was “of [Chiddingstone](#)”. In it he mentions land in Chiddingstone which had been left to him by his father, Phillip. Peter, brother of Mathew the testator, could have been living in Sevenoaks in 1616 moving to Chiddingstone when he inherited his father's land. Alternatively, Mathew's brother could have been the Peter Everest who had children in Sevenoaks ten years or so before Mathew started his family. this second Peter could not have been the Chiddingstone testator since the children's names in the will are very different from those in the parish register.

The John Everest of Tonbridge whose will of 1622 has survived (**PCC: Savile 113; Prob 10/394**) had a brother Peter.

Thus Mathew, Peter (will 1627) and John of Tonbridge could have been three brothers and the sons of Phillip. The Peter who wrote his will in 1644, like Mathew a husbandman of Sevenoaks and with his elder children born in the 1610s, could have been Mathew's son, being too young to have been his brother.

Mathew was a churchwarden of Sevenoaks in 1604. His will is short but he left one of his sons his best bible with half his other books. All Mathew's children seem to have been of age when he wrote his will so that Peter, most likely the eldest son since he was joint executor with his mother, was probably born in the early 1580s.

The children of both Mathew and Peter were recorded in the parish register - see the next page.

x439 Mathew - Elizabeth x442									
11 Jan 1616									
8 Apr 1616									

x538	s192	s191/x443	s199	x444	x445	x447			
Margaret	Joan	Peter	Elizabeth	Moses	Debora	Jane			
bap: 1 May 1560					31 Jan 1591				
will:		2 Oct 1644							
bur:	20 Dec 1625	17 Jan 1648							

s194	s193	s195	s196	s197	s198				
Peter	John	Elizabeth	Dorothy	Mildred	William				
bap:		7 May 1615		1 Mar 1618	26 Dec 1620				
bur:		26 Nov 1615							

</									

Between 1627 and 1634 Peter had six more children, five of whom survived at least until 1644, all except Mary being mentioned in his will. Margaret and the three youngest were recorded as the children of Peter Everest, senior. By 1629, Peter, the eldest son from the first marriage would have been about eighteen, just about old enough to be Peter, junior. With ten of his twelve children surviving and the youngest only ten in 1644 when Peter wrote his will, Peter had a considerable family for which to provide. Except for before 1615, there is hardly time for any other unrecorded children.

Will of Mathew Everest

buried 11 January 1615/6; will proved 8th April 1616
transcript from original

- 1 In the name of god Amen. I, Mathew Everest of the parish of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent,
- 2 **husbandman**, being of perfect remembrance, thanks be given to god
- 3 Almighty, do ordain and make this my last will and testament in manner
- 4 and form following: viz. I bequeath my soul unto Almighty god hoping to be
- 5 saved by the merits, death and passion of my lord and saviour, Jesus Christ, and

6 my body to be buried in the christian burial which it shall please the
almighty
7 god. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the poor of the parish of Sevenoaks six
shillings
8 eight pence. I give and bequeath unto to **Moses Everest, my son**, the
bedstead with the
9 bed, bolsters, pillows, blankets and covering which I use to lie upon. I give
unto
10 **John?, my son**, a joined chest. I give more unto him, my best bible with half
my other
11 books. I give unto him forty shillings of good English money to be paid unto
him
12 within one year after my decease. I give **Bradshaw** 10s. I give to
13 **Debora, my daughter**, 10s. I give unto **Jane, my daughter**, five shillings. All
the rest
14 of my moveable goods, chattels, cattels, leases and creditors, not given, I
give and bequeath
15 to **Elizabeth, my wife**, and **Peter Everest, my son**, whom I make joint my
16 executors to pay my debts and legacies and my body to be buried. I ordain
17 and appoint **John Everest of Tonbridge** and **Peter Everest of Sevenoaks, my**
18 **brothers**, to be my overseers. I give them for their pains two shillings

19 a piece. In witness whereof to this my last will and testament I have
20 set my hand and seal in the presence of **Edward Waller** and **Thomas Lambe**

Will of Peter Everest

written 2nd October 1644; proved 4th February 1647/8

buried: 17th January 1647/8

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. I,
2 Peter Everest, ??, of the parish of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent,
husbandman, being at this
3 present (God be praised therefore) of good and perfect mind and memory, do
make my last will and
4 testament in manner and form following: **Imprimis**: I bequeath my soul unto
Almighty God
5 who infused the same assuredly, trusting through the only merits of Christ
Jesus, my saviour, to be
6 made partaker of a joyful resurrection to life everlasting. And my body to
the earth. And as touching

7 the disposition of that estate wherewith god hath endowed me, my will is as
followeth: **Imprimis** I give

page 2:

8 and bequeath unto **Elizabeth, my loving wife**, one joined bedstead standing
in the west end of my
9 house with the featherbed, feather bolster, two feather pillows, two blankets
and a coverlet, one
10 joined chest which I had ?? and one bread box, one boarded chest, one
joined stool, two small
11 ?? and the third part of my linen, half my pewter, one great new brass
kettle which
12 I lately bought, one little brass pot and one iron pot, one small brass chafer,
one of my lesser spits,
13 the small iron dripping pan with one pair of pothangers, one brand iron and
also one table standing
14 in a low chamber in the west end of my dwelling house and one cupboard
standing in the same room
15 with one small drinking vessel. And all my poultry and ten pounds of lawful
english money to her
16 paid by my executor hereafter named forty shillings thereof within one
month after my decease and

17 the other eight pounds within six months after my decease. **Item:** I give and
devise unto **Elizabeth,**
18 **Margaret, Daniel, Jane and Francis, five of my children,** four pounds apiece
to be paid unto
19 them at their several ages of twenty years by my said executor. **Item:** I give
unto **Peter** and
20 **William, two other of my sons,** three pounds a piece to be paid unto them
within one year after my
21 decease. **Item:** I give unto **Dorothy and Mildred, two other of my daughters,**
forty shillings a piece
22 to be paid unto them within nine months next after my decease. All the rest
and residue of my goods
23 and chattels whatsoever, my debts, funeral expenses and legacies
discharged, I give and devise
24 unto **John, one other of my sons,** he educating and bringing up such of his
brothers and sisters
25 afore named as shall be under twenty years at the time of my death until
they shall attain
26 the said age of twenty years and I nominate and appoint the said John
executor of this my last will
27 and testament. And **William Walsen** of the said parish of Sevenoaks and
Thomas Rigby of

28 the same, **butcher**, overseers of this my last will and testament desiring
them to see this my
29 will performed. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal
this second day of
30 October in the twentieth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord Charles by
the grace of
31 God of England, Scotland, France and Ireland king, defender of the faith,
etc. Peter Everest
32 Signed, sealed, delivered and published and declared as his last will and
testament in presence
33 of **Chris Thomas, Nicholas Tryces, Richard Oakett.**

Other Everests of Sevenoaks

There were a number of other Peters in Sevenoaks besides Peter the testator who has been taken as Mathew's son. Thus it is difficult to decide which children are brothers and sisters. Peter, father of the following children, could have been Mathew's brother but not the Peter of Chiddingstone whose will has survived since these children do not match the names in the will. There is no firm evidence that the second and third generations are all descendants of this Peter but they "fit in".

As with other families where the same first name is used in a number of generations, the Peter born in 1575 (s228) is "Peter, junior," when his son Mathew is born (1615) but "Peter, senior," when his son starts his family in 1625.

In addition to the children and grandchildren of Peter Everset, there are a number of small families whose inter-relationships cannot be determined on the small amount of information available.

The Other Peter Everests

bur:		x223 Peter - 11 Jan 1616			
s225		s226		s229	
Susan		Walter		Margery Chilley	
bap:	23 Nov 1563	bap:	11 Nov 1565		
bur:	12 Feb 1564	bur:	21 Dec 1621		
				s227	
				Edward	
				6 Jun 1568	
				s228	
				Peter	
				3 Jul 1575	
				s237	
				?? ⁴⁶	
				20 Dec 1625	
s230		s231		s232	
Peter		William		Margery -	
bap:	26 Mar 1592	bap:	3 Apr 1598	bap:	10 Nov 1599
bur:		bur:		bur:	
				s238	
				Peter	
				19 Oct 1600	
				25 Dec 1649	
				s243	
				Margaret Lambert	
				< 1639 ⁴⁷	
				s239	
				Mathew	
				5 Feb 1615	
				s240	
				Margaret	
				3 Dec 1617	
				s236	
				"Mary, daughter of Margery"	
bap:		bap:	1 May 1623	bap:	29 May 1625
bur:		bur:	25 Oct 1624	bur:	
				s242	
				Henry	
				s244	
				Dorothy	
				19 Oct 1628	
				s245	
				Margaret	
				2 Jan 1631	
				s246	
				Marie	
				9 Jun 1633	

Walter "son of Peter" could have been the Walter who married Margery Chilley on 6th October 1589; "Margery, daughter of Walter, baptised in 1599, is likely to have been a child of this union. Margery seems to have been the mother of an illegitimate child who died at about 16 months.

⁴⁶ "--, wife of Peter Everest, senior", was buried in October 1623 and could have been this Peter's wife

⁴⁷ see next page for details of Peter's marriages

This Walter could also have been the householder who died in 1621. **Elizabeth Everest, widow** (s233), married **Richard Hall** (s234) on 19th January 1622, a month after Walter was buried. If there was only one Walter, Margery must have died between 1599 and 1620 with Elizabeth being Walter's wife by 1621.

Regarding Walter's younger brother Peter, there is a long gap between the birth of his eldest son in 1600 and Mathew in 1615, some months before the baby's grandfather died. It is possible that s228 married twice.

Peter Everest, junior, married Margaret Lambert on 30th April 1626 and she could have been the mother of Dorothy, Margaret and Marie (all daughters of Peter, junior) but Henry, son of Peter Everest, junior, was baptised before this marriage.

Peter Everest married **Jone White** on 29th September (year not given) and Jane, wife of Peter, junior, died in 1639 when s228 could still have been alive. It thus seems that Margaret must have died sometime prior to 1639. with Peter, junior, marrying three times. He could have been the Peter Everest who died in 1649.

"**Elizabeth, daughter of Peter Everest, servant**" was buried on 24th April 1617 but it is not possible to identify this Elizabeth.

There was also a man referred to as "**Short Peter Everest**". His wife Hester was buried on 24th May 1631 and his daughter Elizabeth on 1st March 1633.

Some Small Families

The 1560s and 1570s

bur:	s206 John - 		s210 Richard, householder - 26 Aug 1610		
	-----		-----		
	s208	s209	s212	s213	s214
	Elizabeth	Jone	Jane	Thomas	Edward
bap:	22 Jun 1563	12 Oct 1567	10 Oct 1565	6 Feb 1569	25 Jan 1571

1606 - 1619

bur:	s206 Edward, householder - 20 Feb 1619		

	s217	s218	s219
	Jane	Marie	Edward
bap:	18 May 1606	21 Apr 1616	5 Sep 1619

Edward baptised in 1619 was described as the “son of --, widow of Edward”.

The 1620s

10 Mar 1623/4

9 Apr 1624

“Ann, base daughter of Mary Everest” was baptised

Ann was buried

Ann’s mother cannot be identified.

10 Feb 1626

“widow Everest from the almshouse” was buried.

The 1630s and 1640s

<i>bur:</i>	s220 Francis weaver -		s248 Richard - Isabel Pacie				s249 (married 20th January 1633)	
	s222		s250 s251 s252 s253 s254 s255					
	Jone		Dorothy Elizabeth Richard Ursula John Isabel					
<i>bap:</i>	4 Mar 1632	10 Nov 1633	25 Oct 1636	8 Apr 1638	15 Sep 1639	8 May 1642	14 Dec 1645	
<i>bur:</i>	24 May 1632 ⁴⁸							

s256 William - Ann Cowlerd			s257 (married 11th August 1639)		
s258	s259	s260	s261	s262	s263
William	John	Ann	Peter	Margaret	Francis
6 Sep 1640	20 Mar 1642	23 Jun 1644	9 Aug 1646	24 Sep 1648 15 Jun 1649	28 Apr 1650
bap: bur:					

Ann Everest married William Sutton on 2nd February 1642/3.

48 "daughter of Francis Everest, deceased"

F

Will of Thomas Farnaby	1647	PCC: Fines	221	schoolmaster	F.2
Will of Paul Farrow	1580	PCC: Arundell	15		F.12
William Floate, carpenter, and Elyas Garland					F.15
Floate, William	1640	CKS: Prs/w/6/41		carpenter	F.16
Garland, Elyas	1625	PCC: Clarke	68	nun.	F.18
William Frankwell, yeoman, and his family					F.19
Frankwell, William	1625	PCC: Clarke	53		F.22
Will of Thomas Frost (Knole in)	1623	PCC: Swann	60	gent.	F.29

1 In the name of almighty god
2 who bless me now herein and for the residue of my life, I, Thomas Farnaby
3 of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, being, praised be the lord, though weak
4 in body, yet in perfect mind and memory, do make and ordain this my
5 last will and testament. My soul I commend into the hands of my creator
6 with trust in his mercy and through faith in the merits and mediation of
7 my saviour, Jesus Christ, that it finding pardon and remission of sins,
8 shall in the last day be saved and retained to this body then to be
9 glorified, the decent burial whereof I commend to my executrix. To her care
10 also I commend the order of paying my debts and legacies. And as for and
11 concerning my estate in lands and leases wherewith it hath pleased god to
12 bless me, I dispose thereof in manner following, that is to say, whereas I
13 am possessed for the term of divers years as yet to come of and in diverse
14 messuages, lands and tenements known by the name or names of the
demean lands
15 of the **Manor of Otford** in the county of Kent and of the **Little Park**
16 of Otford, now disparted, and of and in all the lands, meadows, feedings,
17 pastures, commons and profits whatsoever within the lands ?? with
18 their ?? now or late parcel of the demean lands of the said Manor

of Otford by virtue of several leases thereof heretofore made or assigned unto me. And whereas also in which by indentures tripartite bearing date the 12th day of this instant month of March and made or mentioned to be made between **William Spurstowe of Hackney** in the County of **Midd. clerk**, son and heir of **William Spurstowe late citizen and mercer of London**, deceased, of the first part, **Wm. Rogers, citizen and fishmonger of London** aforesaid and **William Horner, citizen and salter of London** aforesaid of the second part and me, the said Thomas Farnaby and **Anne, my wife**, and **John Farnaby, eldest son** of me, the said Thomas Farnaby by a former wife and **Francis Farnaby, son** of me the said Thomas and Anne, my wife, of the third part. The reversion of the said messuages, lands and tenements comprised in the said leases are respectively settled and assured unto and upon the said Anne Farnaby, John Farnaby, Francis Farnaby in such manner and for such several and respective estate and estates as in the said indentures tripartite is mentioned. As in and by the said indentures tripartite ?? being thereunto had more fully at large it doth and may appear. Now to the intent and purpose that my lease estate and terms of years of and in the messuages, lands and tenements may not be sold by either of my said sons nor extinguished but may attend the inheritance thereof and thereby remain in my name and blood for so long as it shall please almighty god according to the respective limitations of the reversion

42 thereof in the said indenture tripartite limited and appointed, I
43 do give, devise and bequeath all the lease thereof and all my term and
44 terms of years estate and interest whatsoever in and to th'aforesaid
45 lands and premises by virtue of the said leases unto my good friends
46 th'aforesaid Wm. Rogers and William Horner, their executors, administrators
47 and assigns. Nevertheless upon trust and confident that they, the said
48 William Rogers and William Horner, their executors, administrators and
assigns, from time
49 to time during the continuance in force of the said several leases,
50 shall quietly permit and suffer my said wife, Anne Farnaby, during her
51 life to receive and take the issues and profits of all the said
52 lands and tenements ?? the reversion after the said lease is by the said
53 indenture limited unto her, the said Anne, for her life. And shall

page 2:

54 also permit and suffer my said son John Farnaby and such person and
55 persons to whom the reversion and remainder after his death is limited by
the
56 said indenture, to enjoy and receive the issues and profits of those lands
57 during the said leases whereof the reversion is so limited to him and them
58 by the said indenture. And shall permit and suffer my said son Francis

59 Farnaby and the heirs of his body and them in remainder⁴⁹ to enjoy and
60 receive
61 the issues and profits of those lands during the said leases whereof the
62 reversion is fee limited to him and them by the said indenture. And I do
63 give and bequeath to **my daughter Judith Bladwell, late the wife of Wm.**
64 **Bladwell**, decd. for the term of her natural life one annuity or yearly
65 rent of ten pounds by the year of lawful money of England to be
66 issuing and payable out of such part of the said lands and premises
67 comprised in my said leases whereof my son John Farnaby by the
68 intention of this my last will is to receive the present profits. The same
69 annuity or yearly rent to be paid unto my said daughter Judith
70 Bladwell at the two usual feasts or terms in the year, that is to
71 say, the feast of St. Michael Th'archangel and th'annunciation of the blessed
72 virgin Mary, by even and equal portions beginning the first payment
73 thereof at such of the said feasts as shall first and next happen
74 after my decease. Provided that if the said annuity or yearly rent
75 of £10, or any part thereof, shall happen to be behind or unpaid in
76 part or in all by the space of one and thirty days next
ensuing either of the said feasts in which as aforesaid the same ought

49 was their any significance in the different wording regarding to two sons with "heirs of his body" for Francis and "such person" etc" for John?

77 to be paid, that then and so often it shall and may be⁵⁰ unto and for my
78 said daughter Judith Bladwell, and her assigns, into the premises so as
79 aforesaid charged with the said rent, or into any part thereof, to enter
80 and distrain and the distress and distresses then and there found to
81 take, bear, drive, lead, carry away, impound and in pound to detain
82 until she, the said Judith Bladwell and her assigns, shall of the said
83 annuity so behind and unpaid and of the arrears thereof, if any
84 be, be fully satisfied and paid. **Item:** I also give and bequeath unto **my**
85 said daughter Judith Bladwell, for and during the term of her natural
86 life, one other annuity of £10 by the year lawful money of England
87 to be issuing and payable out of such other part of the said lands
88 and premises comprised in my said leases whereof my said son Francis
89 Farnaby or any other to his use by the intention of this my last will is to
90 receive the present profit, the same annuity to be also paid unto my
91 said daughter Judith Bladwell and her assigns at the feasts before
mentioned
92 by equal portions beginning the first payment thereof at such of the said
93 feasts as shall first and next happen after my decease. Provided that if the
94 said annuity or yearly rent of £10, or any part thereof, shall happen to be
95 behind or unpaid in part or in all by the space of one and thirty
96 days next ensuing either of the said feasts in which as aforesaid the

50 "lawful" omitted here; it is included in line 97 below

97 same ought to be paid, that then and so often it shall and may be
98 lawful unto and for my said daughter Judith Bladwell, and her assigns,
99 into the premises so as aforesaid charged with the said rent, or into
100 any part thereof, to enter and distrain and the distress and distresses
101 then and there found to take, bear, drive, lead, carry away, impound and
102 in pound to detain until she, the said Judith Bladwell and her
103 assigns, shall of the said annuity so behind and unpaid and of the arrears
104 thereof (if any be) be fully satisfied and paid. **Item:** I give also and
105 bequeath unto my said daughter Judith Bladwell, for and during the term

page 3:

106 of her natural life, one other annuity of ten pounds by the year lawful
107 money of England to be issuing and payable out of the other part of the
108 said lands and premises comprised in my said leases whereof my said son
109 Francis Farnaby or any other to his use by the intention of this my last
110 will is to receive the present profit, the same annuity to be also
111 paid unto my said daughter Judith Bladwell and her assigns at the
112 feasts before mentioned by equal portions beginning the first payment
113 thereof at such of the said feasts as shall first happen after my decease.
114 Provided that if the said annuity of ten pounds, or any part thereof,
115 shall happen to be behind or unpaid in part or in all by the space of one
116 and thirty days next ensuing either of the said feasts in which as aforesaid
117 the same ought to be paid, that then and so often it shall and may be

118 lawful unto and for my said daughter Judith Bladwell, and her assigns,
119 into the premises as aforesaid charged with the said rent, or into any part
120 thereof, to enter and distrain and the distress and distresses then and
121 there found to take, bear, drive, lead, carry away, impound and in pound
122 to detain until she, the said Judith Bladwell and her assigns, shall of
123 the said annuity so behind and unpaid and of the arrears thereof, if
124 any be, be fully satisfied and paid. **Item:** I give and bequeath my
125 dwelling house and the moiety or half part of my lands known by the
126 name of **Kippington** and lying in the parish of Sevenoaks in the county
127 of Kent, unto my beloved wife Anne Farnaby aforesaid for and during
128 the term of her natural life without impeachment of waste. And after her
129 decease unto my foresaid son Francis Farnaby and the heirs of
130 his body begotten. And for default of such issue to my foresaid
131 son John Farnaby and to the heirs of his body begotten. And for
132 default of such issue to my right heirs for ever. And the other
133 moiety of my lands known by the name of Kippington, and lying in
134 the parish of Sevenoaks aforesaid in the said county of Kent, I
135 give and bequeath them to my said son Francis Farnaby and the heirs
136 of his body begotten. And for default of such issue to my said son
137 John Farnaby and the heirs of his body begotten. And for default
138 of such issue to my right heirs for ever. And my will and meaning is
139 that my land so as aforesaid limited and bequeathed by me unto
140 my wife shall be in full satisfaction and recompense of her dower which

141 is otherwise due unto her by the law of the kingdom or by any
142 custom of any county or place. And that the said land so devised
143 and limited unto her shall be a full bar and exclusion that she
144 do not claim or demand any dower whatsoever. **Item:** my further
145 will and meaning is that, until my said son Francis Farnaby attain
146 th'age of one and twenty years, my said wife Anne Farnaby shall receive
147 all the rents, issues and profits of the lands and tenements which I
148 disposed unto him and shall thereout pay unto the said Judith
149 Bladwell the rent charge to her thereout payable and allow unto
150 him, my said son Francis, convenient maintenance for his education and
151 livelihood in such sort as she shall think fit and shall account unto
152 him for the surplusage of what she shall so receive and not pay
153 or employ for the said rent charge and for his maintenance and
154 education as aforesaid within six months after he shall attain to
155 his age of one and twenty years. To my servant **George Sand**

page 4:

156 I bequeath five pounds. To which other servants shall be resident with
157 me at the time of my death, I give to each of them forty shillings
158 My other goods and chattels as my personal estate, I bequeath
159 to my said wife Anne Farnaby whom I ordain my full and
160 sole executrix for performance of this my last will and
161 testament. To whose conscientious care and charge likewise I

commend and leave the payment of my legacies and debts which
debts and sums I owe. 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
Canltme lately in the tenure of **Richard Cronke** or **Brittons**
Mead⁵¹ also parcel of Kippington and thereby pay my legacies and
inst. debts. And I also hereby revoke, cancel and make void all other
and former wills whatsoever heretofore made by me and do declare
this to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof, I, the
said Thomas Farnaby to this my present last will and testament
contained in five whole sheets of paper and this part of a sheet
have set my hand and seal this four and twentieth day of
March Anno Dm one thousand six hundred and forty five and in the
one and twentieth year of the reign of our sovereign lord
Charles by the grace of god king of England, Scotland, France
and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. so beseeching god
to bless us all in life and death, I commend us and all our⁵²
to his gracious protection and mercy which I beseech the Lord
to grant to us all through the whole course of our life, at the hour

⁵¹ Brittain's Lane runs parallel to Kippington Road

⁵² presumably a word omitted here, possibly an error made when the probate copy was written

181 of death and the day of judgement. Thomas Farnaby. Signed
182 sealed, published and declared by the said Thomas Farnaby for his last
183 will and testament in the presence of us **John Gualter, Robert Abbot,**
184 **Scr.** and **John Morris**, his servant⁵³.

53 the servant of Robert Abbot or Thomas Farnaby?

This will (PCC: **Arundell 15**) is the only one which has survived from this area for a Farrow; it was written by George Brooke. Two other wills written by George Brooke/Brooker have survived, one from Speldhurst written in 1606 and the other from Penshurst written in 1611. The phrases used are very different from those in Hooper wills (other professional scriptors in the area), for example "[he to have when he shall accomplish the age of 21 years](#)".

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The 12 day of June
- 2 in the year of our lord god 1578 and in the twentieth year of the reign of our
sovereign lady
- 3 Elizabeth, by the grace of God Queen of England, France and Ireland,
defender of the faith, etc.
- 4 I, Paul Farrow of Sevenoaks being sick in body and of perfect remembrance,
doth make and
- 5 ordain his last will and testament in manner and form following: **First:** I
will my soul to Almighty god, my
- 6 body to be buried in the churchyard of Sevenoaks. **Item:** my will is that
there shall be 10s distributed to the

7 poor at my burial. **Item:** I give to **my son, Richard Farrow**, when he shall
accomplish the age of
8 21, my best bedstead, my silver and gilt salt, five gilted spoons, one black
pot covered with silver
9 and one chest being bound with iron bars. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
Raphe, my son, my second
10 joined bedstead and two silver spoons and the sum of forty pounds of good
and lawful money of
11 England to be paid and employed for his most use the last day of May 1580.
The said bedstead
12 and the two silver spoons, he to have when he shall accomplish the age of
21 years. If he do decease
13 within the term of 21 years, then my will is that **Richard, my son**, shall enjoy
the said sum of
14 forty pounds and also the said bedstead and spoons. And so my will is that
one should be either
15 other's heir. All the residue of my goods and cattells, moveables and the
lease of my house called **Newlyn** and the lease of my house called **Welles**,
16 the which I purchased of **Mr. Alderman Starkey**, I give and bequeath to
Joane, my wife, for term
17 of her natural life, she paying all my debts, whom, with **my brother, Frauncis
Farrow**, I make my

18 executors. And my master, **Richard Lone**⁵⁴, **Esquire**, my overseer. And after
the decease of the said Joane, I
19 will the said house or lands shall be ensured to the said Richard and to his
heirs. If Richard, my son, do decease
20 before Joane, my wife, then my will is that the said leases and interest to
remain to Raphe, my son and to
21 his heirs. If it shall happen that both my sons and Joan, my wife, fail, my
will is that the said leases
22 and interest and the goods before bequeathed to my sons, to remain to my
brother Frauncis Farrow and
23 to his heirs forever. These being witness of the said last will **William**
Lawson, vicar⁵⁵, **John Werretor?**
24 and **George Brooke**, writer hereof.

54 probably the Richard Lone, gent. whose will was written on 12th June 1581

55 vicar of Sevenoaks from 31st January 1559/60 until his death in August 1579 (Rooker, 1910)

William Floate, carpenter and Elyas Garland

William Floate was married to the sister of Elyas Garland and both their wills have survived. Although "Flote" is used sometimes, all are indexed under "Floate".

Elyas Garland "[from William Flote's](#)" was buried on 28th June 1625, his nuncupative having been spoken will "[on or about the fourth day of May](#)". Elyas left all his goods, chattels, etc. to "[Mary Flote, alias his sister](#)" and William Flote, "[husband of the same Mary](#)" and Anthony Flote were two of the witnesses.

William Floate was buried on 24th February 1639/40. His will (**CKS: Prs/w/6/41**) is difficult to read in many places. No other Floates were recorded in the parish records for Sevenoaks but a William Floate witnessed the will of William Lawrence, bricklayer, in 1627. In 1634 William Floate, carpenter, owned a house called Gatiers with a barn, stable, close and yard, in which his brother Augustine lived⁵⁶. This was one of six houses or cottages just to the south of the Sevenoaks almshouses with a hop-garden nearby. Augustine could have been the Anthony who witnessed Elyas's will.

1 In the name of god Amen. The eleventh
2 day of February . . . fifteenth
3 year of the reign of . . . Charles, by the
4 grace of God king of England, Scotland, France
5 and Ireland, defender of the faith. I, William Floate,
6 of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, carpenter, sick
7 in body but, thanks be given to God, of good and
8 perfect mind and memory, make and ordain this my
9 last will and testament in manner and form follow=
10 ing: First: I bequeath my soul into the hands of
11 Almighty God, my creator and redeemer, and to Jesus
12 Christ, my only and blessed saviour in whom and
13 by whom, through his most precious death and passion,
14 I trust fully to have eternal life. And as for my
15 body, I will and bequeath to the earth from whence it
16 came, to be buried in the parish churchyard of Sevenoaks
17 aforesaid. Item: I give unto the poor of the parish of
18 Sevenoaks the sum of twenty shillings to be given
19 and distributed unto them in bread at the day and time

20 of my burial. Item: I make and ordain for my full
21 and sole executrix of this my last will and testament
22 Mary Floate, my beloved wife, and I appoint for
23 overseers of the same Mr. Thomas Pierpoint and
24 my beloved brother Augustine Floate, both of the
25 parish of Sevenoaks. Item: I give to Mary Floate, my
26 wife, the house wherein I now dwell with all the appurtenances thereto
belonging, situated, lying
27 and being in Sevenoaks aforesaid, near unto the mar=
28 ket Cross which lately I purchased of Thomas Beck=
29 et of Chiddingstone in the county of Kent aforesaid,
30 for and during the term of her life, keeping and
31 upholding it in good and sufficient repair. And af=
32 ter the decease of the said Mary, my wife, I give and
33 will the same to Richard Floate, the son of Richard
34 Floate of Herstmonceux⁵⁷, my brother, to him and his
35 heirs for ever. And out of the said house I will the said
36 Richard Floate, my brother Richard's son, to pay
37 unto John Floate, his brother,

(The rest of William's will cannot be deciphered)

- 1 **Memorandum** That Elyas Garland, late of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent,
2 deceased did
3 on or about the fourth day of May one thousand six hundred twenty five,
4 being of perfect mind and
5 memory, make and declare his last will and testament nuncupatively in
6 manner and form or the like in effect as
7 followeth, viz. he gave, willed and bequeathed unto **Mary Flote, als.**
8 **Garland, his sister**, all his goods, chattels and
9 debts whatsoever when it should please god to take him out of this world, in
10 the presence and hearing of **Anthony**
11 **Flote, Timothy Stone and William Flote**, husband of the same **Mary**.

William Frankwell, yeoman, and his family

The will of William Frankwell (PCC: **Clarke 53, Prob 11/145**) was written on 26th September 1609 but not proved until 10th May 1625, William Frankwell, senior, householder, having been buried on 3rd May 1625. In his will William appointed his wife Elizabeth and son William as executors and when the will was proved in 1625 the executors appointed were William Frankwell and Elizabeth Frankwell, relict. Thus, not only did the testator himself live for over fifteen years after writing the will but so did his wife.

In 1609 William had two married daughters (one at least two children of her own), and four sons, one living in London and another who was curate of Southfleet, so that his eldest child must have been born 1570 to 1575 implying that William himself was born between 1545 and 1550. He was thus into his sixties when he wrote his will and in his late seventies when he died. Elizabeth, particularly since William describes her as his "[now wife](#)", may not have been the mother of his children and so was likely to have been considerably younger than him. It could have been his marriage to Elizabeth which made him decide to write his will - or Elizabeth who persuaded him to do so.

William's daughter, Ann married Stace Soane, in Sevenoaks, on 26th August 1594. Ann's husband was probably the grandson of John Stace, the elder, of Leigh whose will was written on 10th June 1591. John Stace, the younger, in his will of 1591 mentions his nephew Stace Sone and John Stace, the elder, left his Sone grandchildren, including Stace, £2 each to be paid when they reached the age of eighteen.

If Stace was under eighteen in 1591 he could only have been twenty-one when he married but grandparents were not always accurate when quoting the ages of their grandchildren and Stace could have married when relatively young. Stace Soane is an unusual name which makes the identification of Ann's husband reasonably likely. The baptisms of three children were recorded, the first not until seven years after the marriage. The names Anne and Agnes were often used interchangeably so that Anne in the will could have been Agnes in the parish record. Dorothy was not mentioned in the will; perhaps she died as an infant

William's son John was living in London in 1609; John, son of William, was buried on 29th December 1619 and could have been this John. Nicholas curate of Southfleet in 1609 but nothing is known of Edward. There was another son, Ralfe, son of William, who was buried on 30th July 1595. William, the son who was the executor, married Francis Pococke on 5th February 1615/6; see the **Pocockes** for details.

will:		s113		- William		- Elizabeth s124	
bur:		26 Sep 1609		3 May 1625			
s115		s121		s116		s117	
Ann		Stace		John		Katherine	
		Soane				- Arthur	
						Lane	
						s132	
						s118	
						Nicholas	
						s119	
						William	
						- Francis	
						Pococke	
						s125	
						s131	
						Ralfe	
						s120	
						Edward	
s123		s122				s126	
Agnes/Anne		George		Dorothy		Nicholas	
bap: 28 Jun 1601		24 Mar 1604		10 May 1607		18 May 1617	
bur:						s127	
						William	
						19 Apr 1618	
						28 May 1617	
						s128	
						Elizabeth	
						20 Feb 1623	
						s129	
						Nicholas	
						1 Jul 1627	
						s130	
						John	
						1 Jan 1629	
						19 Aug 1627	

William left John and Nicholas £5 each, Katherine and her husband fifty shillings each and his two grandchildren fifty shillings each. His grandchildren were to receive their inheritance when they reached the ages of twenty-one (which would not have been all that long after William died) but his children were not due to receive theirs until "[after the expiration of one whole year next after the decease of Elizabeth, my now wife, and not before](#)" which, if Elizabeth was twenty years younger than William, could still have been a long time away.

The tensions between William's wife and his children, at least in 1609, are shown by his instructions that Elizabeth and his son William, his executors, should "[enter into bond, the one to the other, in the sum of one hundred pounds a piece, not to diminish, waste or alter the property of the estate I shall leave unto them by virtue of this my last will and testament without the assent, liking or allowance, the one of the other, the said bond to be entered into by my said executors within one month next after my decease before Samuel Loane, Esq. John Bromfield, gent.](#)

and Robert Bromfield, gent. or some of them whom I entreat to be overseers of this my last will and testament". It is unlikely that all these three men were available to be his overseers in 1625. John and Robert Bromfield were probably the men mentioned in Robert Gavell's will of 1608.

Elizabeth was, however, to be allowed to "give and dispose of, to whom she pleaseth at the time of her departure out of this life to the value of ten pounds or thereabouts without any breach of the said bond or without the consent of my said son William".

Will of William Frankwell, yeoman

written 26th September 1609; proved 10th May 1625

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The six and twentieth
2 day of September, one thousand six hundred and nine, I, William Frankwell
3 of the parish of Sevenoaks within the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being not
altogether
4 well of body but of perfect mind and memory, thanks be given to almighty
god,
5 do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form
6 following: And **First**: I give and bequeath my soul unto Almighty god, my
creator and

7 saviour, not doubting but after the race of my mortality endeth he will
receive the
8 same into his everlasting glory, there to remain amongst the blessed saints
and angels
9 for ever. And as concerning my body, I freely commit the same unto the
earth from
10 whence it came, there to be buried at the discretion of mine executors
hereafter named.

11 **Item:** I give to **my eldest son, John Frankwell** dwelling in **London** or
elsewhere,
12 five pounds in money to be paid unto my said son John by mine executors
hereafter
13 named or by one of them, after the expiration of one whole year next after
the decease
14 of **Elizabeth, my now wife**, and not before. **Item:** I give unto **my son**
Nicholas
15 **Frankwell**, the now **curate of Southfleet in Kent**, five pounds in money to be
paid
16 unto my said son Nicholas after the decease of my said wife as aforesaid.
Item: I give
17 unto **my son-in-law Arthur Lane** and to **my daughter, Katherine his wife**,
fifty

18 shillings a piece to each of them to be paid unto them a year after the
decease of
19 Elizabeth, my now wife, as in the former legacy is expressed. **Item:** I give all
that my
20 tenement with all the lands thereunto belonging, called by the name of
Newfound
21 **Street** situated in **Whittly** within the parish of Sevenoaks aforesaid together
with all
22 other my lands and tenements whatsoever within the said severally
counties of **Sussex**
23 and Kent unto **my son, William Frankwell**, now dwelling with me and to his
heirs
24 for ever. **Item:** I give unto **Edward Frankwell, one other of my sons**, now
also

page 2:

25 and being with me, one annuity or yearly rent of four pounds of current
money of England,
26 during all the time of his natural life, the same annuity to be paid by my
said son William
27 Frankwell or his assigns every half year yearly by equal portions to be
provided during

28 the life of my said son Edward as aforesaid. And my will and meaning is
that the said annuity
29 or yearly rent of four pounds to be paid half yearly by forty shillings every
half year
30 that begin and take effect at the feast of St. Michael Th'archangel or at the
feast
31 of the annunciation of our blessed lady which shall first happen next after
my decease. And
32 my will and meaning farther is that if it shall happen the said yearly rent or
annuity of
33 four pounds to be behind and unpaid in part or in all by the space of eight
and twenty
34 days next after the several days of payment before specified, the same being
lawfully
35 demanded at the foresaid tenement called Newfound Street, that then it
shall be lawful to
36 and for my said son Edward to enter into and upon the said tenement and
land called New
37 found Street with th'appurtenances and the same to have and enjoy to him,
my said son
38 Edward Frankwell and to his heirs for ever. Provided always, and my will
and

39 meaning is, that if my said son Edward shall or do at any time or times, go
about
40 and intend to make ?? or alien the said annuity of four pounds before
specified, without
41 the consent, allowance or liking of my son William Frankwell, or without the
42 consent or allowance of some of mine overseers hereunder named, that then
the said
43 annuity or yearly rent of four pounds to cease and my said gift thereof to be
void
44 and of none effect. **Item:** I give unto **George Soane and Ann Soane, two of
my**
45 **grandchildren**, fifty shillings a piece to be paid unto each of them by mine
executors
46 at their several ages of one and twenty years. **Item:** all the residue of mine
estate
47 and chattels and leases unbequeathed in this my last will and testament, I
freely
48 give and bequeath unto Elizabeth, my now wife, and unto William
Frankwell, my son,
49 whom I jointly make and ordain the executors of this my present last will
and testament
50 provided always that my said executors shall enter into bond, the one to the
other, in the

51 sum of one hundred pounds a piece, not to diminish, waste or alter the
property of the
52 estate I shall leave unto them by virtue of this my last will and testament
without the
53 assent, liking or allowance, the one of the other, the said bond to be entered
into by my
54 said executors within one month next after my decease before **Samuel
Loane, Esq.**
55 **John Bromfield, gent. and Robert Bromfield, gent.** or some of them whom I
entreat to
56 be overseers of this my last will and testament. Provided that it shall be
lawful
57 ?? for my said wife to give and dispose of, to whom she pleaseth at the
time of her
58 ?? out of this life to the value of ten pounds or thereabouts without any
breach of
59 the said bond or without the consent of my said son William thereunto had.
In witness
60 of this my last will and testament and that I do acknowledge none other, I
have to
61 my last will and testament subscribed my mark and put to my seal, the day
and

62 year above written. The mark of William Frankwell. Sealed and subscribed
as the
63 last will and testament of the testator in the presence of **Samuel Loane,**
Robert
64 **Bromfield, John Bromfield**

This will (PCC: Swann 60) was written on 18th May 1623 and proved on 25th June of the same year. Thomas Frost, "[gent. of Knole](#)", was buried on 5th June 1623; he left a large amount of money in legacies but there is nothing in the will to say where his brother, whom he appointed his executor, was to find this money.

- 1 In the name of god Amen. I, Thomas Frost of **Knole**
2 in the parish of Sevenoaks, being of perfect remembrance, thanks be given
3 to God, do make and ordain this my given last will in manner and form
following:
4 **First:** I bequeath my soul to my maker trusting, by the merits and passions
5 of my redeemer, Jesus Christ, to enjoy ever felicity. My body to be buried
6 at the discretion of my executor hereafter named. **First:** I bequeath unto
Baptist
7 **Frost, one of the sons of Francis Frost, my brother,** four hundred pounds.
Item:
8 I give to **Thomas Frost, one other of his sons,** two hundred pounds to be paid
unto
9 them at their several ages of twenty four years, if they or either of them so
long live,

10 by my executor. And if it shall happen my executor do die before they shall
attain
11 unto their several ages of four and twenty years, then I desire my overseers
here
12 after named to dispose of their moneys for their uses until they shall attain
13 unto their several ages before named. **Item:** I give to **Ann Frost** forty pounds,
14 to **Francis Frost** twenty pounds, to **Jane Frost** twenty pounds to be
15 paid unto them at their several days of marriage by my executor. **Item:** I
16 give unto **Elizabeth Frost** six pounds by the year to be paid by my executor
17 during his life at two several times in the year which shall first happen: at
18 the feasts of Saint Michael Th'archangel and Saint Mary the virgin, by three
19 pounds at a payment⁵⁸. **Item:** I give to **Robert Towers** twenty shillings, to
William
20 **Bloome** twenty shillings, to **Edward Full** twenty shillings, to **Thomas Poore**⁵⁹
21 twenty shillings, to **John Musgrove** three pounds to be paid unto them
within
22 one quarter of a year next after my decease by my executor whom I do make
23 and appoint to be Francis Frost, my brother. And I do nominate and appoint
24 **Samuel Tower, Ewan Edwards and Thomas Marshall** my overseers whom I

58 it appears from the text that Elizabeth, should she outlive Francis Frost, lost her annuity on his death

59 the will of Thomas Poore, probably of Knole, has survived

25 do intreat to take care of the disposing of my estate that it may be done ac
26 cording to my true meaning. And for their pain herein taken, I bequeath to
Samuel
27 Tower ten pounds, to Ewan Edwards twenty shillings. And to Thomas
28 Marshall twenty shillings. To be paid unto them by my executor within one
29 quarter of a year after my decease. In witness whereof I have here unto set
30 my hand this eighteenth day of May 1623. Thomas Frost. Witness hereunto
31 Thomas Marshall; John Musgrove, his mark

G

Gardynes, Henry (Essex) 1509 PCC: Bennett 20 *not investigated*

Garland, Elyas 1625 see **William Floate**

Robert Gavell, gentleman G.2

Gavell, Robert 1608 PCC: Windebanck 8 gent.. G.3

The family of Henry Gifford, yeoman G.14

Gifford, Henry 1605 PCC: Hayes 8 yeoman G.16

Robert Gavell, gentleman

Robert mentions neither wife nor children in his will (**PCC: Windebanck 8; Prob 11/111**). He had four brothers, Edward, Edmond, Frances and Simon and he mentions the wives of all except Simon and children of Edward and Edmond. He also mentions John, Edward and Robert Bromfield, all of whom he calls brothers, and his "[sister, Anne Bromfield](#)". Was Anne a Gavell who had married one of the Bromfield brothers? Or had Robert been married to another Bromfield sister who had died before Robert without them having any surviving children?

He also left "[old Mr. Bromfield and his wife, for a remembrance and token of my goodwill and love towards them, two pairs of gloves](#)"; presumably these were father and mother of the Bromfield brothers. There was also his "[brother Overman and his wife](#)" and Thomas Bromfield who was left Robert's "[best girdle](#)". Robert left legacies to a number of John Bromfield's servants. Perhaps he was living with John Bromfield and his wife Dorothy to whom he left the unusual legacy of £10 to buy a diamond. The brothers, John and Edward Bromfield, were to be his executors with his nephews Robert and Edmond Gavell his main heirs. Robert does not mention any land in his will, all his legacies being sums of money. He seems to have acted as banker for his family and their various debts complicated the legacies left to his nephews.

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Robert Gavell of Sevenoaks in the
2 county of Kent, **gent.**, the thirteenth day of January in the fifth year of the
3 lord king James and in the year of our lord god one thousand six hundred
4 and seven,
5 being of good and perfect memory, thanks be given to god, do make and
6 declare this my
7 last will and testament in manner and form following: **First**, as a true
8 member of
9 the mystical body of Jesus Christ, I do recommend my soul into the hands
10 of God,
11 my creator and redeemer. And for my body I commit to earth at the
12 discretion of
13 my executors hereafter named. **Item**: I do make and ordain **my brother John**
14 **Bromfield**
15 of Sevenoaks aforesaid, gent., and **Edward Bromfield, citizen and**
16 **leatherseller of London,**
17 brother unto the said John Bromfield, my sole and only executors of this my
18 last will and

11 testament. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the poor of the parish of
12 Sevenoaks aforesaid
13 **Item:** I give and
14 bequeath unto **Robert Gavell, eldest son of my brother Edward Gavell** one
15 hundred and
16 fifty pounds in manner and form following, that is to say, one hundred
17 pounds to be
18 paid by my said executors to the said Robert Gavell, son of the said Edward,
19 when he
20 shall accomplish the age of one and twenty years. And my will and
21 meaning is that,
22 after the end of two years next after my decease, my said executors at their
23 discretion
24 shall employ, or cause to be employed, the said hundred pounds for the
25 better increase and
26 advantage of my said brother's son's portion by me given and bequeathed
27 when he shall
28 accomplish the age abovesaid. And for the other fifty pounds being now a
29 debt an owing
30 me by my said brother Edward, my meaning is that my said brother Edward
31 (giving

22 sufficient security by bond with sureties to my said executors for the true
payment of
23 the said fifty pounds to the said Robert, son of my said brother Edward,
when he shall
24 accomplish the age of six and twenty years) shall continue the possession
thereof until
25 the said time of six and twenty years abovesaid. And this shall be in full
discharge of
26 the hundred and fifty pounds by me before given and bequeathed to the
said Robert, son of
27 the said Edward. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Edmond Gavell**, being
lame of one
28 arm, **son of my brother Edmond Gavell of Weybridge⁶⁰** in the county of
Surrey, gent.,
29 one hundred pounds to be paid him, the said Edmond, son of my said
brother Edmond,
30 by my said executors when he shall accomplish the age of one and twenty
years. And

page 2:

31 my will and meaning is that, after the end of two years next after my
decease, my said executors

32 at their discretion shall employ, or cause to be employed, the said hundred
pounds given
33 and bequeathed by me to the said Edmond, son of my said brother
Edmond, for the
34 better increase and advantage of this my gift thence by me to him given
and bequeathed.
35 And if the said Edmond, son of Edmond, shall happen to die before the age
of one and
36 twenty years, that then my will and meaning is that the legacy in this my
will be
37 queathed to the said Edmond, son of Edmond, shall be equally divided
amongst my
38 said brother Edmond Gavell's children. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
Grace
39 **Bromfield and Martha Bromfield, two of the daughters of my said brother**
John
40 **Bromfield,** to either of them fifty pounds to be paid to them by my said
executors at
41 their several ages of sixteen years or at their several marriages which shall
42 first happen. And my will and meaning is that if the said Grace or Martha
shall
43 die before their said several ages of sixteen years or their said several days
of marri

44 age, that then my meaning is the legacy of her that shall so die shall be
paid in like
45 manner and form by my said executors unto **Mary Bromfield, one other of**
the
46 **daughters of the said John Bromfield.** And if it shall happen that the said
Grace
47 and Martha both shall die before their said several ages and days of
marriage before
48 expressed, that then my meaning is that the other fifty pounds shall go and
be equally
49 divided amongst such of the daughters of the said John Bromfield as shall
survive. **Item:**
50 I give and bequeath unto **Dorothy Bromfield, wife of the said John Brom**
51 **field,** ten pounds to buy her, the said Dorothy, a diamond, to be paid to her
by my said
52 executors within one year next after my decease. **Item:** I give and
bequeath unto **Thomas**
53 **Taylor,** servant unto my said brother John Bromfield, five pounds to be paid
him by
54 my said executors within two years next after my decease. **Item:** I give and
bequeath unto
55 **old Mr. Bromfield and to his wife,** for a remembrance and token of my
goodwill and love

56 towards them, two pairs of gloves at ten shillings a pair. **Item:** I give to **Mr.**
57 **Paging**
ton, his wife, for the like remembrance, one pair of gloves of ten shillings a
58 pair. **Item:**
59 I give unto **my brother Robert Bromfield's wife, my brother Edward**
Bromfield's wife,
60 **my brother Overman** and to his wife and to my sister **Anne Bromfield** for
like remem
61 brance, to either of them a pair of gloves of ten shillings the pair. **Item:** I
give and
62 bequeath unto **Amy Blackman, servant** of the said John Bromfield, twenty
shillings at
63 her day of marriage. **Item:** I give to **Mrs. Padian,** to the **wife of Thomas**
Taylor before
64 named, **Katherine Beale, Mother Harris, Elizabeth Harris** and to **Elizabeth**
Dankes, to either
65 of them five shillings in money. **Item:** I give to my brother John Bromfield
my little nag.
66 **Item:** I give to **Thomas Bromfield** my best girdle. **Item:** I give to my brother
Edmond
Gavell and to **my brother Simon Gavell** twenty shillings a piece to buy
either of

67 them a ring. **Item:** I give to **my brother Francis Gavell and to his wife**, to
either of them,
68 ten shillings or two pairs of gloves of that value which shall like them best.
Item: I give
69 to **Mercy and Mary, wives of Edmond and Edward Gavell**, as tokens of my
goodwill
70 to buy them five shillings a piece. **Item:** I give to **John Wood the younger**,
71 my brother John Bromfield's servant, ten shillings. **Item:** I give to **Richard**
72 **Gaye**, a youth in my brother John Bromfield's house, twenty shillings. **Item:**
73 I give more to Robert Gavell, son of my brother Edward Gavell, my best
74 doublet and hose together with a fur jerkin, a cloth jerkin with silver lace,
my
75 sword, my best hat, a pair of worsted stockings and a pair of shoes. And
76 whereas I have before given unto Robert Gavell, the son of Edward Gavell,
77 one hundred and fifty pounds in manner and form as is before expressed,
my
78 meaning and will is, if my nephew Robert Gavell shall die before he shall at
79 tain to the several ages of one and twenty and six and twenty years of age,
80 that then the said sum of one hundred and fifty pounds shall be equally

page 3:

81 distributed and divided amongst the children of my said brother Edward
Gavell

82 which shall survive and the same to be employed in such manner and form
as in the
83 former legacy to my said nephew Robert Gavell is set down and prescribed.
And
84 whereas also I have before given and bequeathed unto Edmond Gavell, son
of
85 my brother Edmond Gavell, one hundred pounds to be paid as is before
expressed,
86 nevertheless my meaning and will is (except my brother Edmond Gavell do
87 make good and secure to my said executors a debt of forty pounds which he
procured
88 me to lend unto one ⁶¹ **Braye, gent.** and for which he promised to
become bound
89 together with the said Braye, that then my said executors shall only pay
90 unto the said Edmond, son of my said brother Edmond, the sum of three
score
91 pounds in full satisfaction and discharge of the said legacy of one hundred
pounds
92 before given and bequeathed unto my said brother Edmond's son in such
manner

61 a space left here and on the next line; presumably spaces were left when the original was written so that the first name could be added but this was never entered.

93 and form as in the former legacy is expressed. And whereas also my
brother
94 Francis Gavell oweth unto me by bond the sum of four score pounds for the
95 nonpayment of forty pounds, my meaning and will is that for so much as
96 I have recovered and received of **John Bodley, gent.** two hundred forty five
97 pounds or thereabouts, which was the proper due debt of my said brother
Francis
98 Gavell and that the said John Bodley became debtor unto me only for him,
the
99 said Francis, and for his debt, I do hereby signify and declare and my will
and
100 meaning is that the said bond of four score pounds before mentioned shall
be, by
101 my executors, delivered up cancelled and made void unto my said brother
102 Francis Gavell if he, my said brother, shall within one year next after my
decease
103 give, content and satisfaction unto the said John Bodley for the said sum of
104 two hundred forty five pounds so by me recovered and had of from and
against
105 him, the said John Bodley, in manner and form aforesaid. But if my said
brother
106 Francis Gavell shall refuse or neglect so to do, then my meaning and will is

107 that the said bond of four score pounds shall be assigned and set over by
my
108 said executors unto the said John Bodley by such good and lawful
assurance and
109 conveyance in the law as the said John Bodley, or his counsel learned in
the
110 law shall or can devise for the assigning or setting over of the same, it
being made
111 and done at the cost and charges in the law of the said John Bodley or his
assigns.
112 And further, I do make, constitute and ordain my brother Robert Bromfield
of
113 Sevenoaks aforesaid, gent., and **my cousin Anthony Carleton of Brasted** in
the
114 said county of Kent, gent., overseers of this my last will and testament and
do
115 hereby entreat them, the said Robert Bromfield and Anthony Carleton, to be
aiding
116 and assisting to my said executors in the execution and performance of this
my last
117 will and testament. And I do give and bequeath unto either of them for
their

118 pains therein three pounds. And the residue of all my estate and goods not
before
119 given and bequeathed, I do give and bequeath to my said executors, my
debts and
120 funeral expenses discharged. This is the last will and testament of me the
said
121 Robert Gavell of Sevenoaks aforesaid made and declared the day and year
afore
122 said. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal in the
presence of those
123 whose names are hereunder written. Robert Gavell. Sealed, signed and
declared
124 in the presence of **Humfrey Frank, John Pagington, Robert Bromfield,**
Anthony
125 **Carleton, Elizabeth Pagington**

The family of Henry Gifford, yeoman

Henry and Margaret Gifford had twelve children baptised, in Sevenoaks between 1570 and 1591 with the burials of three of them being recorded, Robert and Paul as babies and Joan in her fourth year. Only Bridget, Jane, Anamias, Abraham and Nathaniel are mentioned in Henry's will, leaving Thomas, Margaret, Isaac and Sarah unaccounted for. Thomas and Margaret would have been in their thirties when their father wrote his will so that it is possible that they had left the area, perhaps having already been preferred. But see below for the marriage of a Thomas Gifford who could have been Henry's son.

mar:	s712 Margaret - Henry s711 - Alice Smersall s725 ⁶²										
	18 Jul 1604										
will:	18 Nov 1604 yeoman										
bur:	2 Aug 1603 20 Dec 1604 householder										

s713		s715		s717		s718		s720		722	
Robert		Margaret		Jane		Anamias		Isaac		Nathaniel	
bap: 5 Apr 1570		15 Mar 1572		3 Oct 1577		19 Jan 1582		1 Jan 1587		22 Jun 1589	
bur: 22 Apr 1570											
		s714		s716		s724		s719		s721	
		Thomas		Bridget		Joan		Paul		Abraham	
bap: 16 Apr 1571		8 May 1575		- ?? Fox		22 Nov 1579		28 Feb 1585		9 Jun 1588	
bur:						28 May 1583		1 Aug 1585			
										24 Feb 1591	

⁶² "s" indicates a reference in the Sevenoaks database

Margaret, Henry's first wife, was buried in August 1603 only three months before Henry wrote his will. Since his eldest son was born in 1570, Henry was probably in his early sixties at this time. During these three months Henry married Alice Smersell. The only land Henry mentions in his will was in Rye in Sussex and Nathaniel was to inherit this on the death of his stepmother. It is unlikely that Nathaniel was very pleased at his father's second marriage, perhaps to a young woman.

In 1596 a Henry Gifford had the tenure of part of the land, etc. belonging to William Pococke, the elder.

A Thomas Gifford married Elizabeth Hatton in Ightham on 18th October 1604, four days after the first version of Henry's will was written. The will was amended on 18th November but this transcript was taken from the probate copy which does not indicate what changes were made but, in the final version, Henry left five shillings to the poor of "Item" in addition to the five shillings left to the poor of Seal. It is possible that it was Henry's son who was married and had received his "inheritance" then and was therefore excluded from the final version of Henry's will. Thomas is the only Gifford to appear in the records of either Ightham or Seal.

1 In the name of god Amen. The
2 fourteenth of October and in the second year of the reign of our most
gracious
3 sovereign Lord James, by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland
king,
4 defender of the faith, etc. And of Scotland the 38th, I, **Henry Gifford** of the
5 parish of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick in body and
full
6 of infirmities and thereby put in mind of my last end, yet of good and
perfect
7 remembrance, thanks I give unto the almighty god, do make and ordain
this
8 my last will and testament in manner and form following: videlicet, **First:** I
bequeath
9 my soul unto the almighty god, hoping to be saved by the only merits and
passion

10 of Jesus Christ, my only saviour and redeemer. And my body to be buried
in the christian⁶³
11 burial where it shall please the almighty god. **Item:** I give for a sermon to
be preach=
12 ed at my funeral six shillings eight pence. **Item:** I give and bequeath to the
poor
13 people of the parish of Sevenoaks ten shillings. **Item:** I give to the poor
people
14 of **Ightham** which also I give to the poor people of **Seal** five shillings. All
which money
15 to be paid by mine executor within one month after my decease. **Item:** I
give to
16 **Abraham, Amamas** and **Nathaniel**, my three sons, ten shillings a piece.
And
17 all the lands, tenements and hereditaments which I purchased of **Sir**
Edmond
18 **Stanley** to them and to their heirs for ever. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
Jane,
19 my daughter, ten shillings of current English money to be paid to her, or
her

63 "xpian"

20 assigns, within one year after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath to
21 **Bridget Fox**, my daughter, ten shillings of like money. All the residue of my
22 moveable goods and chattels I give to **Alice, my wife**, whom I make my executrix to
23 see my debts paid and my legacies discharged. **Item:** my will and meaning is
24 that if Alice, my wife, shall refuse to pay, discharge and save harmless⁶⁴ any
25 surety or sureties which standeth bound by bond or by bill for payment of any sum or
26 sums of money for me, and she being before lawfully demanded, that then it
27 shall be law=
28 ful for my overseers to enter, sell and make sale for so much money as shall
29 discharge any of my debts and save harmless any surety. I make, ordain
30 and appoint **John Becket, Mathew Everest** and **John Harden** to be my overseers to see
this
my will fulfilled. And my body brought honestly to the earth. And I give
and

64 "harmeles"

31 bequeath unto them for their pains 10s a piece to be paid by my executrix.
32 This is the last will and testament
33 of me, the said Henry Gifford, made and declared in manner and form as
34 aforesaid as concerning the disposition of all my lands and tenements
whatso=
35 ever. Item: I give and bequeath unto Alice, my wife, all my lands,
tenements
36 and hereditaments whatsoever situated, lying and being in **Rye** in the
county
37 of **Sussex** during her natural life. And after her decease to Nathaniel,
38 my son, and to his heirs for ever, any thing herein contained to the
39 contrary notwithstanding. In witness whereof to this my present
testament and
40 last will, I, the said Henry Gifford, have hereunto set my hand and seal
41 the day and year first above written in the presence of these witnesses
42 **Thomas Walter, John Comber**. The mark of Henry Gifford. Memorandum
43 that those words before interlined is the will and testament of me, Henry
Gifford
44 interlined and amended in the presence of these witnesses, the eighteenth
day of
45 November 1604. Mathew Everest, **George Pococke, John Blome, Walter**
46 **Everest** his mark, the mark of Henry Gifford.

H

Hellen Hadsoule, widow						H.3
Will of Hellen Hadsoule	1596	PCC: Drake	25	widow		H.4
Will of Walter Hall	1641	CKS: Prs/w/8/82		husbandman		H.10
The Hills Family						H.15
Hills, Richard	1641	CKS: Prs/w/8/83		yeoman		H.17
Hills, John	1645	CKS: Prs/w/8/92		yeoman		H.21
Robert Holmden, citizen and leatherseller of London						H.23
Bequests of Robert Holmden						H.24
Holmden, Robert	1620	PCC: Soame	5			H.35

Thomas Holmes, gentleman				H.67
Holmes, Thomas	1624/5	CKS: Prs/w/8/20		H.70
Thomas Holway and his family				H.75
Holway, Thomas	1512	PCC: Fetiplace 9		H.77
Will of John Hope	1632	CKS: Prs/w/8/51	gent.	H.84

Helen Hadsoule, widow

In her will (**PCC: Drake 25; Prob 11/87**) Hellen left legacies to a large number of people but it is not possible to determine their relationship to her. Hodsoll was sometimes written as Hadsoll and there were Hodsolls in Ightham, Kemsing and Ash but nothing has been found to connect Hellen with them even though she left money to the poor of Otford, Sundridge, Ash, Stanstead and Kingsdown as well as Sevenoaks.

Hellen appointed William Pococke as one of her executors; she also left legacies to a number of Pococke brothers and sisters who, although the name of their father was not given, could have been the children of William and his wife Elizabeth⁶⁴. . Hellen could have been a Pococke since we know nothing about her marriage or her husband.

1 In the name of god Amen. The twenty ninth
2 day of December in the eight and thirty year of the reign of our sovereign
Lady Queen
3 Elizabeth, I, Hellen Hadsoule of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, **widow**,
being sick
4 in body and whole in mind and of perfect memory, laud and praise be to
almighty God,
5 do ordain and make this my present testament and last will in manner and
form following:
6 **First:** I bequeath my soul to almighty God and to his son Jesus Christ
which redeemed
7 it with his precious blood, beseeching him of his infinite mercy and
goodness to pardon it and
8 to receive it to his mercy, and my body to be buried in the church of
Sevenoaks abovenamed.
9 And as touching the disposition of all my goods and chattels which God
hath made me owner
10 of, I dispose them in manner and form following, that is to say, **First:** I give
and bequeath unto

11 the poor people of Sevenoaks, **Otford, Sundridge, Ash, Stanfold and**
12 **Kingsdown**⁶⁵
13 the sum of six pounds of lawful money of England to be distributed and
14 bestowed at
15 convenient time according to discretion of my executor or executors
16 hereafter named.
17 **Item:** I give unto **Hellen Kettle, my goddaughter**, five pounds of like lawful
18 money of England
19 to be paid within one year next after my decease. **Item:** I give and dispose
20 unto **Hellen**
Gardener, my goddaughter, the sum of five pounds and to **Sara Gardener,**
her sister,
three pounds to be paid unto them or their assigns within one year next
after my
decease. **Item:** I give unto **Comwell Clerke, my old servant**, the sum of
twenty
shillings to be paid unto him as abovesaid. **Item:** I give unto **Thomas**
Gardener, another
of **my old servants**, the sum of three pounds to be paid unto him or his
assigns in manner

65 Sundridge - "Sondrishe"; Stanfold was probably Stanstead which is adjacent to Ash, is about seven miles to the north-east of Sevenoaks with Kingsdown on its other side; a total of six parishes, £1 each

21 and form as abovesaid. **Item:** I give unto **John Pococke, my godson**, the
sum of five
22 pounds to be paid unto him or his assigns as abovesaid. **Item:** I give unto
William Pococke,
23 **his brother**, the sum of forty shillings to be paid unto him in such sort as
abovesaid.
24 **Item:** I give unto **Dorothy Pococke, their sister**, three pounds to be paid
unto her or her

page 2:

25 assigns in such sort as above said. **Item:** I give unto **Rachel Pococke,**
Hellen Pococke,
26 **Elizabeth Pococke, sisters of the said Dorothy**, the sum of 40s to be paid
unto them and every of them as in manner and form
27 above said. **Item:** I give unto **Jane Olyver, my kinswoman, wife unto John**
Olyver of
28 **Beerckhall** the sum of ten pounds in full recompense and satisfaction of all
promise here=
29 before made unto the said John Olyver, her husband, to be paid unto her,
or her assig=

30 ns, in manner and form abovesaid. **Item:** I give unto **mother King⁶⁶** the sum
of twenty
31 shillings to be paid unto her, or her assigns, in manner and form as
abovesaid. **Item:** I give
32 and devise unto **Mildred Petley and Anne Petley, my goddaughters, two of
the daughters of**
33 **Edward Petley**, the sum of four pounds to be equally divided and paid unto
them and
34 either of them, or their assigns, in manner and form as abovesaid. **Item:** I
give unto **Elizabeth**
35 **Pococke, the wife of William Pococke**, all my household stuff, both woollen
and linen
36 whatsoever now remaining in the house of the said William Pococke. **Item:**
I give unto
37 **Dorothy Hadsoule, the goddaughter of Elizabeth Pococke**, the sum of
twenty shillings
38 to be paid unto her, or her assigns, in manner and form as abovesaid. **Item:**
I give unto **my**

66 Thomas Pococke, in 1587, left money to Goodman King and his wife, Robert and William King were living in a tenement belonging to William Pococke in 1596 and in 1619 John Pococke left money to William King, the elder, and his three children - see details of the **Pocockes**

39 **cousin, Edward Petley** and to **Joane, his wife**, the sum of twenty shillings
to be paid unto
40 them, or their assigns, in such sort as above written. **Item:** I give unto the
two sons
41 **of Henry Gardener**, to either of them ten shillings. **Item:** I give and devise
unto **Edmond**
42 **Richards and Edward Lusted**, to either of them, the sum of ten shillings to
be paid
43 unto them, or their assigns, in form as abovesaid. **Item:** I give unto the **six**
residue children
44 of the said Edward Petley, and to every of them ten shillings. **Item:** I give
unto **Thomas** and
45 **Simon Lucke and John Rolfe of the Hill**, and to either of them, the sum of
ten shillings
46 to be paid unto them in manner and form as abovesaid. **Item:** I give unto
Thomas
47 **Broughton of Stansteede** the sum of forty shillings to be paid unto him as
abovesaid.
48 **Item:** I give unto **Margaret Hadsoule, the daughter of William Hadsoule**,
the sum of twenty
49 shillings to be paid to her in such sort as abovesaid. **Item:** I give unto **Anne**
Hadsoule,

50 and **Ellen Hadsoule, my goddaughters and the daughters of Robert**
51 **Hadsoule**, the sum of
52 four pounds to be paid unto them in manner and form as abovesaid. The
53 residue
54 of all my goods and chattels before not given and devised, I will and
55 dispose unto Edward Petley
56 and William Pococke, which said Edward Petley and William Pococke I
57 make and ordain
58 my whole and sole executors of this my said last will hoping and trusting
59 that they will
60 see me honestly brought to the earth and see this my will well and truly
61 preformed. In witness whereof
62 I, the said Hellen Hadsoule, widow, unto this my said present last will and
63 testament have
64 put to my hand and seal the day and year first above written. And I do
65 make overseers
66 of this my said last will and testament my very friends⁶⁷. The mark of the
67 said Hellen
68 Hadsoule. Witnesses hereunto **Edmond Richards, Elizabeth Pococke and**
69 **Edward Lusted**, the

67 no names given here

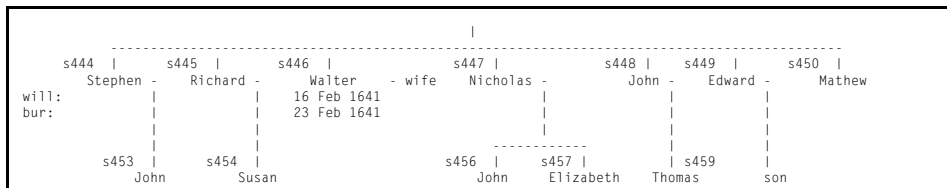
60 mark of **Edward Petley. Memo.** all the interlining⁵ above mentioned by the
will and
61 assent and agreement of the said Hellen Hadsoule in the presence of the
said witnesses.

Walter Hall, husbandman

Walter Hall "householder" was buried on 23rd February 1640/1 seven days after his will (CKS: Prs/w/8/82) was written in a professional hand; Ha: Blackman, who adds a small decoration after his name, may have been the scribe

Although Walter had a wife to whom he left £8, he does not give her name. They do not appear to have had any children and Walter made three of his brothers his executors and left small legacies to his nephews and nieces and others. His brother Stephen was possibly the Steven Hall who married Martin Rebankes's daughter, Martin's will of 1629 having survived.

5 because only the probate copy has been examined, it is not possible to identify the changes made



Will of Walter Hall, husbandman

written 16th February 1640/1; proved 28th May 1641

transcript from original

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The sixteenth day of February in the sixteenth
- 2 year of the
- 3 reign of our most gracious sovereign Lord Charles by the grace of God king
- 4 of England,
- 5 Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. I, Walter Hall of
- 6 Sevenoaks
- in the county of Kent, **husbandman**, being weak of body but of sound and
- perfect memory,
- praised be god therefore, do dispose of my worldly estate in this manner
- following: **First:** I
- give unto **my wife** eight pounds of lawful english money. **Item:** I give unto
- my said

7 wife four pairs of sheets, one bed and bolster with a bedstead, two blankets
and a
8 coverlet and one pillow and six great pieces of pewter and five small pieces
of pewter
9 and two chests and one trunk, one little iron pot, one iron chafer and two
brass skillets.

10 **Item: I give unto my godson, John Hall, son of Stephen Hall,** one joined
bedstead
11 with the bed, the bolster, one pillow, one coverlet and one blanket saving
that my will
12 and meaning is that the said John shall allow and pay unto **Susan Hall,**
13 **the daughter of my brother Richard Hall,** the sum of ten shillings. **Item:** I
give unto
14 **Elizabeth Hall, the daughter of my brother Nicholas Hall,** one great joined
chest. **Item:**

15 I give unto **Alice, the daughter of John Tidman,** one other joined chest.
Item: I give
16 unto **Thomas Dolton** one suit of my apparel and I give unto **his wife** one
little brass
17 kettle. **Item:** I give unto **my godson John Gilbert** five shillings. **Item:** I give
18 unto **my godson John Dorrington** two shillings and sixpence. **Item:** I give
unto **my god**

19 **daughter Elizabeth Cole** the like sum of two shillings and sixpence. **Item:** I
give unto the
20 above named Elizabeth Hall, daughter of my brother Nicholas, one pair of
sheets and one piece of pewter. **Item:** I give unto ⁶ unto **Thomas**
22 **Hall, son of my brother John Hall**, five shillings. **Item:** I give unto my
kinsman
23 **John Noale** the sum of five shillings. All the residue of my goods and
household
24 stuff I give and bequeath unto **my three brothers, Stephen, Nicholas and**
Mathew
25 **Hall** whom I make executors of this my last will and testament to see my
26 legacies paid and my body decently buried. **Item:** I give unto **my brother**
Edward
27 **Hall's son** one tawny coat and one shirt. **Item:** I give unto **John Hall, son of**
28 **my brother Nicholas**, my best suit of apparel and one shirt. In witness
whereof I
29 have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year first above written.
30 I give unto my wife one chair and table and my cloak.
Sealed, published and declared
to be the last will and testament of the

6 it looks as if there was a crease in the original will so that all except the last two words of this line are missing on the microfilm copy

said Walter Hill in the presence of

Ha. Blackman

John Hall

his mark

Jone Hall

her mark

The will of the said

7

Walter Hall

The Hills Family of Sevenoaks

The wills of Richard Hill, yeoman, and his youngest son, John, also a yeoman have survived. Richard's was written on 13th February 1638/9 with Richard living for another two years; when he was buried on 30th April 1641 he was designated "[householder of Greatness](#)". John's will was written on 15th September 1645 and he was buried only four days later.

Hills was obviously a common name but from the will of Robert Hills of Shoreham, written in November 1635, and entries in the Shoreham parish register, Richard Hills of Sevenoaks was a brother of Robert of Shoreham. Richard and five of his children were baptised in Shoreham, the registers there being the source of the dates given below for the marriage and baptisms; he was sixty-six when he died.

Richard and Agnes were married, in Shoreham, on 8th January 1596 when he was twenty-two. Everyone in the tree below was mentioned by Richard except for his daughters Mary and Jane. Jane was perhaps the mother of Jane Burton, described as the daughter of his son-in-law, John Burton deceased; Jane's mother could also have died before Richard's will was written. Some, but not all, of his children were mentioned in the wills written in 1617 and 1628 by Elizabeth and George Weery, sister and brother of Richard's wife Anne/Agnes Weery (she was

named Anne in Richard's will but is Agnes in the will of Elizabeth Weery). Elizabeth Weery also mentioned Mary Hills, daughter of Richard Hills, who could have died before her father's will was written. See the [Weery](#) wills for more details.

A Francis Hills and his wife Susan had four children baptised in Seal between 1626 and 1638; Francis could have been Richard's eldest son who, in this case, would have married in his mid-twenties.

[illegible]

Because they were married, baptised and lived in different parishes, these families have been put in the database covering a number of parishes, that is, their reference numbers are preceded with "x".

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Richard Hills of Sevenoaks in the county
2 of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick in body but whole in mind and of sound and
3 perfect memory (thanks be given to Almighty god) do make, constitute and
4 ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following: **First:**
5 I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty god, my maker, hoping for
6 pardon
7 and remission of all my sins by the merits and satisfaction of Jesus Christ,
8 my redeemer, and my body to be buried at the discretion of mine
9 executor hereafter named; and as for that temporal state where withall it
10 hath
11 pleased God to endow me, I dispose of it as followeth: **First:** I give
12 and bequeath unto **Francis Hills, my eldest son**, the sum of thirty
13 pounds of current English money to be paid unto him, or his assigns,
14 at two several payments viz: ten pounds within four years next after
15 my decease and twenty pounds within eight years next after my decease.
16 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Thomas Hills, my second son**, all that
17 two and twenty pounds which he already hath of mine in his hands as
a child portion and his part of the commodity (of the hop gardens) of
the next crop which shall be next after the date hereof. **Item:** I give

and bequeath unto **Elizabeth Hartwell (wife of Ralph Hartwell)**, my **daughter**, the sum of three pounds of lawful english money to be paid unto her within one year next after my decease and do hereby release the said Ralph Hartwell, my son-in-law, from all debts, duties and demands whatsoever due unto me by the said Ralph Hartwell. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Alice Woodgate, wife of Thomas Woodgate** (my **daughter**), the sum of three pounds of current english money to be paid unto her at two several payments by equal portions viz: thirty shillings within one year next after my decease and thirty shillings within two years next after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto my **daughter, Anne**, the sum of fifteen pounds to be paid unto her within two years next after my decease and also I give unto my said daughter Anne the biggest joined chest now standing in the chamber over the hall to have the same after the decease of her mother. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Dorothy, my daughter**, the sum of fifteen pounds of lawful english money to be paid unto her within two years next after my decease. And also one joined chest now standing in the chamber over the hall which was bought of one **Smith of Blackhall**⁷¹ and also one piece of gold which was given me by the king's majesty for the king's evil. **Item:** I give

71 to the north-east of Sevenoaks; in 1607 John Weekes of Seal left to William Jeffrey als. Smith a legacy of thirty shillings

37 unto **Thomas Hartwell, son of Ralph Hartwell, my son-in-law**, to be paid to
38 him when he shall accomplish the age of one and twenty years the sum

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39 of ten shillings of current english money. Item: I give and bequeath unto
40 **Elizabeth Hartwell, daughter of the said Ralph Hartwell**, the sum of
41 ten shillings to be paid unto her when she shall accomplish the age of one
42 and twenty years. Item: I give unto **Anne Woodgate, daughter of Thomas**
43 **Woodgate, my son-in-law**, the sum of twenty shillings of current english
44 money to be paid unto her when she shall accomplish the age of one and
45 twenty years. Item: I give and bequeath unto **Jane Burton, daughter of**
46 **John Burton** (my son-in-law deceased) the sum of twenty shillings to
47 be paid unto her within three years next after my decease. Item: I
48 give and bequeath unto **Mary Hills, wife of Thomas Hills my son**, one ewe.
49 Item: I give and bequeath unto **my well beloved wife Anne** the yearly
50 sum of five pounds a year to be paid unto her (by mine executor hereafter
51 named) during her natural life if ?? be she do not like to live and
52 board with mine executor hereafter named and also the use of half of my
household stuff during her natural life⁷². The residue of all my goods and
53 chattels, my debts paid, legacies discharged and funeral expenses
performed,

54 I give and bequeath unto **my youngest son, John Hills**, whom I make
55 sole executor of this my last will and testament and I do intreat **Robert**
56 **Weery of Otford, my brother-in-law**, and **William Rogers and Robert Hills**
57 of **Shoreham** to be overseers of this my last will and testament and to
58 aiding and assisting unto my said executor in ??
59 my last will and testament and ?? give unto every of them for their
60 pains hereon to be taken two shillings a piece. In witness whereof I
61 have hereunto set my hand and seal to this my last will and testament
62 the thirteenth day of February in the fourteenth year of the reign of
63 our sovereign Lord Charles, by the grace of god, king of England, Scotland,
64 France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. Anno. Dom. 1638
Witness hereunto

William Moore

Richard Hills
his X mark

Abraham Tomlin

the 15th of September 1645

1 John Hills of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, **yeoman**
2 doth distribute his goods as followeth: viz, unto
3 **my brother, Francis**, the great fate? and the great spit;
4 unto **my brother, Thomas Hills**, my best suit
5 of ?? and my best long coat and my best short coat
6 and my best hat except one and my best shirt; unto
7 **Ralph Hartwell** my long russet coat and one doublet
8 and short coat and one pair of breeches and one pair of stockings;
9 unto **Thomas Masters** my other coat and my best white
10 doublet and my best hat; unto **Elizabeth Hills, wife of Ralph**
11 **Hartwell**, one pair of hempen sheets and one hempen tablecloth
12 and one piece of new coarse cloth to make ?? a change
13 Also I do make Francis Hills my executor. Also I do
14 will that my executor
15 shall pay unto **my mother Anne Hills** £5 by the year during
16 her natural life which said £5 was given unto my mother
17 by my father's last will and testament. Also my will
18 is that my mother shall have the one half of my household

19 stuff ungiven to be at her disposing unto **my sister**,
20 **Ann Hills**, one ewe sheep, unto **my sister**, **Dorothy**, one
21 ewe sheep, unto **my sister Alice Hills** 10s to be paid unto
22 her by the discretion of my executor.

John Hills
his mark

Witnesses:

Samuel Master
the mark of

William Roger
Robert Mills

*Robert Holmden, of Sevenoaks,
citizen and leatherseller of London*

This will (PCC: Soame 5; Prob 11/135) was written on 20th July 1619. Although Robert owned land in a number of parishes, there is no mention of any land or buildings in Sevenoaks which is where he was buried, as he desired, on 17th January 1619/20; the will was proved on 22nd January.

The testator was a wealthy man as can be seen from the money to be spent on his funeral, given to the poor and for reparations to the church and the money and land which he left in a large variety of bequests; these are described below.

One of the witnesses to the will was William Turner who was the vicar of Sevenoaks from 1614 to 1642 and wrote the wills of some of his parishioners. This will was very long (twenty pages in the original which has not been investigated) and it is likely that Robert Holmden would have employed a professional scribe for such a lengthy and complex document.

The Bequests of Robert Holmden

When he wrote his will Robert had no wife or children but a large number of cousins and other kin to whom, together, he left over a thousand pounds - see Table H.1. Robert gave £5 to each of his servants who were living with him when he died and his apparel "[both of linen and woollen](#)" was to be equally divided between all of his menservants

He also left 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 to the use of Robert Holmden](#)" son of the testator's cousin Henry Holmden, "[late of London, leatherseller deceased](#)".

There were Holmden relations in Edenbridge, Limpsfield, Westerham, Tonbridge and Cowden. George Bloome, to whose family Robert made many bequests, was the son of John Blome, a rich mercer of Sevenoaks. Here the name has been spelled "Bloome" as it was in Robert's will but it has been indexed under "Blome".

Table H.1 - Robert's Legacies to his Kinsfolk

This table shows the complexities of Robert's bequests; those legatees known to be underage when Robert wrote his will are marked with an *. The other symbols used are detailed at the end of the table.

cousin, James Bunce of London, leatherseller	executor	74
cousin, Mary Bunce	⁷³ goddaughter	75
daughter, Mary		\$
son, Mathew & younger son, James	^h	

-
- 73 was Mary the wife of James? Robert describes her as his cousin and goddaughter
- 74 - the parsonage of Westfield (Sussex) - see will lines 82-84
 - the residue of all his goods, cattells, chattels, debts and moveables whatsoever
- 75 the lease of his house in Gracious Street, London (see will, lines 63-64), the walnut tree bedstead, etc. (see will, lines 126-128) and part of his plate, etc. (see will lines 105-106)

cousin Giles Paffield		76
wife, Susan	£10	&%
daughter, Susan	* goddaughter	£50
daughter, Elizabeth		\$
son, Giles Paffield, the younger	h	77
other children (including Elizabeth)		
cousin Nicholas Foster	£10	78
son Richard		
Robert Foster* (possibly son of Nicholas)	godson	£10
Dorothy Seyliard	* goddaughter	£10
cousin Robert Antrobus	*	£40

- 76 "all those my leases . . . Ratcliffe, Shadwell and Wapping which I had of the said Giles in part of money which I paid for him, the profits whereof he now receives to help his wife and children withall. . . And I do freely forgive the said Giles all such money as he shall owe unto me at the day of my death either by bond, bill or otherwise."
- 77 "all such plate and . . . which I had of the said Giles in part of such money as I paid for him"
- 78 "the use and occupation of that part of my house wherein he now dwelleth, situated in Edenbridge, rent free during his natural life with passage to and from the church and house of office with commodities of part of the garden"
- 79 was there any significance in the fact that she was to receive her legacy when she was eighteen whereas all the other underage recipients had to wait until they were twenty-one?

cousin Edward Swayland daughter, Mary son, Robert	x	godson	80 \$%
cousin George Bloome/Blome wife, Sara son, John Blome daughter, Sara Blome daughter, Frisend Blome	*h *	godson	81 £10 ^{&} £100 £50 £50 \$
cousin William Holmden of Edenbridge daughter		goddaughter	£10 £10

80 "all such money as he shall owe unto me at the time of my decease either by bill, bond or otherwise"

81 "the bedstead with bed, bolster and coverlet and all other furniture thereto belonging being in the chamber wherein I lodge and which I usually lie upon" with all the chests, hangings and other furniture in the same chamber

John Holmden and Thomas Holmden of Limpsfield Robert Holmden and Simon Holmden of Westerham John Holmden of Tonbridge, Simon Holmden, Peter Holmden and John Holmden of Cowden	£5 each total £40
cousin Mathew Holmden, late of Edenbridge, deceased daughters, Jane and Mary	82
cousin Thomas Holmden, late of Edenbridge, deceased eldest son, Thomas sons, Henry and Robert youngest son, William	* *83 * £100 £200 each £100

82 each was to receive £40 "in full satisfaction of her portion due from her father and increased by myself" paid according to their father's will. If any profits were due from the "farm called Marshalls (the charge of reparations of the messuage, barn and housing thereupon being deducted) together with the charges of and for the maintenance of the said Jane and Sara" then they were to receive this profit divided equally between them. Also, Robert's executor was to help Jane and Mary "in their bringing up" until their legacies were due.

83 Robert's executor was to pay £5 yearly to each of Henry, Robert and William towards their education and maintenance

cousin William Barham wife, Anne daughter, Anne son, Nicholas ^h son, Robert ^{*x}	godson	£10	&% \$
cousin John Daye's wife, Bridget daughter, Anne Alfrey ^{*x} son, Robert sons, John and William ^h	godson		&% \$ x

- & - "ten pounds a piece to bestow at their pleasure"; in addition, Susan Paffield was to be paid a "yearly stipend" of £10 a year and Sara Blome a stipend of £20 a year from the profits, etc. of the lands left to Robert Holmden.
- \$ - "equally to be divided between them, all my plate, gilt and ungilt, which I shall have in my house at the time of my decease (excepting such plate as is herein formerly given to the children of Giles Paffield)".
- % - "the residue of all my household stuff as brass, pewter, linen, bedding, hangings, bedsteads, tables, stools and all other my household stuff" in his house in Sevenoaks where he lived except such as had been formerly given

in the will. "Provided always that my executor have the use of them at the time of my funeral at his pleasure."

- ^h - If the main heir, Robert Holmden, died without heirs, one half of the lands, etc. left to him were to go to James Bunce and then to his brother Mathew if James died without heirs. The other half to be divided equally between the others.
- ^x - inherited land; see Table H.2

Henry's son, Robert, was the testator's godson and main heir; he was left lands and tenements with appurtenances in various parishes - see Table H.2. He was underage when the will was written and, until he came of age, James Bunce, the executor was to have all the rents, profits, etc. towards the payment of the testator's debts and legacies and the yearly stipends mentioned in his will.

Table H.2: Land, etc. left to Robert Holmden

details:	parish	purchased from:
Belmes and Chrares	Edenbridge	Francis Tichbarne, gent
Medherst Row	Edenbridge and Brasted	the heirs of Richard Weaver, deceased
the Spont with all other my lands there	Westerham	cousin George Holmden, Cornelius Bereford, John Toller
Willocke with the lease lands and appurtenances therewith used	Shipbourne	held of Sir Henry Fane, knight, purchased of William Scirrell, gent.
Elherst and the mill	Marden ⁸⁴	William Barham
lands and tenements	Town of Marden	Henry Wearfine
Collopps	Sundridge	Reignold Holmden

84 about nine miles east of Tonbridge

Other land was left to three of Robert's other godsons - see Table H.3. Within three months of his decease, his executor was to deliver to them or their parents and governors, "[all the evidence respectively touching those lands and tenements with the appurtenances](#)" which was "[given or devised](#)" to them. During their sons' minority, the mothers of Robert Daye and Robert Wareham were to receive the rents and profits from the land towards the education/bringing up of the legatees and their other children.

Table H.3: Bequests of Land to Robert's other Godsons

land:	to:
lands and tenements in Fletching, Sussex (near Uckfield, about sixteen miles southwest of Tonbridge)	Robert Daye; if Robert died without heirs, it was to be equally divided between his brothers William and John.
marshlands with th'appurtenances called the Fifteen Acres lying within the parish of Pevensey , Sussex (near Eastbourne)	Robert Wareham

lands and tenements called Charndlors in Penshurst and Chiddingstone and also Jesopps in Penshurst	Robert Swayland, upon condition that he and his heirs paid, out of Jesopps, £3 yearly for ever towards the reparations of the church of Edenbridge
--	--

The last bequest in his will was to his servant, Anne Dane, who, provided she was with him when he died, was to have for life his "[messuage or tenement](#)" in Edenbridge, part of which had already been given, rent free, for his life to Nicholas Foster. Thus, until Nicholas's death, Anne was to have only that part not given to him; after the deaths' of both Nicholas and Anne, the property was to revert to Robert's heirs.

The messuage or tenement situated in Great East Cheap, which Robert left to the Wardens and Society of the Worshipful Company of Leathersellers of London, was called The George on Horseback which sounds as if it was an inn. This, with "[the reversion, rents and profits thereof](#)" was given to the Company for ever on condition that each year £12 was distributed as shown in Table H.4.

Table H.4: Yearly Payments from Holmden's Bequest

£4	"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" or, if there was no one suitable at Sevenoaks, from the "free school of Tonbridge". Once preferred, a scholar was to receive the £4 for four years provided he stayed at university that long; at the end of the four years or when he left university, a new scholar was to be chosen.
£6	"unto six aged poor men and women being free of the said Company of Leathersellers and not married into any other Company", five shillings per quarter, per person.
£1 13s 4d 6s 8d	to the Renter Warden of the Company to the Clerk to the Company to the Beadle of the Company

1 In the name of god Amen. The twentieth day of July Anno
2 domun one thousand six hundred and nineteen and in the seventeenth year
of the reign
3 of our sovereign Lord James, by the grace of God king of England, France
and Ireland,
4 defender of the faith, etc. and of Scotland the two and fiftieth, I, Robert
Holmden
5 of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent and **citizen and leatherseller of London**,
being
6 in good health of body and of perfect mind and memory (praise be given to
Almighty
7 god) and considering the uncertainty of my departure out of this life, do
ordain and
8 make this my present testament and last will in manner and form following,
that is to say
9 **First:** I commit my soul into the hands of Almighty god, my maker. And to
Jesus Christ

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10 my redeemer. And my body to the earth from whence it came to be buried
in sure and certain
11 hope of a joyful resurrection. As concerning the disposition of all my worldly
goods,
12 moveables, money, plate, jewels, chattels, credits and substance
whatsoever which it hath
13 pleased god to bless and endow me withall, I will, bequeath and dispose the
same in manner
14 and form following, that is to say, **First:** I give unto the preacher at my
15 funeral, for his pains, five pounds. **Item:** I give unto the clerk for his pains
ten shillings.
16 To the gravemaker five shillings. To the ringers ten shillings. **Item:** I give
towards the
17 reparations of the body of the church of Sevenoaks forty shillings yearly to
be
18 paid every year, half yearly, to the churchwardens of Sevenoaks for the time
being from
19 time to time out of certain lands in **Shipbourne** which I hold in lease from **Sir**
Henry Fane,
20 **knight,** during the continuance of the same lease. Also I give unto the poor
of the parish of

21 Sevenoaks the like sum of forty shillings yearly to be paid yearly out of the
same leased
22 land during the continuance of the same lease. **Item:** I give to the poor, to
be distri
23 buted in the day of my burial at the discretion of mine executor, the sum of
ten
24 pounds. **Item:** I give unto four men who shall carry my corpse to the earth
four
25 pounds, viz. to every of them twenty shillings a piece. **Item:** I give and
bequeath to
26 the poor of the parish of **Edenbridge**⁸⁵, to be distributed in eight years next
after
27 my decease in wood and fuel to be delivered at their doors between the first
of
28 May and Michaelmas in every year by mine executor or his assigns, viz.
yearly
29 as much as five pounds will pay for with the carriage until the sum of forty
30 pounds be run out and so distributed. **Item:** I will and bequeath to the poor
of
31 every parish wherein I have any lands lying at the time of my decease forty

32 shillings to be distributed in one year next after my decease by mine
executor or his
33 assigns where most needed is. **Item:** I give towards the reparations of the
body of the
34 church of Edenbridge yearly for ever the sum of three pounds to be paid out
of
35 my tenement called **Jesopps in Penshurst** in the said county of Kent. **Item:** I
give to
36 everyone of my servants which shall be dwelling with me at the day of my
decease
37 five pounds a piece. **Item:** I give unto **Susan Paffield, my goddaughter,**
daughter
38 **of my cousin Giles Paffield,** the sum of fifty pounds to be paid unto her at
her
39 age of twenty and one years or day of marriage which shall first happen.
Item:
40 I give to Giles Paffield all those my leases of land and tenements
41 lying at **Ratcliffe, Shadwell and Wapping** which I had of the said Giles in
part
42 of money which I paid for him. The profits whereof he now receives to help
his wife and
43 children withall. **Item:** I give unto the residue of the children of the said
Giles, equally

44 to be divided amongst them, all such plate and household stuff as is in my
house or in the
45 house of any other which I had of the said Giles in part of such money as I
paid for him
46 which are not at the day of my decease any way given or altered. And I do
freely forgive
47 the said Giles all such money as he shall owe unto me at the day of my
death either
48 by bond, bill or otherwise. **Item:** I give unto **my cousin Nicholas Foster** (if he
be living
49 at the day of my decease, if not then to **Richard, his son**) the sum of ten
pounds
50 to be paid within six months next after my decease. And my mind and will
is
51 that the said Nicholas Foster shall have the use and occupation of that part
of my
52 house wherein he now dwelleth, situated in Edenbridge, rent free during his
natural
53 life with passage to and from the church and house of office with
commodities
54 of part of the garden as he now hath and useth. **Item:** I give unto **my**
goddaughter
55 **Dorothy Seyliard** ten pounds to be paid unto her at her age of eighteen years

56 or day of her marriage which shall first come, if she liveth to either of them.
Item: I give
57 and bequeath to **my cousin Robert Antrobus** the sum of forty pounds to be
paid
58 to him at his age of twenty and one years (if he shall accomplish that age).
Item: I
59 give and bequeath to **my kinswomen** for a remembrance of my good will,
viz.
60 **Anne Barham, Bridget Daye, Susan Paffield** and **Sara Bloome**, to so many
61 of them as shall be living at the time of my decease, ten pounds a piece to
bestow

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62 at their pleasures. **Item:** I give to **my cousin Mary Bunce**, my goddaughter
(if she be living
63 at the day of my decease) the lease of my house in **Gracious Street, London**
with the profits
64 of the same lease yet to come which leases I hold of the executors to
Thomas Ridge, late
65 of London, deceased. **Item:** I give to **my godson Robert Foster** ten pounds to
be paid to him
66 at the age of one and twenty years if he live thereunto. **Item:** I do freely
forgive unto **my cousin**

67 **Edward Swayland** all such money as he shall owe unto me at the time of my
decease either
68 by bill, bond or otherwise. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my godson John**
Bloome one
69 hundred pounds to be paid unto him at his age of one and twenty years if he
live thereunto.
70 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Sara Bloome and Frisend Bloome,**
daughters of my cousin
71 **George Bloome**, viz. to either of them fifty pounds to be paid unto them at
their
72 several ages of one and twenty years or days of marriage which shall first
happen
73 if they, or either of them, shall be then living. **Item:** I give to **my cousin**
William Holmden of Eden=
74 **bridge** ten pounds to be paid to him within six months next after my
decease (if
75 he be then living). And to **his daughter, my goddaughter**, ten pounds to be
paid to her
76 at her age of twenty years or day of marriage which shall first happen. **Item:**
I give

77 unto **John Holmden of Limefield ??, Thomas Holmden of Limefield⁸⁶ in**
78 **Surrey**
79 **Robert Holmden and Simon Holmden of Westerham in Kent, To John**
80 **Holmden of**
81 **Tonbridge, Simon Holmden, Peter Holmden and John Holmden of Cowden**
82 **in Kent afore=**
83 **said, to every of them, or so many of them as shall be living at the time of**
84 **my decease, five**
85 **pounds a piece to be paid unto every of them within six months after my**
86 **decease. Item:**
87 **I give unto my cousin James Bunce of London, leatherseller, all my rights**
88 **and**
89 **interest of, in and to the lease which I have of the parsonage of Westfield**
90 **with th'appurtenances in**
91 **Sussex⁸⁷. Item: I give unto Jane Holmden, daughter of my cousin Mathew**
92 **Holmden,**
93 **late of Edenbridge, deceased, in full satisfaction of her portion due from her**
94 **father and**

86 Limpsfield is adjacent to Westerham, to the west and in Surrey

87 Westfield, East Sussex, between Battle and Winchelsea

86 increased by myself, the sum of forty pounds to be paid unto her as in the
said
87 Mathew Holmden's will at large appeareth. **Item:** I give unto **Sara Holmden,**
88 **youngest daughter of the said Mathew Holmden,** forty pounds in full
satisfaction
89 of her legacy given by her father and increased by myself to be paid unto
her at the
90 time as in her father's will appeareth. And if there shall, after my decease,
arise to the
91 said Jane and Sara Holmden any profits out of the farm called **Marshalls**
(the charge of reparations
92 of the messuage, barn and housing thereupon being deducted) together
with the
93 charges of and for the maintenance of the said Jane and Sara, then I will
they
94 shall equally receive the profit of the said farm. **Item:** I give and bequeath
to
95 **Thomas Poulter,** sometimes my servant, all such household stuff, carriages,
all
96 tools and implements of husbandry that shall be left at the time of my
decease at
97 my house called **Brookehouse** wherein he now dwelleth (excepting the
furnace, all

98 joined bedsteads, cupboards, court cupboards, tables and their frames,
forms
99 and joined stools, all which I will shall remain standing to the said house to
the use
100 of **Robert Holmden, son of Henry Holmden, deceased.** Item: I give and
bequeath
101 unto **my cousin Mary Bunce, daughter** of my cousin James Bunce, and to
Sara Bloome,
102 daughter of my cousin George Bloome, and to **Mary Swayland,** daughter to
my cousin
103 Edward Swayland, to **Anne Barham,** daughter to my cousin **William
Barham,** and
104 to **Anne Alfrey,** daughter to my cousin **John Daye,** to **Elizabeth Paffield,**
daughter
105 to my cousin Giles Paffield, equally to be divided between them, all my
plate, gilt and
106 ungilt, which I shall have in my house at the time of my decease (excepting
such plate as is
107 herein formerly given to the children of Giles Paffield). Item: I give to **my
cousin Thomas**
108 **Holmden, eldest son of my cousin Thomas Holmden, late of Edenbridge,
deceased,** the sum

109 of one hundred pounds to be paid unto him at his age of twenty and one
years. **Item:** I
110 give to **Henry Holmden and Robert Holmden, two other sons** of the said
Thomas Holmden,
111 deceased, to be paid them at their several ages of twenty and one years, two
hundred
112 pounds a piece of lawful english money. **Item:** I give unto **William**
Holmden, the youngest
113 **son** of the said Thomas Holmden, one hundred pounds to be paid him
likewise at his

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114 age of twenty and one years⁸⁸. And if the said Thomas, Henry, Robert and
William, the sons of
115 the said Thomas Holmden, deceased, die before their several ages aforesaid,
then I will
116 his and their legacy so deceased equally to the survivors of them or the
survivor of
117 them the whole. And my will is that my executor shall allow and pay
towards the education

88 see lines 241 onwards

118 and maintenance of the said Henry, Robert and William Holmden, the sons
aforesaid of the
119 said Thomas Holmden deceased, the sum of five pounds a piece of lawful
english money
120 yearly. **Item:** I will there shall be bestowed entertaining my neighbours and
kinsfolk
121 which shall resort unto my burial the sum of forty pounds. **Item:** I give unto
Sara
122 Bloome, the wife of George Bloome, the bedstead with bed, bolster and
coverlet
123 and all other furniture thereto belonging being in the chamber wherein I
lodge and which
124 I usually lie upon with the ?? chests and all other chests, boxes, ??
125 hangings and furniture in the same chamber being. **Item:** I give to my
cousin Mary
126 Bunce, beforenamed, the walnut tree bedstead in the great chamber with
the feather=
127 bed, bolster, the best tapestry coverlet with the curtains and furniture
belonging
128 to the same. And also two mens chairs and four low stools covered with
velvet ??
129 to the bed with one long velvet cushion also ??. **Item:** I give and bequeath

130 unto Susan, the wife of my cousin Giles Paffield, Mary Swayland the
daughter
131 of my cousin Edward Swayland, Anne Barham the wife of my cousin
William
132 Barham and Bridget Daye the wife of my cousin John Daye, the rest and
residue
133 of all my household stuff as brass, pewter, linen, bedding, hangings,
bedsteads,
134 tables, stools and all other my household stuff which shall be in my house at
Sevenoaks
135 wherein I now dwell at the time of my decease (excepting such as are
formerly given).
136 And also excepting all such implements as are specified in a schedule
annexed to my lease
137 of my said house, equally to be divided between them. Provided always
that my executor
138 have the use of them at the time of my funeral at his pleasure. **Item:** I will
and bequeath
139 unto my menservants which shall be dwelling with me at the time of my
decease all
140 my apparel, both of linen and woollen, equally to be divided between them.
Item:

141 I will that my executor shall deliver to Robert Swayland, Robert Barham and
Robert
142 Daye, or to their parents and governors, to their use within three months
next after
143 my decease, all the evidence respectively touching those lands and
tenements with
144 th'appurtenances which hereafter by this my will shall be to them severally
given or devised.
145 And also that my said executor do help the two daughters of Mathew
Holmden,
146 deceased, in their bringing up until their foresaid legacies shall be due. The
rest
147 and residue of all my goods, cattells, chattels, debts and moveables
whatsoever,
148 my debts and legacies being paid and funeral expenses discharged, I give
149 and bequeath to my loving cousin James Bunce of London, leatherseller,
whom I make
150 the full and sole executor of this my testament and last will. And I do desire
151 my trusty and loving kinsmen Edward Swayland, William Barham and
Robert

152 **Olyver of Leybourne**⁸⁹ to be my overseers desiring them, and every of them,
to take some
153 pains to see this my will proved and fulfilled to the uttermost of their power
according
154 to my true meaning. To whom I give for their pains therein to be taken
twenty pounds
155 a piece as a token of my goodwill. Always provided that my executor shall
have
156 no benefit of my lease and leaseland in Shipbourne which I have otherwise
ordered
157 and appointed hereafter by this my will.

158 **This is also** the last will of me, the said Robert Holmden, made and
159 declared the day and year first above written concerning the order and
disposing of all
160 my lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances which I
have in Kent,
161 Sussex, London or elsewhere within the realm of England. **First:** I will and
devise

89 see **Olyvers in Families and Extra Transcripts** for details of the Olyvers of Leybourne but there is no obvious Robert who could have been Robert Holmden's overseer

162 unto my kinsman and godson Robert Holmden, son of my cousin Henry
Holmden,
163 late of London, leatherseller deceased, all my lands and tenements with
th'appurtenances

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164 called **Belmes** and **Chrares** lying in the parish of Edenbridge in the said
county of Kent purchased
165 of **Francis Tichborne, gent.** Also all my lands and tenements with
th'appurtenances called **Medherst**
166 **Row** lying in the parish of Edenbridge aforesaid and **Brasted** in the said
county of Kent, purcha=
167 sed of the heirs of **Richard Weaver**, deceased. Also all my lands and
tenements with their appurtenances
168 called the **Spont** with all other my lands there near adjoining lying in the
parish of Westerham in
169 the said county of Kent which I purchased of **my cousin George Holmden,**
Cornelius Bereford
170 and **John Toller.** Also all my lands and tenements with th'appurtenances
lying in the parish of
171 Shipbourne in the said county of Kent called **Willocke** with the lease lands
with the

172 appurtenances therewith used which I hold of Sir Henry Fane, knight,
purchased of **William**
173 **Scirrell, gent.** Also all my lands and tenements with th'appurtenances
called **Elherst** lying
174 in the parish of **Marden**⁹⁰ and the mill thereupon, purchased of **William**
Barham lying in
175 Kent aforesaid. Also all my lands and tenements with th'appurtenances
lying in
176 Town of Marden aforesaid purchased of **Henry Wearfine**. And also all my
lands and
177 tenements with th'appurtenances called **Collopps** lying in Sundridge in Kent
aforesaid
178 purchased of **Reignold Holmden** with all leases, profits and commodities of
the
179 lands aforesaid. To have and to hold all and singular the said lands and
tenements and
180 hereditaments with their and every of their appurtenances unto him, the
said Robert
181 Holmden and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten. And for lack of
such heirs

182 I will and devise one moiety or half part of all the said messuages, lands,
tenements and
183 hereditaments, with their appurtenances, unto **James Bunce, the younger
son of my said executor,**
184 and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten. And for default of such heirs,
to
185 **Mathew Bunce, his brother,** and to the heirs of his body lawfully to be
begotten.
186 And for lack of such heirs to the right heirs of me the said
187 Robert Holmden for ever. And the other moiety or half of all and every the
same to be and
188 remain equally to **Giles Paffield the younger, John Bloome, the son of
George**
189 **Bloome, Nicholas Barham, the son of William Barham, and to William Daye,
son**
190 **of John Daye** and to the several heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten. And
for
191 default of such heirs, to the right heirs of me the said Robert Holmden for
ever.
192 Provided always, and my will and mind is, that Susan Paffield, the wife of
my cousin,
193 Giles Paffield, shall be paid yearly during the whole term of her natural life,
out of all

194 and every the said messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments
formerly willed to
195 the said Robert Holmden, the sum or yearly stipend of ten pounds of lawful
196 English money at the feast of St. Michael Th'archangel and the
Annunciation of
197 the blessed virgin Mary, by equal portions or within one and twenty days
next after
198 either of the same feasts. And likewise that Sara Bloome, the wife of
George
199 Bloome shall be paid out of the said messuages, lands and premises the
sum
200 or yearly stipend of twenty pounds of like lawful money during her natural
201 life, yearly at the feast aforesaid or within one and twenty days then next
202 ensuing, by equal portions. And I do hereby give full power and appoint
that it shall
203 and may be lawful to and for the said Susan Paffield and Sara Bloome, and
every
204 of them, severally and for their several assigns for the non payment of the
several
205 yearly stipends aforesaid to them respectively to be paid as aforesaid, to
enter
206 and distreign into and upon all the said messuages, lands and premises
with

207 th'appurtenances, or any of them. And the distresses there so taken and
found lawfully
208 from there to lead, bear, drive and carry away and the same to withhold,
impound, detain
209 and keep irrepleagable? until they and every and either of them so unpaid
shall be
210 fully and ?? satisfied and paid their said several stipends and yearly sums
211 from time to time according to the tenor, purport and true meaning of this
my will.
212 And my will and mind is that my executor before named shall, during the
minority
213 of the said Robert Holmden, son of the said Henry Holmden, have, receive
and
214 take up all and every the issues, rents, revenues and profits of all and every
my

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215 lands, tenements and hereditaments formerly willed to the said Robert
216 Holmden towards the payment as well of my debts and legacies as of the
said several
217 yearly stipends and sums of money to the said Susan Paffield and Sara
Bloome.

218 All which several yearly stipends respectively I will that my executor do
faithfully
219 discharge during the minority of the said Robert Holmden according to the
purport of this my
220 will. And if my said executor shall live till the said Robert Holmden shall
accomplish his
221 full age of twenty and one years, then I will that my said executor do
accmpt to the
222 said Robert and do pay to him and his assigns the remainder of all the rents,
issues,
223 revenues and profits of the lands aforesaid which shall be or remain in the
hands
224 of my said executor unlaid out or not disbursed towards the payment of my
said
225 debts, legacies and the yearly stipends and sums of money as aforesaid to
be paid.
226 And if my said executor, James Bunce, happen to decease in the minority of
the said
227 Robert Holmden, then I will and give power hereby to my overseers before
named,
228 and every or any of them or their or any of their assigns, to call or promise to
be called
229 to an accmpt the executor or administrator of my said executor and to have

230 and receive of his executor or administrator the remainder of all and every
the
231 rents, revenues, issues and profits of the lands aforesaid which shall be
unpaid
232 out and not disbursed by mine executor as aforesaid. And then I do
authorise
233 and appoint, during the minority of the said Robert Holmden, my said
overseers,
234 every or any of them and their or any of their assigns, to receive the issues,
rents, revenues
235 and profits of all and singular the lands, tenements and hereditaments
aforesaid with
236 th'appurtenances towards the payment of the debts and legacies, yearly
stipends and
237 sums aforesaid. And for the remainder thereof and of the money received
upon
238 accmpt of the executor or administrator on mine executor to be
accomptable to the
239 said Robert Holmden at his age of twenty and one year. And the said
remainder
240 then to pay over to the said Robert or his assigns. Provided always that,
whereas

241 before in this my will I have given to the four sons of my cousin Thomas
Holmden, late of
242 Edenbridge aforesaid deceased, viz. Thomas, Henry, Robert and William,
the sum
243 of six hundred pounds to be paid them at their several ages of one and
twenty
244 years, my will is and I do hereby appoint and ordain that so many of the said
sons
245 of the said Thomas Holmden, deceased, as shall be unpaid their several
legacies
246 to them before willed at such time as the same shall grow respectively by
virtue of
247 this my testament and last will due, shall or may enter into and upon all
and
248 every the said lands, tenements and hereditaments with th'appurtenances
formerly willed
249 to the said Robert Holmden and the heirs of his body, or to any other in
reversion.
250 And the same lands, tenements and hereditaments with th'appurtenances
and every or any
251 of them, shall or may hold and enjoy until they, the said Thomas, Henry,
Robert and

252 William Holmden aforesaid, the sons of the said Thomas Holmden,
deceased,
253 and every or any of them so unpaid be fully satisfied and paid their foresaid
legacies
254 according to the purport of this my will (anything therein contained to the
contrary
255 notwithstanding). **Item:** I will and devise to **my godson Robert Daye, one of
the sons**
256 **of my cousin John Daye**, all my lands and tenements with th'appurtenances
called **Amwood**
257 lying in the parish of **Fletching** in the county of **Sussex**. To have and to hold
to
258 him and to his heirs of his body lawfully begotten. And for default of such
issue
259 to **his two brothers, William Daye and John Daye**, equally to be divided
between them
260 and to their heirs for ever. And my will is that Bridget, the mother of the
said Robert
261 Daye shall receive and take the rents and profits of the said lands and
tenements
262 formerly willed to the said Robert Daye until his age of twenty and one years
towards

263 the education of the said Robert and other her children. **Item:** I will and
devise unto my
264 **godson Robert Barham, one of the sons of my cousin William Barham,** all my
265 marshlands with th'appurtenances called the **Fifteen Acres** lying within the
parish of
266 **Pevensey** in the said county of Sussex. To have and to hold to him and to
his heirs

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267 for ever. Nevertheless, my will and mind is that Anne Barham, his mother,
shall receive
268 and take up all the profits of the said marshland during the minority of the
said
269 Robert, her son, towards the bringing up of him and other her children.
Item: I will and
270 devise unto **Robert Swayland, my godson, son of my cousin Edward**
Swayland, all
271 those my lands and tenements with th'appurtenances commonly called
Charndlors lying in the
272 parishes of **Penshurst** and **Chiddingstone** in the said county of Kent. And
also all my
273 lands and tenements with th'appurtenances called **Jesopps** lying in the
parish of Penshurst

274 aforesaid. To have and to hold all the said lands and tenements called
Charndlors
275 and Jesopps with th'appurtenances unto the said Robert Swayland and to
his heirs of
276 his body lawfully begotten for ever upon condition that the said Robert
Swayland and his said
277 heirs do pay out of the said tenement and lands called Jesopps, yearly for
ever, unto the
278 churchwardens of Edenbridge aforesaid, and their successors, towards the
reparations of
279 the body of the said church of Edenbridge the sum of three pounds yearly
formerly
280 by me willed thereunto at the feast of St Michael the Archangel and the
Annunciation
281 of the blessed virgin Mary, by equal and even portions or within forty days
next after
282 either of the said feasts, it being lawfully demanded at the said tenement
called
283 Jesopps. For default of payment whereof accordingly I will it shall be lawful
for the said
284 churchwardens and their successors to enter and distrain upon the said
tenement

285 and lands, or any part thereof. And the distress or distresses there so taken
lawfully
286 to bear, lead, drive, carry away and impound until the said legacy or yearly
287 stipend towards the said reparations be truly paid according to the purpose
of this my
288 will, from time to time, together with the charges by this occasion that shall
be sustained.

289 **Item:** I give and devise unto the wardens and **Society of the Worshipful**
Company
290 of **Leathersellers of London**, and to their successors for ever, all that my
message or
291 tenement with th'appurtenances called **The George on Horseback** situated
in **Great Eastcheap**,
292 **London**, with the reversion, rents and profits thereof which I purchased of
Simon Liverit,
293 **breecher**. To have and to hold the said message or tenement with
th'appurtenances
294 unto the said wardens and Society, and to their successors, for ever, upon
this
295 condition: that they, the said wardens and Society, and their successors,
wardens for the time
296 being, do pay or cause to be paid out of the said message or tenement,
yearly for

297 ever, the sum of twelve pounds lawful english money to the uses and
purposes here=
298 after following, that is to say, four pounds thereof yearly for ever towards the
299 maintenance of a scholar in the university of Cambridge or Oxford that shall
be
300 taken and preferred thither out of the grammar free school of Sevenoaks
aforesaid.
301 To be paid unto him quarterly, viz. upon every quarter day twenty shillings
302 during the space of four years, the first payment whereof shall be and begin
at that
303 quarter day of the four usual feasts, viz. St. Michael Th'archangel, the
nativity
304 of our Lord Christ, Th'annunciation of the blessed virgin Mary and the
Nativity of St.
305 John Baptist, that shall come and be next after that the said wardens and
Society
306 shall be feoffed or possessed of the said tenement, or the rents thereof, by
virtue of this my
307 will. And after the end of the said four years, the said four pounds yearly to
be
308 paid to such other scholar that shall be preferred as aforesaid out of the said
school

309 quarterly by equal portions during other four years. And so from four years
to four
310 years, the said yearly payment to continue for ever to such scholar and
scholars
311 as shall be preferred as aforesaid out of the said school. And if, at the end of
312 every four years, there shall be no scholar preferred, or then ready to be
preferred, as afore=
313 said out of the said school at Sevenoaks, that I will that the said yearly
stipend of
314 four pounds shall be payed to such scholar and scholars as shall be
preferred to either
315 of the universities aforesaid out of the free school of Tonbridge in Kent until
such
316 time and times as there shall be a scholar preferred as aforesaid out of the
said free
317 school of Sevenoaks. Provided always, if any scholar to be preferred as afore

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318 said shall not continue his study and place in one of the universities
aforesaid during four
319 years after he shall be capable of this my gift, then I will he shall receive the
same

320 only during so long time as he shall there remain and reside and no longer.
And then, after his
321 such departure or discontinuance, this my gift shall take place to the next
scholar
322 that then shall be preferred, or ready to be preferred, as aforesaid. And
touching six pounds
323 of the said twelve pounds, I will and devise unto six aged poor men and
women being
324 free of the said Company of Leathersellers and not married into any other
Company, the
325 said sum of six pounds thereof yearly for ever, to be paid unto them
quarterly as
326 aforesaid, viz. upon every quarter day five shillings a piece. **Item:** I will and
327 devise that the Renter Warden for the time being of the Company aforesaid,
and his
328 successor Renter Wardens of the same Company, shall receive twenty
shillings yearly
329 for ever of the twelve pounds aforesaid for his pains. And the other twenty
shillings
330 thereof, residue of the said twelve pounds, shall be paid in this manner, viz:
to the
331 Clarke to the said Company, thirteen shillings four pence thereof yearly for

332 ever, to him and his successors in the same office. And six shillings and
eight pence residue
333 thereof to the Beadle of the said Company and to his successors in the same
office
334 yearly, forever. **Item:** I will and devise unto **Anne Dane, my servant** (if she
shall be
335 dwelling with me in the day of my decease) during her natural life, all that
my
336 messuage or tenement with th'appurtenances called **Soules** ?? in the town
of Edenbridge
337 wherein Nicholas Foster now dwelleth. But if the said Nicholas be living at
338 my decease, she shall have and hold no more of the said tenement til after
his decease
339 than is ungiven to the said Nicholas as by this my will may appear. And
after the
340 decease of the said Nicholas and Anne, I will and devise all the said
tenement with
341 th'appurtenances unto the right heirs of me, the said Robert Holmden, for
ever. I, the
342 said Robert Holmden, to this my present last will and testament, containing
twenty
343 sheets of paper, have this, the twelfth day of August, Anno one thousand,
six hundred

344 and nineteen, in the presence of those whose names are hereunder
subscribed, set to my name
345 and sealed them together with my seal. Robert Holmden. Signed, sealed
and
346 delivered in the presence of **William Turner, John Charman, John Walter,**
the elder, John
347 **Beckett, the elder,** mark.

Thomas Holmes, gentleman

The will of Thomas Holmes (CKS: Prs/w/8/20) is the only will to have survived for Holmes in the Sevenoaks area. It looks as if it was written by a professional scriptor, possibly Richard Besbeech whom Thomas Holmes appointed as one of his overseers and whose signature as a witness looks like a "professional" signature.

There are a number of peculiarities in it:

- 1 Although Thomas left considerable sums of money to his children, the only land mentioned is a wood or coppice.
- 2 His wife was to have the profits from his children's portions (see Table H.5) until they became due in order to be able to maintain and bring up the "children so well and sufficiently as shall please god to make her able" but what was she to live on when the money had all been paid out?

Would the profits from this money be enough to keep the widow of a gentleman and his children, particularly since large amounts were being paid out each year? She was also to receive all the rest of his "goods,

chattels, moveables and household stuff not mentioned nor bequeathed" and also one hundred pounds in money but this does not seem very much given her obligations.

- 3 How could Thomas give the actual year in which the legacies to his elder children were to be paid? He might not have died by 1626, particularly since he says he was in reasonable health when the will was written? He actually says with regard to the first bequest, to Richard "the feast day of Th'annunciation of the blessed Lady St. Mary the virgin next after my decease which shall be in the year of our lord god one thousand six hundred twenty and six". The will was written in September 1624 and Thomas died at the end of October of the same year. Thus the first Lady Day after his death would have been 25th March 1624/5.

Table H.5: Thomas's Legacies to his Children

To:		to be paid:
Richard	£30	1626 ⁹¹
Alice	£26	1626
married daughter Francis grandchildren: Elizabeth Thomas	£1 £2 £2	within 1 yr. of his decease
John	£26	1627
Thomas	£26	at age 21
George	£26	at age 21
Edward	£26	at age 21
Sara	£36	at 21 or day of marriage

Thomas also left each of his five sons a halbard and a javelin.

91 where a year is given the legacy was to be paid on the feast day of Th'annunciation of the blessed Lady St. Mary the virgin (Lady Day, 25th March) in that year

1 In the name of god Amen. The ninth day of September Anno Dm.
2 1624 and in the three and twentieth year of the reign of our
3 sovereign Lord James by the grace of god of England, France
4 and Ireland, king, defender of the faith, etc. and of
5 Scotland the eight and fiftieth, I, Thomas Holmes of Sevenoaks
6 in the county of Kent, **gent.**, at the time of the making hereof
7 being of good and perfect mind and memory and of reasonable health
8 of body, thanks be given to Almighty god, do make and ordain
9 this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that
10 is to say, I do first and above all things bequeath my soul into the
11 hands of Almighty god, my creator and redeemer and into the hands
12 of Christ Jesus, his blessed son, God equal with the father and my
13 merciful saviour reposing and trusting wholly in his merits and death
14 whereby I hope to have eternal life. And my body I will to the
15 earth from whence it came to be buried at the discretion of my executrix
16 hereafter named. **Item:** I give to the poor of Sevenoaks aforesaid twenty
17 shillings to be distributed at my burial by the discretion of the overseers
18 for the poor. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my son, Richard**
19 **Holmes** thirty pounds of good and lawful money of England to be

20 paid unto him on the feast day of Th'annunciation of the blessed Lady
21 St. Mary the virgin next after my decease which shall be in the year of our
22 lord god one thousand six hundred twenty and six. **Item:** I
23 give and bequeath unto **my son John Holmes** twenty and six pounds
24 of good and lawful money of England to be paid unto him on the feast
25 day of Th'annunciation of the blessed Lady St. Mary the virgin next after my
26 decease which shall be in the year of our lord god one thousand six
27 hundred twenty and seven. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto my
28 **son Thomas Holmes** six and twenty pounds of good and lawful
29 money of England to be paid unto him when he shall accomplish his
30 full age of one and twenty years. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto my
31 **son George Holmes** twenty and six pounds good and lawful
32 money of England to be paid unto him when he shall accomplish his full
33 age of one and twenty years. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto my
34 **son Edward Holmes** six and twenty pounds of good and lawful
35 money of England to be paid unto him when he shall accomplish his
36 full age of one and twenty years. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
37 **my daughter Alice Holmes** twenty and six pounds of good and lawful
38 money of England to be paid unto her on the feast day of Th'annunciation of
39 the blessed Lady St. Mary the virgin which shall be in the year of our lord
40 god
41 one thousand six hundred twenty and six. **Item:** I give and
41 bequeath unto **my daughter Sara Holmes** thirty and six pounds of

good and lawful money of England to be paid unto her when she shall accomplish her full age of one and twenty years or upon her day of marriage which shall first happen. And if any of my sons or my daughters happen to die before his, her or any of their portions happen to be due and payable, that then my will and meaning is that the portion or portions of him, her or any of them so dying shall remain and be equally divided and paid unto all my children then surviving. **Item:** my will and meaning is that **Ann, my loving wife**, shall have the profits of my children's portions until their portions be due to be paid in consideration whereof my will and meaning is that she shall maintain and bring up my children so well and sufficiently as shall please god to make her able. **Item:** I give unto **my daughter Francis, now wife of my son-in-law Richard Rogers**, twenty shillings and to my said daughter Francis Rogers's two children, that is to say, **Elizabeth and Thomas Rogers** forty shillings a piece to be paid unto them within one year after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto my said son Richard Holmes one joined bedstead now standing in the middle chamber in the house wherein I now dwell. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto my said daughter Sara Holmes the half headed bedstead now standing in the said middle chamber. **Item:** I give unto each of my sons a halberd and a javelin. **Item:** I give unto Ann, my loving

62 wife all that my part or parcel of woodland or coppice ground now called or
known
63 by the name of the **Chamtery** land lying at **Newfound Street** in the parish of
64 Sevenoaks aforesaid during her natural life and after her decease I give
65 and devise all the said woodland or coppice ground called the Chamtery
land unto
66 my said son Thomas Holmes, his heirs and assigns, forever. **Item:** I
67 will that my very good friend **Mr. Turner**⁹² preach at my burial and for his
68 pains I give him six shillings eight pence. **Item:** all the rest of my goods,
69 chattels, moveables and household stuff not mentioned nor bequeathed in
this my
70 present will and testament, and also one hundred pounds in money which
Mr. Thomas
71 **Pett, gent,** standeth bound by one obligation of two hundred pounds unto
72 **Richard Fletcher**⁹³ of Sevenoaks aforesaid, yeoman, and **Matthew Wastone**
73 of **Penshurst, mercer,** made to them in trust for the payment of the said one
74 hundred pounds unto Ann, my said wife, which said hundred pounds I give
and

92 vicar of Sevenoaks

93 a Richard Fletcher witnessed the will of John Hope of Sevenoaks in 1632

75 bequeath unto Ann, my loving wife, as also in consideration that she shall
pay and
76 discharge all my debts and legacies and to see me decently buried and my
funeral
77 duties discharged whom I make my full and sole executrix of this my last
will
78 and testament. And I will and devise my very loving friends **Richard
Besbeeck**
79 and **Matthew Wastone** to be my overseers desiring them to be aiding unto
my said
80 wife in the execution and performance of this my last will and testament. In
witness
81 whereof to these three sheets of paper containing my last will and
testament
82 I, the said Thomas Holmes, have set my hand and seal and do hereby
83 revoke all former wills the day and year aforesaid.

the mark of **T H Thomas
Holmes**

Read, signed, sealed and delivered as the last
will and testament of the said Thomas
Holmes In the presence of us

Thomas Pett Richard Besbeeck

The mark of **Susan Roberts**

Thomas Holway and his family

When Thomas wrote his will in 1512 he was married and had two sons but the latter were left only 10 marks (John) and 5 marks (Sir Thomas). Perhaps they had already had their inheritance; "Sir" Thomas was presumably a priest. He asks to be buried next to his wife and children; does this mean that Alice, the wife he mentions in his will, was his second wife and that he had had other children who had died?

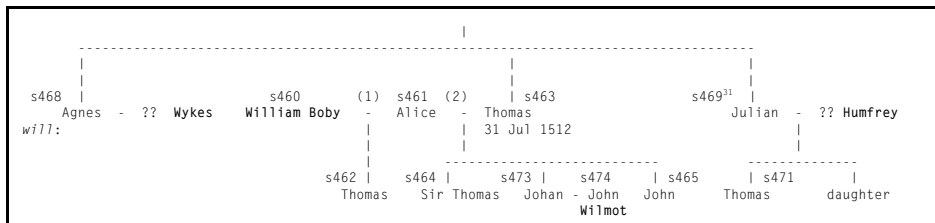
Richard Walkelyn had a ten year lease on Thomas's bakehouse in Sevenoaks which he was to keep until the end of its term. Of the 24s annual rent he paid, 13s 4d was to be used for a yearly obit and the rest for repairs to the bakehouse. Thomas had land (or at least the lease of land) in Westerham and Brasted and an interest in Shoreham since he bequeathed money to the high altar and the poor there. In addition to money to the high altar and to the churchwardens for the poor, Thomas left 20s to Sevenoaks church for the purchase of a silver cross.

John Wilmot, who could have been his son-in-law if Johan Wilmot was his daughter or granddaughter, was to be his executor. Thomas ordained that the residue of the profits, etc. of his lands in Westerham and Brasted be used to repair, maintain and keep up all his tenements in Sevenoaks. Later in the will, however, he specified

that his executor should, immediately after his decease, sell all his land and tenements in Sevenoaks "to the best value he can" or, if he was willing, to buy them himself for "13s 4d within the price that any person will give for them". The money thus obtained was to be used to pay fifteen marks to Thomas's two sons, five marks for the repair of "a causeway between the Shelining Stole and the church gate of Sevenoaks . . . upon condition that the parish amend and repair the residue", twenty marks "to an honest priest, being a singer, to sing and say mass for my soul and all christian souls" in the parish church for two years after his death and the rest to be distributed, at his executor's discretion, for his soul's health.

Thomas seems to have thought that his estate might be sued since he provided that "if it happen mine executor to be charged in the law with any manner of action or suit concerning me, the forsaid Thomas Holway, testator, then I will mine executor defend the said action and suit according to the law with my forsaid lands and goods". Certainly the arrangements regarding John Potter and his lands in Westerham and Brasted seem complicated.

There were Holloways in Seal with five wills having survived, two for Thomas Holloways, dated 1511 and 1529, but there is no reason to connect the Sevenoaks Thomas Holway with them



See [chapter 2 of the History of Sevenoaks](#) for more details about William Bobby.

Will of Thomas Holway

written 31st July 1512; proved on 1st October 1512

transcript from probate copy

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The last day of July in the year of our lord god a thousand
- 2 five hundred and twelve and in the year of king Henry the viiith the fourth.
I, Thomas Holway of Sevenoaks

31 "s" indicates a reference in the Sevenoaks database

3 in the county of Kent, whole of mind and of memory, make this my present
testament containing my last will
4 in this manner: **First:** I bequeath my soul to almighty god, father of heaven,
to our blessed lady Saint Mary
5 and to all the holy company of heaven and my body to be buried in the
church of Saint Nicholas of
6 Sevenoaks beside my wife and my children. Also I bequeath to the high
altar there, for my tithes negligently
7 forgotten, 12d. Also I bequeath to the high altar of **Shoreham** 12d. Also I
will to be done for my soul at my mo=
8 nths mind 40s in dirige masses and alms giving to poor people. Also I will
unto **Agnes Wykes, my**
9 **sister**, 6s 8d. Also I bequeath unto **Julian Humfrey, my sister**, 6s 8d to be
paid to the said Agnes and
10 Julian within 12 months after my decease. And if it happen the said Agnes
to die within 12 months after
11 my decease, then being not paid, then I will that the daughter of the same
Julian have the same 6s
12 8d. Also I will that **Thomas Humfrey, my godson**, have 3s 4d. Also I
bequeath unto **Alice, my wife**,
13 all my household stuff except a table, a form and a new cupboard standing
in the hall and them I will

14 shall remain in the hall. Also I will that **Richard Walkelyn** shall enjoy his
term of 10 years that he hath
15 in my bakehouse at Sevenoaks paying therefore yearly 24s of good and
lawful money of England to be
16 paid quarterly and 13s 4d thereof to be bestowed by mine executor to keep
an obit for me during
17 the same term. And the residue thereof to be bestowed in reparations of the
same house. Also I will
18 that **John Potter of Westerham** have and enjoy as a term during the natural
life of Alice, my
19 wife, all my lands, tenements, pasture, meadows, woods, underwoods, rents
and service lying and
20 being in the parishes of Westerham and **Brasted**. And after the decease of
the said Alice, the forsaid
21 John Potter fulfilling, or causing to be fulfilled, such conditions as shall
ensue, then I will
22 all the forsaid lands and tenements and the other premises with all
th'appurtenances, the said John Potter
23 to have and to hold unto him, his heirs and assigns. That is to say, if he pay,
or cause to be paid,
24 to Alice, my wife, during her life natural, all the issues, revenues and profit
of a tenement called

25 **Bothes** so be it that of the forsaid tenement to any other person she making
no lease for term of
26 years or for term of her own life. Also, the residue of the issues, revenues
and profits of all the
27 other forenamed lands and tenements and the other the premises, withall
th'appurtenances, lying and being in
28 Westerham and Brasted aforesaid except th'issues revenues and profits of
the tenement of Bothes afore
29 except, I will to be paid to my executor to th'intent to repair, maintain and
keep up all my
30 tenements within the parish of Sevenoaks aforenamed. Furthermore I will
that the said John Potter
31 shall pay, or cause to be paid, unto the churchwardens of Sevenoaks for the
time being in the
32 third year next immediately following after the decease of the said Alice, my
wife, thirty marks
33 of sterling money of England. Also to the churchwardens of Westerham and
Shoreham three score marks
34 sterling in manner and form as is above specified to the church wardens of
Sevenoaks. Provided

35 always that the forsaid threescore pounds⁹⁴ shall be bestowed to the use of
the churches aforesaid.

36 Also I will that mine executor deliver, or cause to be delivered and paid, on
this side the feast of

37 Saint Michael Th'archangel, or in the said feast next following the date of
this my last will,

38 to the churchwardens of Sevenoaks for the time being, towards the buying
of a silver cross, 20s. Also

39 I will that Alice, my wife, have the house with a garden adjoining to the
New Inn by the space of 2 years

40 next following after my decease as she had I living. Also I will that mine
executor, immediately

41 after my decease, sell all my land and tenements within the said parish of
Sevenoaks to the best value

42 he can and of the money thereof coming, I will mine executor pay unto **John**
Holway, my son, 10

43 marks and to **Sir Thomas Holway, my son**, five marks, to be paid to them
within 2 years next

44 after my decease and five marks to the reparations and mending of a
causeway between the **Shelining**

94 thirty marks to each of Sevenoaks, Westerham and Shoreham totals ninety marks which was sixty pounds

45 **stole** and the church gate of Sevenoaks, to be paid within 2 years upon
condition that the parish amend
46 and repair the residue. And 20 marks to an honest priest, being a singer, to
sing and say mass
47 for my soul, and all christian souls, by the space of two years next after my
decease in the parish church
48 of Sevenoaks. Also I will that mine executor shall buy all the forsaid land
and tenements, and the
49 reversion? of them, to have to him and to his heirs and assigns, if he be so
willing, 13s 4d
50 within the price that any person will give for them. Also the rest of the
money coming of the forsaid
51 lands and tenements, I will to be distributed for my soul's health by mine
executor after his discretion.
53 Also I bequeath to Alice, my wife, 6s 8d. Also I bequeath to **Alice Geyley,**
my goddaughter 3s 4d.
54 Also I bequeath to **Johan Wilmot** 3s 4d. Also I bequeath to every of my
godchildren 4d to be paid

page 2:

55 to the forsaid Alice, my wife, Alice Geyley, Johan Wilmot and my god-
children within the space
56 of 12 months after my decease. Provided always that if it happen mine
executor to be
57 charged in the law with any manner of action or suit concerning me, the
forsaid Thomas
58 Holway, testator, then I will mine executor defend the said action and suit
according to the
59 law with my forsaid lands and goods. This my testament and last will in
nothing withstanding.
60 The residue of all my lands and goods above not bequeathed I bequeath to
John Wilmot to dispose
61 for my soul and all christian souls in such alms, deeds and charitable works
as he shall think
62 best, whom I make and ordain mine executor of this my last will and to him
I give 40s for
63 his labour and business in this behalf. These witness: **Henry Cronke** and
James Ciceley and
64 others more.

This will (CKS: Prs/w/8/51) is the only one in the area for a Hope to have survived; it was written by John Hooper, notary public and parish clerk of Tonbridge who wrote a large number of wills - It is not decorated but was written in the same hand as other John Hooper wills.

John Hope left £100 to each of his three sons and £40 to each of his four daughters but the money for these bequests, as well as for paying his debts and mortgages, was to come from the sale of his tenement and lands in Kingsdown which he owned in addition to his messuage and land in Sevenoaks and Chevening. Part of his land in Sevenoaks was used for hop growing and there is a Hop Garden Lane in Sevenoaks; was this where John Hope lived?

1 In the name of god Amen. The nine and twentieth day of
2 July in the year of our Lord God one thousand six hundred thirty and
3 two. And in the eighth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord Charles, by
4 the grace of God, king of England, Scotland, France and Ireland,
5 defender of the faith, etc. I, John Hope of Sevenoaks in the
6 the county of Kent, **Gent**, sick in body but of good memory (thanks be to
7 God, do ordain and make this my testament and last will in manner and

8 form following: **First:** recommending my soul to almighty God, my
9 maker, with an assured hope of Salvation through his mercy in the merit
10 and mediation of his dear son Jesus Christ, my alone Saviour. **Item:**
11 I will and give to **my three sons⁹⁵**, viz. **John, Henry and**
12 **Richard**, one hundred pounds a piece to be paid at their ages
13 of twenty and four years. And if any of them shall decease before
14 his said age unmarried, his and their portions so deceased shall remain
15 equally to and amongst the other of my sons surviving. And if all or any of
16 my sons shall be put to apprentice with money to be given to them, I will
17 that the money so given shall be accounted as part of his and their portion
18 aforesaid that shall be so put to apprentice. All which those portions I
19 will they shall have and be paid with the money that shall arise out of the
20 sale
21 of my tenement hereafter by me appointed to be sold with the lands and
22 appurtenances
23 thereto belonging, situated, lying and being in **Kingsdown** in the said
county
of Kent. And in the meantime, my wife to receive the profits and rents of
the said tenement and land till they shall be sold and afterwards the profits
of

95 "daughters" crossed out and replaced with sons at the time of writing, i.e. not as a correction when the will was read before the signing

24 my sons' portions towards their maintenance till they shall be paid.
25 **Item:** I will and give to **Anne, Elizabeth, Barbara and Susan, my**
26 **four daughters**, forty pounds a piece to be paid them at their
27 several ages of 21 years or several days of marriage which
28 shall first happen. And if they, or any of them, shall decease before their
29 ages aforesaid unmarried, I will that her and their part and portions so
30 deceased shall be and remain equally to and amongst the survivors
31 of them or to the survivor of them, the whole. And my will also is that
32 all these portions of my said daughters, together withal my debts owing
33 by specially and without, and also the moneys for which any of my other
34 houses or lands shall be mortgaged, shall arise and be paid with the moneys
35 that shall arise of the sale of my tenement and lands in Kingsdown
36 aforesaid, the profit of which my said daughters' portions arising and to
37 be made till their several payments thereof, I will that my wife shall
38 have and receive towards their maintenance.

39 **Item:** I will and give to **Dorothy, my loving wife**, all my moveable
40 goods, cattell and chattels, debts, goods, stock of hops and hop poles. And
41 I do make and ordain her to be the sole and only executrix of
42 this my testament and last will, to see the same proved, my body decently
43 brought to the earth and to bestow at my burial such dole in bread
44 money or otherwise as she shall think fitting. And to pay to my four
45 overseers hereafter named, viz. **Lawrence Maidwell, Esquire, Pedall**

46 Harler, Esquire, William Kipps of Kemsing and William Wall of Sevenoaks,
47 my special good friends, ten shillings a piece, which I give to them for a
48 token of my love and loving remembrance of them.

49 This is also the last will of me the said John Hope made the day and year
50 first above written touching the ordering and disposing of all my lands and
51 tenements with their and appurtenances: I will and give full
52 power and authority to my overseers before named viz. Mr. Lawrence
53 Maidwell, Mr. Pedall Harler, William Kipps and William Wall and
54 to the said Dorothy, my wife and executrix, or to any four, three or
55 two of them, by indenture, feoffment or poldeed with livery and
56 ?? or any otherwise according to law, to bargain, sell, grant,
57 enfeoff and confirm, for the greatest price that may conveniently
58 be had, all that my messuage or tenement commonly called **Pells** and
59 all the barns, outhouses, closes, yards, gardens, orchards and lands,
60 arable, meadow, pasture, woods and woodlands thereto belonging with
their and every of their
61 hereditaments and appurtenances, situated, lying and being in Kingsdown
in
62 the county of Kent, or any part or parcel of the said messuage or tenement,
63 lands and premises, and all or any other my lands and tenements in
Kingsdown
64 aforesaid, at any time and times seeming fit to my said overseers and

65 wife, to any person or persons, and his and their heirs forever, who
66 shall purchase and buy the same and the money . . .⁹⁶
67 or any part thereof shall be sold, I will that first all my debts shall be paid
and ??
68 to be paid upon mortgage shall be discharged. And then all my sons'
69 portions and daughters' portions before mentioned. In the putting out and
70 placing forth of which my said sons and daughters portions until they
71 are to receive the same, I desire the best fatherance and assistance
72 of all my said overseers that the same may come safely to my said children.
73 And the profit in the meanwhile to my wife whilst they shall be on her
74 charge or else to themselves. And all the money that shall be over and
above
75 and remaining (when my said debts and children's portions shall be paid
and
76 allowed) of the sale of my said tenement and lands to be made as aforesaid,
77 I will shall be and remain equally to and amongst my said wife and
78 seven children, portion and portion like. **Item:** I will to the said
79 Dorothy, my loving wife, for term of her natural life, and after her
80 decease, to my three sons before named, viz. John, Henry and Richard, and
81 to their heirs and assigns for ever, all that messuage or
82 tenement wherein I, the said John Hope, do now dwell. And all the

83 barns, buildings, closes, yards, gardens, orchards, hop ?? and
84 lands, arable, pasture, ways, waters, commodities and appurtenances
85 thereto belonging, situated, lying and being in Sevenoaks
86 aforesaid. And also all other my lands and tenements in Sevenoaks
87 and **Chevening**, to hold to the said Dorothy for term of her
88 natural life, she keeping the same well repaired. And after her decease
89 to the only use of the said John, Henry and Richard, my sons, and of
90 their heirs and assigns, for ever. In witness whereof I
91 have to this my testament and last will contained in four
92 sheets of paper set my hand and seal to the fourth sheet
93 of the same, dated the day and year first above written.

the **H** mark of the
said John Hope⁹⁷

Sealed, published and declared
in the presence of:

Tho: Medless
Richard Fletcher
John Hooper, notary public

97 since John was buried only two days after the date of the will, he might have been able to write but not capable of doing so on his deathbed

J

Will of Susan Jeffery	1632	PCC: Audley	82	widow	J.3
Will of Thomas Jeffrey	1641	CKS: Prs/w/9/159		servant	J.4

Jylbert, John 1621 PCC: St. John 79

see [Richard Thomas](#)

John Jylbert's will is included with that of Richard Thomas because John was Richard's son-in-law.

Wills of Susan Jeffrey and Thomas Jeffrey

There were a large number of Jeffreys in the Speldhurst and Tonbridge area but there is no known connection between them and these two testators who themselves are not obviously related.

Susan's will (PCC: Audley 82; Prob 11/162) is nuncupative and very short but it was proved at the PCC, perhaps because Richard Jeffrey, to whom she left everything, lived in Battle in the county of Sussex.

1 That upon Friday the seventeenth
2 day of April one thousand six hundred thirty two, Susan Jeffrey of
 Sevenoaks
3 in the county of Kent, **widow**, being of her perfect mind and memory and
 being asked how
4 she would dispose of her estate, she replied and said, I will that **Richard
Jeffrey of Battle** in the
5 county of Sussex, shall have all that I have or give him all that I have or
 words to the like
6 effect. Being present **William Turner**, vicar of Sevenoaks, **Jane Cole** and
 Abigail Williams.

The vicar, William Turner, witnessed a number of Sevenoaks wills, some of which he probably wrote.

Thomas Jeffrey, servant from Bradbourne, was buried on 6th October 1641; he was presumably the testator of the will dated October 1641 (**CKS: Prs/w/9/159**) His request to be buried in the church chancel implies that he had some standing in the parish and he himself had a servant to whom he left ten shillings. Thomas was married and had two sons, William and Danny with Danny the main beneficiary. His wife was his executrix and Thomas left small legacies to a number of other Jeffreys.

The wording of Thomas's will does not run very smoothly and there were apparently no witnesses - or at least none whose names appear on the will.

1 In the name of god amen. The last will and testament
2 of Thomas Jeffrey of the parish of Sevenoaks in the county of
3 Kent, although I be sick in body if in composite? memory,
4 I praise god. **First:** I commit my soul to Almighty God
5 that gave it me and my body to be buried in the church chancel
6 of Sevenoaks so trusting in the merits of Christ Jesus to rise
7 again in the last day and to eternal glory.

8 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **William Jeffrey, my son,**
9 the sum of forty shillings. **Item:** I give to **Danny Jeffrey, my son,** the sum
10 of twenty shillings. **Item:** I give to my servant **John Husell**
11 the sum of ten shillings. All those legacies to be paid with
12 in twelve months after my burial. **Item:** I give to **John Jeffrey,**
13 **the son of John Jeffrey,** forty shillings to be paid at the time
14 of his prentice then running out. **Item:** I give to **my godson, Thomas**
15 **Jeffrey, the son of John Jeffrey,** five shillings. **Item:** I give to my
16 **godson, Thomas Jeffrey, the son of Thomas Jeffrey,** five shillings
17 to be paid within two months after my burial. **Item:** my meaning is
18 that **Mary, my wife,** shall have half of the lease which we now live?
19 and all the profit and benefit which ?? ?? Michaelmas
20 the archangel next ensuing which will be in the year of our lord
21 1642. **Item:** I give to Danny, my son, after the time before dated
22 expired to **John Joye,** the whole lease and all commodities there unto
23 belonging, paying Mary, my wife, the sum of four pounds
24 a year to be paid half yearly, that is to say, at one Lady
25 day, being the 25th March and at Michaelmas at two annual
26 payments and her dwelling in the house during the term
27 of the lease. If she die before the term of lease expires
28 then I will that my son Danny to have the whole lease
29 ?? to him self. **Item:** I give to Mary, my wife, the rest of all my goods and
30 chattels and make my whole executor and to see this my last

31 will and testament fulfilled.
date the second of
October an. 1641 The mark of Thomas Jeffrey.

K

The Knights of Sevenoaks and Cowden

One will has survived for a Knight from Sevenoaks:

Will of Edward Knight	1634	PCC: Seager 66	K.4
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Edward Knight, mercer of Sevenoaks, came from Cowden from which parish a number of Knight wills have survived (all the men were yeomen):

	written:	proved:	
John Knight, the elder	26 Oct 1609	7 Nov 1611	PCC: Wood 95; Prob 11/118
John Knight	24 Aug 1618	8 Sep 1618	PCC: Meade 85; Prob 11/132
Richard Knight	7 Nov 1633	7 Nov 1633	PCC: Russell 102; Prob 11/164
Robert Knight	9 Jun 1638	4 Aug 1638	PCC: Lee 95; Prob 11/177
Mary Knight	29 ?? 1640	5 Aug 1640	CKS: 19IIB.158; Dra/Pw1
George Knight	17 Oct 1641	5 Jul 1642	PCC: Cambell 87; Prob 11/190

See [Families and Extra Transcripts](#) for details.

John's will of 1618 includes an unusual phrase in the preamble: "I commend my soul unto Almighty God whensoever it shall please him to sever the same from my body". Both this will and that of John, his father, of 1609 were written by Robert Hedley.

Edward, of Sevenoaks, was one of a large family: Since he was underage in 1618 when his father died and all his older siblings were also underage, Edward was probably under thirty when he died.

Edward's father was probably the son of John Knight, the elder, who in addition to a son John, had a godson Jonas who could have been his grandson. The will of Edward, the mercer from Sevenoaks, is short but he had a brother Jonas and a sister Ann married to Richard Saxpes whom he made his executor with their daughter being his heir. Edward is thus likely to have been one of John's sons with his sister Ann being John's daughter Agnes, Ann and Agnes often being used interchangeably for the same person. Margaret was not the mother of John's children but she had a son, Giles, from her previous marriage

will: x539 John - Isabel
26 Oct 1609

x540

x541 | x576 | x543 | x544 | x542 | x545 |
John - Margaret - ?? Glide Bridget Dorothy George Richard

will: 24 Aug 1618
Giles x577

x556 | x557 | x558 | x559 | x560 | x561 | x562 | x563 |
Jonas - John Robert Mary Oliver Edward Ann - Robert Saxpes Edmond

will: 6 Jul 1634

x587 | x588 |
Bridget Joane

Ann

1 In the name of god Amen. The sixth
2 day of July Anno dm one thousand six hundred thirty and four and in the
tenth
3 year of the reign of our sovereign lord king Charles, by the grace of god, king
of England
4 I, Edward Knight of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, mercer, sick in body
yet of
5 perfect mind and memory (praised be god) do make and ordain this my
testament and
6 last will in manner and form following: **First:** I commend my soul to
Almighty God and
7 I commit my body to the earth to be buried. **Item:** I give unto the poor
people of Sevenoaks
8 aforesaid ten shillings and to the poor people of Cowden where I was born,
twenty
9 shillings to be distributed unto them within one month next after my
decease. **Item:** I
10 give and bequeath unto **Anne Saxpes, daughter of my sister Ann,** all such
rents and

11 sums of money which is due, or ought to be paid, unto me for such lands
and
12 tenements as I have in Cowden in the said county of Kent ever since the
same ??
13 or was given unto me. Item: I give and bequeath unto **my brother, Jonas
Knight's**
14 **two daughters, Bridget and Joane**, twenty pounds of lawful money of
England
15 equally to be divided between them and to be paid them when they shall
severally
16 accomplish their ages of twenty and one years. Item: I give and bequeath
unto **Alice**
17 **White and Grace Tomlinson**, my tenders now in my sickness, forty shillings
of lawful
18 money to be paid them equally within one month next after my decease.
Item: I give and
19 bequeath unto **John Swaysland** of Sevenoaks aforesaid, mercer, thirty
pounds of like lawful
20 money to be paid unto him within three months next after my decease.
Item: I give
21 unto **Mary Barnaby** thirty shillings and unto **Mary Allen** twenty shillings to
be paid

22 them within one month next after my decease. And I make and ordain
23 **Robert Saxpes,**
24 **my brother-in-law,** the whole and sole executor of this my testament and
last will. In
25 witness whereof I, the said Edward Knight, have hereunto set my hand and
seal the
26 day and year aforesaid. Edward Knight Read, sealed and published to be
the last
27 will of the said Edward Knight in the presence of **John Bloomer** and **John**
Bill.

L

Will of John Lambe	1605	PCC: Hayes	85	tanner	L.2
Will of Edward Lamparde	1630	CKS: Prs/w/10/109		husbandman	L.5
William Lawrence, bricklayer					L.7
Lawrence, William (senior)	1627	CKS: Prs/w/10/104			L.10
Walter Leigh, gentleman of Riverhead					L.16
Leigh, Walter (Riverhead in)	1631	PCC: St. John	85		L.19
Will of Robert Leighton	1558	PCC: Welles	19		L.22
The Lennardes of Knoll and Chevening					L.24
Lennarde, John (Knole in)	1591	PCC: Sainberbe	27	Esq.	L.29

The Lones of Sevenoaks and Mereworth						L.43
Lone, Richard (& Sundridge)	1581	PCC: Darcy	27	gent.		L.46
Lone, Samuel (of Mereworth)	1631	PCC: St.John	84			L.52
The Longs of Sevenoaks						L.61
Long, William	1621	PCC: Dale	99	yeoman		L.63

Will of John Lambe, tanner

written 29th November 1605;

John Lambe, householder, buried 20th December 1605

transcript from probate copy

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The nine
- 2 and twentieth day of November Anno domini one thousand six hundred and
five in
- 3 the third year of the reign of our sovereign Lord James, by the grace of God
king of

4 England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. And of Scotland the
nine and
5 thirtieth. I, John Lambe of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, **tanner**, being
whole and
6 sound both of body and mind (thanks be unto god) do make and declare this
my last will
7 and testament in manner and form following: **First:** I commend my soul
into the hands
8 of Almighty God, my maker, and to Christ, my saviour and redeemer
(through whose death
9 and passion and my hearty repentance, I hope assuredly to be saved). And
my body to
10 the earth⁹⁸ it was made, to be buried in the church yard of Sevenoaks
aforesaid. **Item:**
11 I give unto **Richard Lambe and John Lambe, my sons**, (being now
apprentices in
12 **London** whom I do make mine executors to this my last will and testament)
13 all my leases and goods whatsoever, paying my debts and seeing my body
decently buried as a
14 man of my calling ought to be. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the poor of
the said parish

15 of Sevenoaks ten shillings to be distributed at the discretion of my
overseers. **Item:** I give
16 unto the minister that shall preach a sermon at my burial six shillings and
eight pence.
17 And to this my last will and testament I do request **John Hawkins** of
Sevenoaks, **gent.**
18 and **Michael Heath, citizen and clothworker of London,** my very good
friends, to be my
19 overseers. And in token of their good will and kindness I give unto either of
them six
20 shillings and eight pence. In witness whereof I have to this my last will and
21 testament set my hand and seal even the day and year first above written.
By
22 me, John Lambe. Sealed, signed and delivered in the presence of **Henry**
Farley, sen.,
23 **John Ewen and William Hadson.**

Two Lampard wills from Tonbridge, two from Hadlow and one from Cudham have also survived. There does not seem to be any connection between Edward from Sevenoaks and the other Lampards.

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Edward Lampard of the parish of
2 Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, husbandman, this eighteenth
3 day of May 1630 and in the sixth year of the reign of our
4 sovereign lord Charles, by the grace of god, of England,
5 Scotland, France and Ireland king, defender of the faith,
6 etc., being very sick and weak in body but, thanks be to the
7 almighty god, of good remembrance, do make this my last
8 will and testament in manner and form following: **First:**
9 I commend my soul to the almighty god, my maker and redeemer,
10 by whose only merits I hope to be saved and to have a joyful
11 resurrection, my body I commend to the earth to be buried
12 in such decent and seemly manner as **Clemence, my loving**
13 **wife**, in her good discretion shall think fit and convenient
14 whom I hereby nominate and appoint to be the only and sole
15 executor to this my last will and testament, to see my

debts paid, my funeral expenses to be discharged and this my will in every respect to be performed. **Item:** I give to the said Clemence, my wife, all my goods moveable and unmoveable for and towards her own maintenance and the education of **Richard Lampard, my son.** Also I give to the said Clemence the use, profit and commodity of all my lands whatsoever for and towards the maintenance of the said Clemence and the said Richard, my son, during the widowhood of the said Clemence and if my said wife happen to marry, then my will is that Richard, my son, shall have all my lands to his own use. Further my will is that if my said son happen to die without issue of his body lawfully begotten, the said Clemence then remarrying my widow, that then the said Clemence shall have all my lands during her natural life and after her decease I will and give the same to **Henry Lampard, my brother,** and to his heirs for ever. **Item:** I hereby appoint the said Henry Lampard, my brother, and **John Rommedy, my brother-in-law,** to be two overseers of this my last will and testament desiring them to be aiding and assisting to my said wife in the ordering and disposing of my poor estate to the good of herself and my said son. In witness whereof to this my last will and testament, I, the said Edward Lampard, have set my hand and seal the day and year first

38 above written.

Sealed and delivered, published
and declared to be the last will
and testament of the said
Edward Lampard in the presence
of us **William Outram**

Edward Lampard
 his mark

Edmond Thomas
Thomas Lampard his mark

William Lawrence, bricklayer

William Lawrence owned land in Sevenoaks with three messuages, one of which he lived in himself, one occupied by William Turner, baker, and another with a backside near Sevenoaks pound occupied by Thomas Ashdown which included a shop occupied by Elizabeth Rogers, widow. "[William Lawrence, senior, bricklayer](#)" was buried on 8th May 1627, his will having been written on 2nd May (CKS:

Prs/w/10/104); it was proved on 24th May 1627. His bequests are listed in the table below. Margaret, daughter of John Lawrence, bricklayer, was buried on 9th August 1637; she could have been the daughter of William's executor.

He left to his wife Alice, for her natural life:

- one part of the house in now which he dwelt: the hall and chamber over it, the buttery, the mill house and chamber over it and the kitchen and garden plot belonging to the tenement.
- all the roots, pease and barley; half the oats; four kine; free liberty to go to and fro through the close and backside of the house to fetch water.
- the lease of some land he had from Mr. Thomas Pett

William had four sons, William (the eldest), George, John (his executor) and Thomas, the youngest. His tools and ladders were to be divided equally between William and George and John was to have £10 to be paid to him within one quarter of a year after William's decease, perhaps as a recompense for the expenses of being an executor.

William had three daughters: Agnes was to receive £20, Elizabeth only £2 and Helen £16 plus one "**miltch ??**" - milk cow? but the second word does not look like "cow". These bequests were to be paid within three months of his death and, on the death of Alice, Helen was also to have joined table with a joined chest.

His other bequests included: £1 to his sister Ann Foster and ten shillings to her daughter Mary also to be paid with three months of his death.

The land bequests to his sons were::

Willian and Thomas	- a house and tenement in Sevenoaks with the orchard or backside
George	- another messuage or tenement in Sevenoaks with the backside and “one shop thereto belonging”
John	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- the other half of the house with the barn, woodhouse and six acres of land- the half house left to his mother for her natural life

1 In the name of god Amen. The second day of May in the
2 year of our lord god one thousand, six hundred, twenty and seven,
3 In the third year of the reign of our sovereign lord Charles
4 by the grace of god, king of England, Scotland, France and Ire
5 land, defender of the faith, etc. I, William Lawrence the elder,
6 of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, **bricklayer**, sick in body
7 but (thanks be given to God) of good and perfect memory, do
8 make this my last will and testament in manner and form fol=
9 lowing: That is to say, I do first and above all things bequeath
10 my soul into the hands of Almighty god, my saviour and Re=
11 deemer, In whom and by whose death and passion, I am fully per=
12 suaded I shall, after this painful life ended, receive and enjoy with
13 him everlasting life in the kingdom of heaven and that ?? him
14 my sins are fully pardoned and forgiven. And as for my body,
15 that I commit to the earth from whence it came, to be buried
16 in the parish church yard of Sevenoaks aforesaid. **Item:** I give
17 and bequeath unto **Alice, my wife**, the one part of the house or
18 tenement wherein now I dwell, situated in Sevenoaks aforesaid. That
19 is to say, the hall, the chamber over the hall, the buttery, the mill
20 house and the chamber over the mill house, together with the kitchen

21 belonging thereunto, the garden plot also belonging to the said tenement.
22 Also I give unto her, the said Alice my wife, all my roots, pease and
23 barley with half the oats belonging to me growing and now
24 being in the land which now I have ?? of **Mr. Thomas Pett**, with
25 four kine with free liberty to go to and fro through the close
26 and backside of the said house to fetch water. Also I give and bequeath
27 to my said wife Alice the lease of the land which I have of Mr. Pett, paying
the rent thereof only
28 one field called **Long Field** excepted being a parcel of the said lease.
29 All which said part of my house or tenement aforesaid, together
30 with the said lease, I give and bequeath unto her during her na=
31 tural life and, after her decease, to remain unto **my son, John**,
32 as is hereafter mentioned. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto **William**
33 **Lawrence, my eldest son**, and **Thomas Lawrence, my youngest son**,
34 all that my house and tenement, situated and being in Sevenoaks
aforesaid,
35 together with the orchard or backside thereunto being and belonging
36 equally and indifferently to be divided between them the said tenement
now
37 being in the occupation of **William Turner, baker**, adjoining to the
38 house of **Richard Porter?**, south, and the house sometimes **John Lawrence**,
deceased,
39 north and the street of Sevenoaks west, to have and to hold the said

40 house or tenement to the said William and Thomas Lawrence, and their
41 heirs
42 heirs of their body lawfully begotten for ever. And if it please god that
43 either
44 the said William Lawrence or Thomas die without heirs of their
page 2:
45 body lawfully begotten, that the I will that then the half of
46 the said house or whole (if both depart this life) return to my
47 son John Lawrence and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten
48 for ever. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my son, George Law=**
49 **rence**, an other messuage or tenement in Sevenoaks, lying nigh
50 against the pound of the said Town, west, now in the occupation of
51 one **Thomas Ashdown**, together with the backside, and one shop there=
52 to belonging now in the occupation of **Elizabeth Rogers, widow**, To
53 have and to hold the said tenement together with th'appurtenances to
54 the same belonging, to my said son George, and the heirs of his bo=
55 dy lawfully begotten for ever. Also I give and bequeath unto him, my
56 said son George, half my tools, together with half my ladders
57 and the other half I give after my decease to my son William. **Item:**
58 I give unto my son John Lawrence the other half of my house or
tenement wherein now I dwell together with the barn, woodhouse and
the fi?? in the backside of the said tenement being and belonging, to him

59 and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten for ever. Together with six
acres of land, more or less, now in lease of the said Thomas Pett⁹⁹. Also, I
give
60 and bequeath unto him, my said son John, the full sum of ten
61 pounds of good and lawful money of England, to be paid to him, my
62 said son John, or his assigns, by the hand of my executor hereaf=
63 ter mentioned, within one quarter of a year after my decease.
64 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my daughter, Agnes Lawrence**, the full
65 sum of twenty pounds of good and lawful money of England to be paid
66 by the hand of my executor hereafter mentioned, unto the said Agnes, or
her as=
67 signs, within one quarter of a year after my decease. **Item:** I give
68 and bequeath unto **my daughter, Elizabeth Lawrence**, the full sum of
69 forty shillings of good and lawful money of England to be paid to her
70 or her assigns by my executor hereafter named within a quarter of
71 a year after my decease. **Item:** I give unto **Helen Lawrence, my**
72 **daughter**, the full sum of sixteen pounds of good and lawful money
73 of England to be paid to her, the said Helen or her assigns, by the
74 hands of my executor hereafter named within one quarter of a year
75 after my decease. Also I give unto her, the said Helen, one Miltch ??
76 to be delivered unto her by my executor within one quarter of a

77 year. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my sister, Ann Foster, widow,**
78 the full sum of twenty shillings of good and lawful money of Eng=
79 land to be paid unto her, or her assigns, by the hand of my executor
hereafter mentioned
80 within a quarter of a year after my decease. **Item:** I also give
81 unto **Mary Foster, daughter of the said Ann Foster, widow,** the
82 full sum of ten shillings of lawful money of England to be paid
83 unto her, the said Mary or her assigns, within one quarter of a year
84 after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath also unto Helen, my said
daughter,
85 one little joined table with a joined chest standing in the chamber where
86 now I lie, to be delivered to her after the decease of Alice, my wife.
87 **Item:** I give unto the poor of the parish of Sevenoaks, the full sum of
page 3:
88 twenty shillings of good and lawful money of England to be distri=
89 buted unto them by the hands of William Turner, baker, in so
90 much bound? at the day of my burial. Also I do intreat
91 and desire **Mr. Turner, vicar of Sevenoaks,** and appoint him to
92 preach at my burial, to whom I give for his pains the full
93 sum of ten shillings to be upon the day of my burial paid unto him
94 by the hands of my executor hereafter mentioned. **Item:** all the
95 rest of my goods, chattels or moveables whatsoever not mentioned
96 or bequeathed in this my last will and testament, my debts paid,

97 my legacies fulfilled, my funeral duties discharged, I give and
98 bequeath unto my son John Lawrence (excepting only one
99 dommg? ?? and one ?? which I give and bequeath after my decease
100 to **my son, Henry**) with all my tools belonging to husbandry
101 and the said John to have and to hold the said goods, chattels and move
102 ables to his own proper use after the decease of Alice, my wife,
103 forever, which said John Lawrence I make my full and sole execu=
104 tor of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof
105 I, the said William Lawrence th'elder have put to my hand the
106 day and year first above written.

William Lawrence

In the presence and wit= The seal of
nessing of **William Turner**¹⁰⁰ William Lawrence, th'elder
William Floate¹⁰¹
The mark W of **William**
Turner, baker

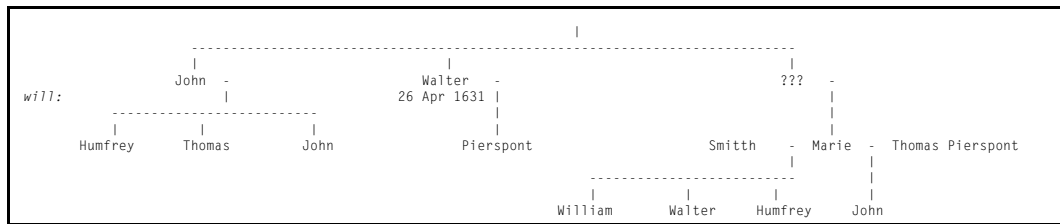
100 William Turner was vicar of Sevenoaks and wrote a number of wills for his parishioners

101 the wills of William Floate (1640) and William Turner, baker (1638) have survived

Walter Leigh, gentleman of Riverhead

Walter Leigh's will (**PCC: St. John 85; Prob 11/160**) is the only Leigh will to have survived from Sevenoaks. It was started on 26th April 1631, finished on 1st May and proved on 29th July of the same year by Humfrey Leigh who was Walter's nephew. Mr. Walter Leigh, "[ye sword bearer of London](#)", was buried on 20th May.

Most of Walter's legacies were to nephews and niece but he mentions a son at the end of his will. Perhaps this son had already been set up but it was one of his nephews whom he appointed his executor. An added complication is that the son's name is given just as Pierspont, the married surname of Walter's niece Marie to whom he left a house in which she was already living. Thomas Pierspont appears to be Marie's second husband since she had three sons, William, Humfrey and Walter Smith whom Walter describes as his nephews. The tree below outlines the possible relationships but Marie could have been John's daughter.



When he wrote his will Walter was in the process of purchasing a lease for twenty-one years from the City of London for £100; this he gave to his nephew, John Leigh.. Walter had lent £600 to Mr. Peacock, Esquire, of Finchley which was to be paid to his nephew Humfrey Leigh who was to be his “[executor when he can receive my debt of £600 by two several bonds owing to me as may appear by writing](#) “ so as to provide the money for most of his legacies.

Summarising Walter's other bequests:

To:	neice	Marie Pierspont	£ 40 and a house
	nephew	Thomas Leigh	£ 300
	nephew	John Leigh	£ 100
	brother	John Leigh	£ 100
	Marie's son	William Smith	the house left to Marie on her death

godson	Walter Smith	£ 10
nephew	Humfrey Smith	£ 10
nephew	John Pierspont	£ 10
son	Pierspont	£ 10 and his grey gelding
friend	John Larry	£ 10
Mrs. Bateman		£ 200

		£ 790

The £100 to his brother John was "[for his further maintenance and staff of his old age](#)"; perhaps John was the father of Walter's executor. Who was Mrs. Bateman that she was to receive £200? Half of this was to come from the £100 lent to John Larry and the other £100 from the £600 lent to Mr. Peacock.

The first named witness was Robert Brownell who was also the first witness of the will of Richard Boggesse of Chevening written on 3rd February 1631. Both include similar but unusual phrases so that probably Brownell wrote both these wills.

1 In the name of god Amen. April the six and
2 twenty, I, Walter Leigh of Rethered in the parish of Sevenoaks in the county
of Kent, **gent.**,
3 sick in body but of good and perfect memory (god be praised), do institute,
ordain and make
4 this my last will and testament in manner and form following: **First** and
principally I commend
5 my soul to god, father, son and holy ghost, and my body to be buried
believing the resurrection
6 hereof at the last day to eternal life through the merits of the precious death
and resurrection
7 of my blessed saviour and redeemer Ch. Jesus. And for my worldly goods I
dispose of them as follows:
8 **Imprimis** I give and bequeath to **my niece Marie Pierspoint, the wife of**
Thomas Pierspoint, the
9 house which she now dwelleth in at Rethered for her life and after her
decease to **William Smith, her first**
10 **son** and to his heirs male for ever. And without an heir male to **Humfrey**
Smith and his heirs

11 for ever. And for want of heirs of them to her own right heirs for ever withall
whatsoever thereto
12 belonging or appertaining at this time used therewith or enjoyed. **Item:** to
my nephew Thomas Leigh I give
13 three hundred pounds. **Item:** to **my nephew John Leigh** I give my lease of
21 years lately
14 purchased of the **City of London** and cost me £100 to commence and begin
at Michaelmas next, to
15 him and his during the full term whereof fifty pounds is yet to pay with sum
of fifty pounds
16 I likewise bequeath to him. **Item:** I give to **my brother John Leigh** one
hundred pounds for his further
17 maintenance and staff of his old age and for him to dispose of at his death.
Item: to **Walter Smith,**
18 **my godson,** I give ten pounds, to my nephew Humfrey Smith £10 and to **my**
nephew John Pierspont ten pounds to be paid at the
19 discretion of **my nephew Humfrey Leigh** whom I ordain my executor when
he can receive my debt
20 of £600 by two several bonds owing to me as may appear by writing. **Item:** I
give to my niece Marie
21 Pierspont forty pounds of her charges to me ?? **Item:** to **my loving friend Mr.**
John Larry I

22 give ten pounds. And that he pay to **Mrs. Bateman** the hundred pounds that
I lent him. And my
23 nephew Humfrey to pay her one hundred pounds more upon the receipt of
the £600 from **Mr. Peacock**
24 **of Finchley, Esquire.** The ten pounds Mr. Larry hath in his hands that I give
him already as a
25 final token of my love. **Item:** I give to **my son Pierspont** ten pounds and my
gray gelding. **Item:** to
26 the servants at the discretion of my executor. And my boy as he shall see
good. In witness whereof
27 I have set my hand and seal to these present the first day of May in the
seventh year of the reign
28 of king Charles of England, Scotland, France and Ireland king, etc. 1631.
Walt. Leigh signed
29 and sealed in the presence of **Robert Brownell, Owen Evans.**

1 In the name of god Amen. In the year of our lord god a thousand, five
2 hundred, fifty and eight, I, Robert Leighton, being sick in body and of good
remembrance and perfect memory, thanks
3 be unto almighty god, make this my last will and testament in manner and
form following: **First:** I bequeath
4 my soul (to) almighty god and to our blessed lady St. Mary and all the
blessed company of heaven and my body
5 to be buried in the church yard of St. Nicholas in Sevenoaks. **Item:** I give
and bequeath unto **Elene, my wife,**
6 2 featherbeds, 2 bolsters and 2 pillows of feathers, 3 coverlets, 2 blankets.
Item: I give unto the said Elene,
7 my wife, 2 kettles, one brass pot, one platter, 2 pewter dishes, one saucer
and a scomer¹⁰². Also I give unto
8 the said Elene, my wife, 8 pairs of sheets, 3 tablecloths, one pillow coat, 3
table napkins and her
9 chest with all things being within. All the which goods before named
remaineth in the keeping and in the

102 scummer?, i.e. a skimmer, a large wooden spoon with holes in it

10 house of **my sister Elizabeth Fayrebarne, widow**, dwelling in the parish of
11 **Hurst** within the county of
12 **Berkshire**¹⁰³. Also I give unto the said Elene, my wife, 2 coats, one coat
13 cloth¹⁰⁴, all her wearing apparel and,
14 more over, I give and bequeath unto my said wife all other my goods,
15 moveables and unmoveables wheresoever
16 they be, or may be found, whom I make my whole executrix, my debts paid
17 and my legacies fulfilled.
18 Witnesses at the making of this will: **Sir Thomas Searle, curate of Sevenoaks,**
19 **John Webb, Edward**
20 **Sone, John Warwick, Robert Partridge** with others.

103 this seems a long way from Sevenoaks for so much of his household belongings to be stored; had he and his wife just moved to Sevenoaks?

104 cloth from which to make a coat?

The Lennardes of Knoll and Chevening

John Lennarde, and later his son, Sampson, held a lease of Knole where they lived from 1574 to 1604. John's will (PCC: Sainberbe 27, Prob 11/77) was written on 28th November 1587 and proved on 17th April 1591. Although he describes himself as of Knoll in Sevenoaks, he asked to be buried in Chevening and a tomb to him and his wife was placed in that church giving the date of his burial as 1590. John left money to the parishes from which he received rents and revenues and these were spread all over the country. John had inherited his estates in Chevening and Chipstead from his father but he had other manors, messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments in Kent: Apuldefield als. Aperfield, Northsteed and Wickhurst, also in Sundridge, Sevenoaks, Hever, Shoreham, Otford, Chelsfield, Brasted, Downe and Cudham.

Table L.1: Money to be Distributed to the Poor

Kent	Chevening	£3
	Sevenoaks	40s
	Brasted	30s
	Sundridge	20s
	Otford	10s
	Shoreham	10s
	Hever	10s
	Knockholt & Halsted	6s 8d each
Cambridgeshire	Carleton & Weston ¹⁰⁵	20s each
Somersetshire	Brodendston	20s
Yorkshire	Horton ¹⁰⁶	20s
Wiltshire	Stanton Givinton	20s
Essex	Romford	10s

¹⁰⁵ Carlton and Weston, about 12 miles east-south-east of Cambridge

¹⁰⁶ Horton in Ribblesdale is about 30 miles west-north-west of Harrogate

In 1570, Charles Waldegrave, Esq., had alienated the advowson of Hever to John Lennard, Esq., of Chevening¹⁰⁷ and in 1577, Sampson and Samuel had bought the manor of Brasted. John also mentions land in parishes in Cambridgeshire (see lines 97 to 102).

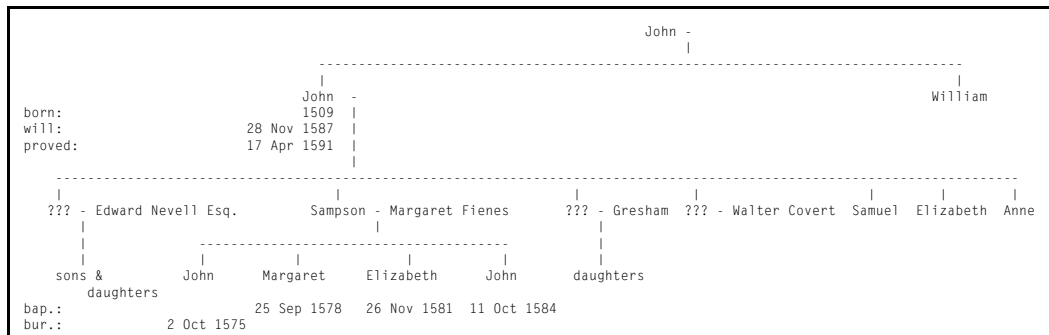
John had two sons, Sampson and Samuel. Sampson, the eldest, probably married about 1570. His wife was Lady Margaret Fienes, daughter of Thomas Fienes, Lord Dacre, who became heiress to the peerage with their son becoming Baron Dacre¹⁰⁸.

Sampson was appointed executor and he was to see all John's debts "[fully paid to the uttermost farthing and give full recompense with the more for any injury that any creature can truly prove that ever I did him](#)". John left practically all of his land to Sampson. All that Samuel seemed due to receive, unless Sampson died without heirs, was the lease for land in Hayes in Kent; perhaps John had already spent money on establishing Samuel in a profession or trade.

¹⁰⁷ Hasted, p.201

¹⁰⁸ Gleason, J.H.; Justices of the Peace in England 1558-1640, Oxford 1969, p.18

The family tree below has been assembled from John's will and some baptisms in the parish records but does not pretend to be a complete tree for the Lennardes at this period.



John's will included legacies to sons and daughters (in the plural) for both Sampson and the Nevells. The Coverts did not have any children in 1587 but any sons and/or daughters which they had in the future were to receive legacies of the same value as their older cousins: £10 to a boy, £5 to a girl. This arrangement must have made difficulties for the executor since he would be expected to pay these legacies at some time in the future whenever a grandchild of the deceased John was born. At least the money was to be paid to all the grandchildren by the executor “[within convenient time after my decease](#)” rather than waiting until they came of age.

Only daughters were mentioned for the Greshams. Was this an error made by the original scriptor? or by the copier? Or did his daughter Gresham have an obviously completed family with no sons? Since no husband is mentioned, she could have been a widow.

If his daughters, Elizabeth¹⁰⁹ and Anne, had not been preferred in marriage during his lifetime, they were each to receive £1000 provided that they married with the consent of their brothers, Sampson and Samuel.

When John Pett wrote his will in 1593, two of his overseers were "[Mr. Samson Lennard, Esq., and Mr. Samuel Lennard, gent.](#)"

1 In the name of god, the father,
2 god the son and god the holy ghost, three persons and one god, I John
Lennarde
3 of **Knoll** in the parish of Sevenoaks within the county of Kent, **Esquire**, of
the age by my
4 parents saying of threescore eighteen years at St. Edwardtide last past
before the
5 making and declaring of this my last will and testament steadfastly
believing in the
6 same my lord god and being whole in body, mind and memory, I give
thanks therefore to
7 my Lord god Almighty, do make, ordain and declare this my present last
will and testament
8 in manner and form following: the eighteenth day of November in the year
of our Lord
9 god, after the computation of the church of England, one thousand, five
hundred,
10 eighty seven. And in the thirtieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady
Queen

11 Elizabeth, by the grace of god Queen of England, France and Ireland,
defender of the
12 faith, etc. **First:** I commend my soul to the mercy of god in our Lord and
Saviour
13 Jesus Christ, in and by whose bitter passion, death and resurrection only,
without any merit

page 2:

14 or desert of mine, I verily trust to attain to salvation and joy everlasting.
My body, but earth, I commit
15 to the earth and I will the same to be buried and bestowed at and in
Chevening church or chapel
16 in such sort as the body of christian man ought to be, after and by the
discretion of **my two sons**
17 **Sampson and Samuel**, heartily praying them to foresee that, in the
bestowing thereof, nothing be done
18 that may seem offensive to god but that that be only done which may
stand with his sacred word.
19 **Next** to that I will exhort and charge all my children, on god's behalf and on
my blessing, whom in
20 god's name I do bless that they read, hear and remember this article, viz:
that they be watchful

21 and careful with a diligent eye and mind over their children and such other
as they have and take
22 the charge and government of, to keep them from loose and dissolute life
and to see that they spend
23 their time in the love and fear of god. **Item:** I will that within convenient
time next after my
24 departure out of this earthly tabernacle, or rather in my life time when I
shall be in extremis,
25 there be distributed by mine executor amongst the poor and impotent
people inhabiting
26 within the parishes hereafter named such several sums of money herein to
each parish appointed
27 hereafter presently I have and by a good time have had and received rent
and revenue in every,
28 or most, of those parishes (that is to say), to the poor of Chevening three
pounds, **Otford** ten
29 shillings, **Shoreham** ten shillings, Sevenoaks forty shillings, **Hever** ten
shillings, **Brasted**¹¹⁰
30 thirty shillings, **Sundridge** twenty shillings, **Romford in Essex** ten shillings,
Carleton in

110 "Bearsted"

31 **Cambridgeshire**¹¹¹ twenty shillings, **Weston** there forty shillings, **Horton in**
32 **Yorkshire** twenty
33 shillings, **Stanton Givinton in Wiltshire** twenty shillings, **Brodendston in**
34 **Somersetshire**
35 twenty shillings. And although I have little or no land in the parishes of
36 **Knockholt**¹¹² and **Halsted**
37 in Kent, yet, because they border upon Chevening parish wherein I was
38 born, I give to the
39 poor of Knockholt six shillings eight pence and to the poor of Halsted six
40 shillings eight pence.
41 And my will and mind is that consideration be had upon the poor in other
42 parishes by and at
43 the discretion of mine executor. **Item:** if **my daughter Elizabeth** be not
44 preferred in marriage in
45 my life time nor any covenant nor bond be made by me to any person for
46 the payment of any sum
47 or sums of money in consideration of her marriage, then I give and
48 bequeath to the said

111 Carlton and Weston, about 12 miles east-south-east of Cambridge

112 "Nockolt"

40 Elizabeth, my daughter, one thousand pounds towards her marriage so
that she bestow herself
41 therein by the consent of her brothers Sampson and Samuel or the overliver
of them, the one
42 half thereof to be paid the day of her said marriage and the other half at the
years's end then
43 next following. **Item:** if **my daughter Anne** be not preferred in marriage in
my life time
44 nor any covenant nor bond be made by me to any person for the payment
of any sum or sums
45 of money in consideration of her marriage, then I give and bequeath to the
said Anne, my
46 daughter, one thousand pounds towards her marriage so that she bestow
herself therein by
47 the consent of her brothers Sampson and Samuel or the overliver of them.
Item: I give
48 to every of the sons of my son Sampson ten pounds. **Item:** I give to every of
his
49 daughters five pounds. **Item:** I give to every of the sons of **my son-in-law**
Edward
50 **Nevell, Esquire**, ten pounds. **Item:** I give to every of his daughters five
pounds. **Item:** I give

51 to each of the **daughters of my daughter Gresham** five pounds. **Item:** I give
to every of
52 the **sons of my daughter Covert** which god shall send her ten pounds.
Item: I give to
53 every of her daughters which god shall send her five pounds. **Item:** I give
to **my brother**
54 **William** ten pounds. **Item:** I give to every of my household men servants
which shall be in
55 service with me at the time of my decease ten shillings. **Item:** I give to
every of my
56 household maid servants which shall be in service with me at the time of
my decease six shillings
57 eight pence. **Item:** I will that all those bequests and sums of money given
to my children's
58 children, brother and servants be paid by my executor within convenient
time after my decease.
59 **Item:** I give, bequeath, release and confirm unto my son Samuel all such
estate right
60 and interest as I have, or ought to have, in or to one lease for years of and
in **Baston Heath**

61 in **Hayes**¹¹³ in the said county of Kent sold by **Sir William Heydon, knight**, to
me and to my
62 said son Samuel. The residue of all my leases, goods and chattels, money,
plate,
63 household stuff, debts whatsoever, I give and bequeath unto my eldest son
Sampson Lennarde
64 do ordain, constitute and make my full, sole and whole executor of this my
last
65 will and testament, willing him that he shall see all my debts fully paid to
the uttermost

page 3:

66 farthing and give full recompense with the more for any injury that any
creature can truly prove
67 that ever I did him. And that he duly perform my legacies. And I appoint
my good friends
68 Edward Nevill, Esquire, my son-in-law, and **Walter Covert, my son-in-law**
and
69 my son Samuel to be the overseers of this my last will and testament whom
I instantly

113 "Haies"; about two miles south of Bromley

70 require to have care that the same may be performed according to my
meaning thereof as much
71 as in them shall lie and as my faithful trust is in them. And I do give for the
same to every
72 of them one gold ring of twenty shillings value to be delivered unto them
by mine executor.
73 **And concerning** the disposition of all and singular my
74 manors, messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever, with
all and singular
75 th'appurtenances lying and being either in the said county of Kent or
elsewhere within the
76 realm of England, my last will and mind is as followeth: viz. I will, give and
bequeath
77 unto my brother William Lennarde one annuity or yearly rent of fifty marks
by year for
78 term of his life to be had and received out of and in my manors of
Apuldefield als.
79 **Aperfield and Northsteed** in the said county of Kent, payable quarterly viz.
at the
80 feast of St. Michael Th'archangel, the Birth of our Lord god and saviour
Jesus
81 Christ, the Annunciation of the blessed virgin Mary and the Nativity of St.
John the

82 Baptist, by even portions, the first payment thereof to begin at which of the
said
83 feasts that shall first happen after my decease. And for default of such
payment of the
84 said yearly rent, the said William Lennarde and his assigns may distrain in
the said
85 manors for the same and the arrearages of it from time to time and shall
use the distress and
86 do in all things for the recovery of the said rent or annuity according to the
laws of this
87 realm. **Item:** I will, give and bequeath to the foresaid Sampson Lennarde,
mine eldest
88 son, all those my manors, lands, tenements in the said county of Kent
called or known
89 by the names of Chevening, Chipstead, Apuldefield als Aperfield,
Northsteed and
90 **Wickhurst**¹¹⁴ withall and every their appurtenances and all those my lands,
tenements
91 and hereditaments in the parishes of Chevening and Chipstead in the
same county of Kent

114 Wickhurst Manor is in Sevenoaks Weald

92 which sometime were **John Lennarde's, gent., my father** and all other my
manors, lordships
93 lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever in the towns or parishes
of Chevening,
94 Chipstead, Sundridge, Sevenoaks, Hever, Shoreham, Otford, Chelsfield,
Brasted,
95 **Downe** and **Cudham** in the said county of Kent or any of them or elsewhere
within the
96 said county of Kent. And all those my manors, lands, tenements and
hereditaments
97 whatsoever in the county of Cambridge called or known by the name or
names of **Little**
98 **Carleton** als. **Cardidors** als. **Lephames, Weston Colville**¹¹⁵, **Weston Moines,**
Weston Leveres and
99 **Gatewardes** withall and every their appurtenances and all other my
manors, lands,
100 tenements and hereditaments whatsoever in the towns or parishes of
Carleton, Weston

115 "Colbile"; Weston Colville, near Carlton

101 Colville, Willingham, Wickham, Briuckley Borough, Baborougham,
Balsham¹¹⁶ and Pannesworth
102 in the said county of Cambridge or elsewhere in the said county of
Cambridge. And all that my manors of Horton with the appurtenances
103 in Yorkshire. And all other my manors, land tenements and hereditaments
in the said
104 county of York. And all that my manor of Broadenstone als. Broadmaston
with the apper=
105 tenances in Somersetshire. And all other my manors, lordships, lands,
tenements
106 and hereditaments whatsoever in the said county of Somerset. And
107 all that my manor of Stanton Givinton with the appurtenances in the
county of Wilt
108 shire and all other my manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments
whatsoever in the
109 said county of Wiltshire. And all other my manors, lands, tenements and
hereditaments
110 within the realm of England. To have and to hold all and singular the said
manors,
111 lordships, lands, tenements and hereditaments, with all and every their
appurtenances

116 West Wickham and Balsham are near Carlton

112 unto the said Sampson Lennarde and to the heirs male of his body lawfully
begotten
113 and to be begotten. And for default of such heirs male of his body lawfully
begotten, the same
114 to remain unto the said Samuel Lennarde, my son, and to the heirs of his
115 body lawfully begotten and to be begotten. And for default of such issue
then they to

page 4:

116 remain to my said brother William Lennarde and to the heirs male of his
body lawfully
117 begotten and to be begotten. And for default of such issue, then they to
remain to the heirs female
118 of the body of the said Sampson, my son, lawfully begotten and to be
begotten. And for default
119 of such issue then they to remain to the heirs female of the body of the said
Samuel, my son,
120 lawfully begotten and to be begotten. And for default of such issue then
they to remain to the
121 heirs of the body of me, the said John Lennarde, lawfully begotten. And for
default of such
122 issue to remain to the right heirs of me, the said John Lennarde, for ever.
Also I will

123 that **John Spilstey of Chipstead** and his heirs and assigns shall quietly
enjoy without
124 interruption of mine heirs all such housing, lands, tenements and
hereditaments as he
125 purchased of me and that all other persons to whom I have sold any lands,
tenements or
126 hereditaments, and their heirs and assigns, shall likewise enjoy them
according to their
127 bargains without interruption of my said heirs. Lastly I utterly annul and
revoke all other
128 testaments and wills heretofore made by me, the said John Lennarde,
concerning any of my goods,
129 chattels, leases, manors, lands, tenements or hereditaments whatsoever.
In witness whereof
130 hereunto I have subscribed my hand and set my seal, the day and year first
above
131 mentioned, John Lennarde. This will was published and acknowledged by
the said John Lennarde
132 the 28th day of November in the thirtieth year of the Queen's majesty's
reign in the

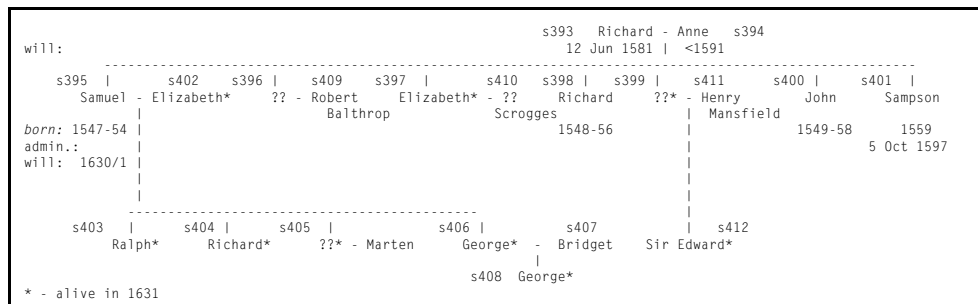
133 presence of me, **John Tindall**¹¹⁷. And of me **Nicholas Miller** and of me **Thomas Pococke**¹¹⁸.

117 probably the writer of the will

118 In his will written on 27th April 1587, Thomas Pococke arranged for his three sons, John, William and George, to pay the £6 13s 4d which he owed to John Lennarde Esquire. This could not have been the same Thomas Pococke as witnessed this will.

The Lones of Sevenoaks and Mereworth

Richard Lone settled in Sevenoaks in 1559 when he bought Sevenoaks Park about the time his youngest son, Samuel, was born. His eldest son, Samuel, born sometime around 1550, became a Roman Catholic for which he was imprisoned in 1581 just after he had inherited his father's land. Later Samuel moved to Mereworth leaving his son George as the focus of Catholicism in Sevenoaks. See [Appendix 14](#) for details of their indictments for recusancy.



In the above tree, the years given below the names of Richard's sons are the dates between which they may have been born. If Samuel, Richard's eldest son was

born in 1547 he would have been 84 when he died in 1631. All Richard's daughters married before 1581. There is no mention of Sampson, his youngest son, being underage which implies was born before 1560. Seven children in ten years is feasible giving 1550 as the latest date for Samuel's birth assuming he was the oldest child. If any of three daughters were older than Samuel or any of them, although married were underage, it is possible he was born as late as 1554.

A Grant of Administration was granted for the estate of Sampson Lone on 5th October 1597 with his two brothers, Richard and John, being appointed his administrators.

Samuel's sisters, Scrogges and Manfield, were still alive in 1631 and so must have been in their seventies, if not older. Samuel was already married to Elizabeth in 1581 and we would expect their elder children to have been born in the 1580s. Gordon Ward gives the age of George Lone as thirty in 1619¹¹⁹ in which case he was born in 1589. In 1633, there was a George Lone, gent. and George Lone, Esq. in Sevenoaks¹²⁰; these could have been Samuel's son and grandson.

119 Ward Notebooks, Rumshed V, p. ??

120 Cockburn, Chas.I No. 1068

The wills of Richard Lone (PCC: Darcy 27; Prob 11/63) and his son Samuel (CKS: U 1000/2 T1; PCC: St. John 84) have survived. The CKS version of Samuel's is a copy made before or soon after his death; Samuel originally wrote his will on 2nd October 1630 but altered it in July 1631. At the beginning of the seventeenth century Samuel moved to Mereworth whilst his son, George, remained in Sevenoaks. Both Samuel and George maintained Catholic households being indicted numerous times for recusancy. Although by the time of his death Samuel was "of Mereworth" a transcript of his will is included here.

Richard's will was written on 12th June 1581 and proved on 14th July 1581. Thus, although the will says that he was "[in good health](#)", he cannot have lived very long after it was written. No witnesses are given and it is possible that it was written by Richard Lone himself. (Lone is sometimes Love and sometimes Loane). Although Samuel and his children were practising Catholics, there is nothing to indicate that Richard was not an orthodox attender of the parish church within the aisle of which he wanted to be buried.

In 1619, Stephen Tebold, gent. of Seal, a wealthy lawyer and the grandson of the John Tebold who had a shop in Sevenoaks, left a piece of silver of the value of £10 to Samuel Lone, Esq. and gold rings valued at £2 each to two of Samuel's sons, George and Ralph.

1 In the name of god Amen. The twelfth day of June in the year of the
2 reign of our sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God of England,
France and Ireland Queen, defender
3 of the faith, etc. the 23rd. I, Richard Lone of Sevenoaks in the county of
Kent, **gent.**, being in good health and
4 of perfect mind and remembrance (thanks be given unto almighty god, do
make and declare this my last will
5 and testament in manner and form following: **First:** I bequeath my soul to
almighty god, the creator and
6 maker thereof, and to Jesus Christ who redeemed and bought it with the
price of his precious blood, beseeching him,
7 of his infinite mercy and goodness, to pardon me of my great sins and
wickedness which I have most grievously
8 committed against him and to receive my soul to his favour and grace.
And I will my sinful body to be buried
9 within that aisle¹²¹ of the church of Sevenoaks aforesaid wherein I have
used to sit, if it shall happen me to die

121 "ile"

10 within Sevenoaks aforesaid. **Item:** I give to **Samuel Lone, my eldest son,**
one great gilded bowl¹²² without a cover
11 one white silver bowl, my great white silver salt parcel gilt with the cover,
one silver drinking cup and
12 one dozen silver spoons. **Item:** I give to **Richard Lone, my second son,**
twenty pounds in money and one
13 featherbed with all things thereto belonging. **Item:** I give to **John Lone, my**
third son, twenty pounds in
14 money and one featherbed with all things thereunto belonging. **Item:** I
give unto **Sampson Lone, my fourth son,**
15 five hundred pounds in money and one featherbed with all things
thereunto belonging. **Item:** I give and bequeath
16 unto **my daughter Balthropp** twenty pounds in money. **Item:** I give unto
my daughter Mansfield ten
17 pounds in money. **Item:** I give unto **my daughter Scrogges** ten pounds in
money. **Item:** I give to the
18 poor people dwelling within the parish of Sevenoaks aforesaid five marks¹²³
in money to be distributed by

122 "bolle"

123 five x 13s 4d = £3 6s 8d

19 her discretion. I give to the reparations of the church of Sevenoaks forty
shillings. The rest of all my goods,
20 cattell, debts, plate and leases not given nor bequeathed, I will, give and
bequeath to **Anne, my wife**, whom I do ordain,
21 make and constitute my sole and only executrix of that my last will and
testament. And I do make and ordain overseers
22 of the same my last will and testament **Robert Balthropp and Henry**
Mansfield, Esquire, my sons-in-law, and
23 **Michael Berisford, gentleman**. And I do give to every one of them, for their
pains to be taken, one ring of gold
24 of ¹²⁴ praying them to be helpers and aiders unto my said wife in the
execution of and performance of this
25 my last will and testament in all things wherein she shall have need of
their help, counsel and advice. per me
26 Richardum Lone, picopria name script.
27 This is the last will of me Richard Lone made and declared the twelfth day
of June in the year
28 of the reign of our sovereign Lady queen Elizabeth the 23rd touching and
concerning the order and disposition

124 space left here, presumably a space was left in the original for the value of the ring to be entered and this was never completed

29 of all my manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments with their
appurtenances, set lying and being in within the
30 county of Kent other than such manors, lands and tenements as I have
appointed to be assured and conveyed to my
31 son Samuel Lone and to **Elizabeth, now his wife**. **First:** I will, give, devise
and bequeath to Anne, my wife,
32 all my lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances,
situated, lying and being in within the parishes of
33 Sevenoaks, **Sundridge, Staplehurst, Frittenden and Biddenden** in the said
county of Kent and also all my lands
34 in **Marden** which I purchased of **John Rooper, Esquire**, and also all my
lands and tenements in **Tonbridge** which I
35 purchased of **John Oxley, deceased**, and also all my lands and tenements
in Tonbridge aforesaid which I purchased of
36 one **William Harris** and also all my lands and hereditaments in Tonbridge
aforesaid being parcel of the manor of
37 **Romshed alias Romseed** and also all my lands which I purchased of **John**
Broke of Marden, to have and to hold all the
38 manors, lands and tenements, with their appurtenances, before given,
devised and bequeathed unto the same Anne,
39 my wife, for time of her life and after the decease of the same Anne, my
wife, I will, devise and bequeath that all the same

40 manors, lands, tenements and hereditaments, with their appurtenances to
the said Anne before bequeathed and devised
41 shall descend, come, revert, remain and be to the said Samuel Lone, my
son, and to the heirs male of his body
42 lawfully begotten for ever. Manors, lands and tenements devised by me,
Richard Lone for the dower
43 and jointure of Anne, my wife, as followeth¹²⁵

Imprimis: the manor of Peasridge
the manor of Romshed
Mathew Tye's farm
my lands in Tonbridge late Oxley's and William Harris's
The Benes
Green's farm
Kippington Land
Little Kippington
Mother Lane's house
Roger's house, fields, house and land
Pottmoss Land
Pettes Land

125 the probate copy gives these manors, etc. as continuous text; there are given her in list form for ease of reading

Staplehurst alias Dyne's farm
Greatness mills and farm at Greatness

Manor, lands and tenements appointed to Samuel Lone and Elizabeth, his wife,
for her jointure and dower:

Imprimis: two manors called Cheneney

Burford's farm

the land and tenements purchased of William Raynes bought of Mr.
Lee, Esquire, in Tonbridge

- 1 In¹²⁶ nomine patris et fils et spiritus sancti Anno Dm 1630 2 die Octobris, I
Samuel
- 2 Lone of Mereworth in the county of Kent, being in sound and perfect
health, both of body and mind for which I praise and thank my Lord and
Saviour Jesus Christ, knowing that all flesh
- 3 is subject to death and must yield nature her due and that the hour of our
departure is concealed from us, that we, not knowing the time when God
will call us away, might always be prepared and ready at his
- 4 call, make and ordain this last will and testament the year and day above
written, in manner and form following: **First** I will and bequeath my soul
into the hands of the blessed Trinity, three persons
- 5 and one God, whom I most humbly beseech to pardon my manifold sins
and offences committed against his majesty and to receive me to mercy
that I may praise him forever with his elect and blessed in
- 6 the land of the living. And as for my body I bequeath it to the earth from
whence it came. **Item:** I give unto **my son Ralph Lone** ten pairs of sheets,
two featherbeds, two bolsters, four pillowberes,

- 7 four blankets, four dozen of napkins, four tablecloths, two rings, to be assigned unto him out of my goods at Mereworth by **my loving friend maister Thomas Stanley**. **Item:** I give unto **my son Richard Lone**, one featherbed, one bolster, two pillows, four pillowberes, three pairs of sheets, two blankets, three tablecloths, two dozen of napkins to be assigned unto him out of my goods at Mereworth by my
- 8 loving friend, Mr. Thomas Stanley. **Item:** I give unto **my sister Mansfield** a ring of gold of forty shillings price. **Item:** I give unto **my Lady Mansfield** a ring of gold of forty shillings price. **Item:**
- 9 I give unto **my sister Scrogges** fifteen pounds. **Item:** I give unto **my daughter Marten** my piece of Unicorn's horn. **Item:** I give unto **my cousin Joyce Richards** forty shillings. **Item:** I give unto **my cousin**
- 10 **Mary Stockwood** twenty shillings. **Item:** I give to **my cousin Richard Stockwood**¹²⁷ twenty shillings. **Item:** I give unto **my nephew Walter Mariatt** twenty shillings. **Item:** I give unto **my neice Anne**
- 11 **Mariatt** twenty shillings. **Item:** I give unto **my godson Nicholas Lock** twenty shillings. **Item:** I give unto **my neice Jane Strange** twenty shillings. **Item:** I give unto **Henry Teintus** twenty shillings.
- 12

¹²⁷ Joyce Richards, Richard Stockwood, gent., and his wife Mary, all of Sevenoaks, were indicted for recusancy a number of times between 1626 and 1647; see [Appendix 14](#) for details

13 **Item:** I give unto **my servant Anne Palmer** five pounds. **Item:** I give unto
the rest of my servants five pounds to be equally divided amongst them.
Item: I give unto **Margaret Pilcher**, sometime my servant,
14 ten shillings. **Item:** I give unto **John Hartain, the elder**, twenty shillings.
Item: I give unto **my nephew Lone** five pounds. **Item:** give unto the poor of
the parish of Mereworth five marks. **Item:**
15 I give unto the poor of the parish of Sevenoaks five marks. **Item:** I give unto
my son Ralph Lone forty pounds. **Item:** I give unto my executor five pounds
yearly, to be paid to him, his executors and assigns, for
16 and during the space of twenty years next ensuing, to be issuing and going
out of my tenement and lands thereto belonging called **the Bore** in the
parish of **Sundridge** or Sondritche in the County of Kent. And I will
17 that it shall be lawful for my said executor and his assigns, and every of
them, at all times to enter into the said tenement and lands thereto
belonging, and every parcel thereof, and there to distrain. And the distress
and
18 distresses so taken to drive away and detail until the said five pounds, and
every parcel thereof, be paid and satisfied, if any happen to be behind and
unpaid. **Item:** I give unto **my servant John Swift** five marks a year
19 during his natural life, to be issuing and going out of my tenement and
lands thereto belonging called **Laurences** in the parish of Sevenoaks or
elsewhere in the county of Kent. And I will it shall be lawful for him, his

20 executors and assigns at all times to enter into the said premises, and
every part thereof, and to distrain and the distress and distresses so taken
21 to drive away and detain until he or they be fully satisfied of the said five
marks and every part thereof if any happen to be behind and unpaid. **Item:**
I give unto my son Ralph Lone a gilt standing cup which was sometime **my**
sister Fitzwilliam's. **Item:** I give unto my son Richard
22 Lone a pair of plate of five marks price. **Item:** I give unto **my son George**
Lone all the rest of my plate and all my goods and chattels not bequeathed.
And I make my loving friend Master Thomas Stanley of **West**
23 **Peckham** in the aforesaid county, executor of this my will and testament.
And I give unto him for his pains, to be taken in seeing the due execution
and performance of this my last will five marks of good and lawful money
of
24 England; And I will that my son George Lone shall repay and satisfy all
charges whatsoever my said executor shall be at or be forced to put in
seeing this my last will duly and truly performed according to my intent
25 and meaning. **And** I appoint **my dear and well beloved Henry Mansfield,**
Esq., and **Sir Edward Mansfield, knight,** overseers of this my last will. And
to each of them I give in remembrance of my love three pounds in gold.
This
26 **is the** last will and testament of me, the aforesaid Samuel Lone, made and
declared the year and day above written touching the disposition of all my
land, manors, tenements, hereditaments and annuities not already

27 conveyed and disposed. **First** I will that my son Ralph Lone shall have
during the life of **Elizabeth Lone, my wife his mother**, the yearly profit,
28 rents, commodities and use of my manor of **Romstedd** alias Romshed
in the parishes of Sevenoaks and **Tonbridge**. And of other my lands called
French Mead, Black Mead, Sommerlands and of my tenements now in the
occupation of **John Stevens** or of his assigns. And I will that it shall be
29 lawful for the said Ralph Lone to take, sell and cut down¹²⁸ in convenient
places and in seasonable lands upon them for the necessary premises
during the time he shall enjoy, use and possess them. **And** I will that after
the decease of
30 my said wife, my said foresaid son Ralph shall not have nor longer enjoy
the aforesaid profits, rents, use or commodities of my foresaid manor lands
and tenements. **But** I will that immediately after the next rent day
31 after the decease of my said wife, my foresaid son Ralph shall have to him
and his heirs forever my farm called **Parkerplace** with all the lands, pasture,
meadows, feedings, woods and underwoods thereunto belonging in the
parishes
32 of **Sutton Valence and Chart near Sutton** in the aforesaid county of Kent.
Item: I further will and bequeath unto my said son Ralph and to his heirs
all my rents and annuities which I purchased, to me and my heirs,

128 "timber" obviously omitted here

33 of **Elizabeth Scrogges, my sister**, and were granted by **George King, Esquire**, to **Edmund Richards, gent.**, and to his heirs and by **Richard King, gent.** to Richard Lone, gentleman, and to his heirs with clauses of redemption. And I will

34 that if the said annuities or rent charges, or any of them, shall happen to be redeemed by the payment of such sum or sums of money as in the several indentures by the said purchases is respectively specified and decalred, then I will that

35 the said money and every part thereof shall be to the only and proper use of the said Ralph Lone, his executors and assigns. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto **my grandchild George Lone**, and to his heirs, my rent charge or annuity of

36 twenty pounds a year which I purchased and bought, to me and my heirs, of George King, Esquire, with clause of redemption, to be issuing and going out of his **manor of Wrotham** alias Wroutham and all other his lands in the county

37 of Kent. And if the said annuity or rent charge shall happen to be redeemed by the said George King, his executors or assigns, by the payment of two hundred pounds good and lawful money of England and of the arrearages of the said

38 annuity, if any happen to be behind and unpaid, that then I will that my said grandchild George Lone shall have all the said money to his own and proper use. **Item:** I will and bequeath my farm ot tenement called **the**

39 Bore in the parish of Sundridge or Sondwitch in the county of Kent. And
also my farm or tenement called Laurences with all the lands thereto
belonging in the parishes of Sevenoaks and **Chevening**¹²⁹ or elsewhere and
also my tenement
40 in Sevenoaks wherein one **Walter** dwelleth unto George Lone, son of
George Lone, my son, for and during the space of twelve years next and
immediately ensuing after my death. And, after the twelve years expired
and ended,
41 I will and bequeath all the said farm, lands, tenemenets and hereditaments
unto George Lone, my son for and during his natural life and to his heirs
male lawfully begotten. And for default of such issue to Ralph Lone,
42 my son, and to his heirs forever. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto Sir Edward
Manfield, knight, forty pounds yearly to be paid unto him, his executors
and assigns, and to be issuing and going out of my said farm called
43 Laurences and the Bore in the parishes of Sevenoaks, Chevening and
Sundridge or elsewhere in the county of Kent. And to be paid unto him or
them at two several feasts of the year, that is to be said, at the feast of
Saint
44 Michael the Archangel and the Annuciation of our blessed lady the Virgin
Mary by even and equal portions or within twenty eight days of any of the
said feasts, for and during the life of my son Richard Lone. The

129 "Sheveney"

45 first payment to begin at the first of the said feasts which shall first happen
after my decease. And I will that if it shall be lawful at all times for the
46 said Sir Edward Manfield, his executors and assigns, to enter and
distrain in the aforesaid farms and lands for the aforesaid rent if any be
unpaid. And the distresses to be taken, to drive away, keep and detain
until the said rent be fully satisfied and paid. **Item:** I further will and
47 bequeath unto the aforesaid Sir Edward Mansfield, knight, twenty four
pounds a year of good and lawful money of England, to be paid unto him,
his executors and assigns, by my son Ralph Lone, his executors
48 and assigns at the several feasts of the year, that is to say, at the feast of
the Annuciation of our blessed lady the Virgin Mary and the feast of Saint
Michael the Archangel, or within twenty eight days of any
49 of the said feasts, the first payment to begin at the first of the said feasts
that shall first the life of my son John Lone. **Item:** I will that after my
manor of Rumsted alias
50 Romshedd, French Mead, Black Mead, Sommerlands and my tenements in
the occupation of Peter Stevens or John Stevens or his assigns whereof the
yearly profit, rent, use and commodities are given and granted
51 and devised to Ralph Lone, my son, in such manner and sort as is before
expressed and declared, be free and discharged from the said Ralph Lone
and his lawful claims, that then my manor of Romshedd alias

52 Romshedd, French Mead, Black Mead, Sommerlands and my tenements in
the occupation or tenancy of John Stevns or his assigns shall be and come
53 to George Lone, my son, for and during his natural life, and after his
decease shall be, remain and descend to the heirs male of his body lawfully
begotten and for default of such issue, to Ralph Lone my son and to his
heirs forever. **Samuel Lone.** Sealed, published and
54 declared 21 October 1630 in the presence of **Thomas Stanley, Henry**
Teintus, Peter Sanders, Henry Withers. This will was altered by Samuel
Lone the sixth day of July one thousand five hundred
55 thirty one in the presence of **Thomas Woodward, John Leakin**

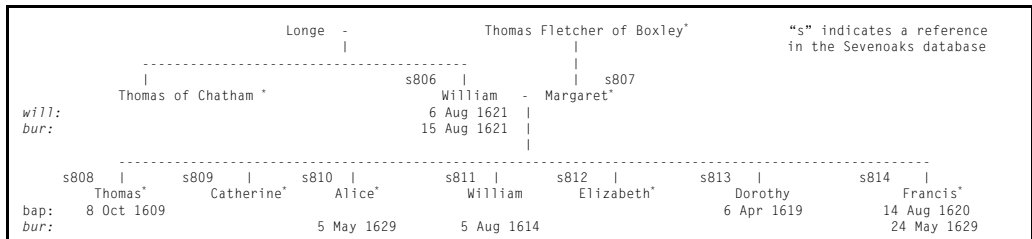
The Longes of Sevenoaks

The will of William Longe, yeoman, (**PCC: Dale 99; Prob 11/138**) was written on 6th August 1621; William Longe, householder was buried on 15th August 1621 with the will being proved on 30th November 1621. It is the only Longe will which has survived from Sevenoaks; all the land which William mentions (including "[two tenements or dwelling houses](#)") was situated in Chatham and Aylesford, the latter being about six miles south of Chatham and fourteen miles east of Sevenoaks. The two men he chose as his overseers were his brother from Chatham and father-in-law from Boxley (about two miles east of Aylesford) with his wife, Margaret, as his executrix. Thus, although he wanted to be buried in Sevenoaks, his main connections seem to have been elsewhere but the parish records include some of his children and possibly the burial of his mother. It may be that William was a pastoral farmer using land in Sevenoaks for the grazing of his animals such distances not being unusual for the movement of cattle for fattening.

A number of Longe wills have survived for Chatham but all are earlier than this one; they include the will of Thomas Longe of Cableston in Chatham dated 1483 (CKS: Drb/Pwr 5.22). "[Two tenements or dwelling houses](#)" which William left to his son Thomas were in Cabson in the parish of Chatham. Other than this, none of the

other wills have been investigated. All William's stock of cattle which he had in his "farm called Panthurst or elsewhere" were to be sold to pay his debts. In addition, his land in Aylesford was to be sold and the money obtained divided between his four daughters.

All William's children were underage in 1621 and some additional details can be obtained from the parish records. The deaths of Alice and Francis, both recorded as daughters of William Longe, deceased, are unusual if they refer to the testator's daughters since one was eight years after William's death and the other eighteen. Was there something special about William Longe that these girls were still referred to in that way? Or was it just that they were young when they died with their legacies still being managed by William's overseers (or their executors).



In the above tree those marked * were mentioned by William in his will; he did not mention his daughter Dorothy who presumably died as an infant; no baptisms

were recorded for Catherine, Alice, William and Elizabeth. "[Dorothy, widow of William Longe](#)" buried on 8th April 1619 was perhaps the testator's mother.

There was also a Richard Longe who married Francis Gourley in Sevenoaks on 11th November 1616; they had two children - Elizabeth baptised on 17th March 1616/7 (only four months after the marriage) and Robert baptised on 11th April 1619. It appears that Francis took on the duties of a wetnurse since "[a nursling from Richard Longe's](#)" was buried on 18th December 1619. This family need not have had any connection with William Longe.

Will of William Longe, yeoman

written 6th August 1621
transcript from probate copy

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The sixth day of August
- 2 in the year of our Lord God 1621 and in the nineteenth year of the reign of
our
- 3 sovereign Lord James, by the grace of God King of England, France and
Ireland, defen

4 der of the faith, etc. and of Scotland the five and fifty. I, William Longe of
Sevenoaks
5 in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, sick in body but, thanks be given to Almighty
God,
6 of good and perfect mind and memory, do make and ordain this my last will
7 and testament in manner and form following: that is to say, I do first and
above all things bequeath
8 my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my creator and redeemer, and into
the
9 hands of Christ Jesus, his blessed son, God equal with the father, and my
merciful
10 saviour reposing and trusting wholly in his merits and death wherefore I
hope to have
11 eternal life. And my body I will to the earth from whence it came, to be
buried in
12 the parish churchyard of Sevenoaks aforesaid. **Item:** I give unto **my son**
Thomas
13 **Longe** two tenements or dwelling houses being in **Cabson in the parish of**
Chatham, the
14 one now in the tenure and occupation of **Edward Fridd**, the other in the
occupation
15 of **Richard Parker**, together with all the barns, outhouses, orchards, gardens

page 2:

- 16 stubies¹³⁰ and outhouses to them belonging and appertaining, as also
sixteen acres of land
- 17 more or less belonging to the said tenement where Edward Fridd now
dwelleth and other land also
- 18 belonging to the house where Richard Parker now dwelleth being twenty
four acres
- 19 in number being, more or less, to have and to hold the said land and
tenements with
- 20 all and singular th'appurtenances, to him and his heirs for ever. Provided
that **Margaret,**
- 21 **my wife,** shall have the profits thereof until my son Thomas come to the age
of
- 22 one and twenty years. Also I give unto my son Thomas the upper orchard
called
- 23 **Harry Longe's ??**, being also in Chatham, now in my own possession, being
an acre
- 24 of ground more or less, to him and his heirs for ever. And my wife to have
the profit
- 25 of it after my decease until my son Thomas come to the full age of one and
twenty.

130 stubbles - reaped fields?

26 Also an other piece of ground called **Lucketts** containing, be estimation,
27 six acres and a half more or less, being in Chatham likewise, I give to my son
28 Thomas and his heirs when he shall accomplish the age of one and twenty
years,
29 and my wife also to have the profits thereof in the mean time. **Item:** I give
unto my
30 said son Thomas the field called **Westfield at Petmanstone** lying also in
Chatham
31 being sixteen acres more or less together with the wood, to him the said
Thomas and
32 his heirs forever. And my wife Margaret to have the profit of the said field
33 also until my said son come to the age of one and twenty years. **Item:** I will
that all
34 my land in **Ailford** now in the tenure and occupation of one **Thomas Rayns**
as also
35 all my land in the occupation of **Simon Brice** be sold by the discretion of my
wife
36 Margaret and my overseers hereafter mentioned and the money thereof
equally
37 to be given and divided between **my several daughters, Catherine, Alice,**
Elizabeth
38 and **Francis Longe** by even and equal portions, as they shall come to the age
of twenty

39 years or be married. And if it please god either of them do die, then the one
to be the
40 others' heir. **Item:** I will that all my stock of cattle¹³¹ which now I have, either
in my farm
41 called **Panthurst** or elsewhere, be sold likewise by my wife and overseers
here
42 after mentioned for the payment and full discharge of my debts. **Item:** I give
unto the
43 poor of the parish of Sevenoaks the full sum of twenty shillings to be
delivered unto
44 them upon the day of my burial. **Item:** I will that my very good friend
Mr. Turnar
45 preach at my burial and, for his pains, I give him ten shillings. **Item:** all the
rest of my
46 goods and chattels, lands and tenements, moveables or household stuff not
mentioned
47 nor bequeathed in this my present will and testament, I give and bequeath
48 unto Margaret, my wife, (as also to pay my debts, to see me decently buried
and my
49 funeral duties discharged) whom I make my full and sole executrix of this my
last

131 "cattell"

50 will and testament. And I will and desire **my father-in-law, Thomas Fletcher**
51 of **Boxley and my brother Thomas Longe of Chatham** to be my overseers. In
witness
52 whereof to both these sheets of paper, containing my last will and
testament, I have
53 put to my hand and seal, the day and year first above written. The mark of
54 William Longe. Read, signed, sealed and delivered as the last will and
testament
55 of William Longe aforesaid. In the presence and witnessing of **William**
Turnar¹³², **Richard**
56 **Fletcher**, the mark of **Thomas Skynner**.

132 the vicar of Sevenoaks; it is possible that he wrote the will - see **William Turner, vicar** for details of other wills with which William Turnar was connected.

M

Will of John Mantle	1639	CKS: Prs/w/11/45	taylor	M.2
Will of John Maister/Masters	1628/9	CKS: Prs/w/11/28	mercier	M.4
Mill, John	1460	PCC: Stokton 21	gent. <i>written in Latin</i>	
Will of Thomas Morley	1627	CKS: Prs/w/11/24		M.10
Morley, Anne	1624	PCC: Byrde 104	widow <i>not investigated</i>	
Will of Thomas Mugworthy	1503	PCC: Blamyr 29	Mr.	M.12

"John Mantle, householder", was buried on 4th October 1639 and "John, son of John Mantle, deceased" on 21st March 1639/40. This will, although nuncupative, is written as if Mantle was describing what he had said.

October 3rd 1639

1 Memorandum. That I, John Mantle¹³³, of the parish of
2 Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, **tailor**, did make
3 and ordain ?? my present bequest, did
4 appoint **my wife Francis** my whole executrix
5 in ?? to make sale of a certain house or
6 tenement with the ?? belonging thereto situated in **Otford** to be a means to
bring
7 ing up my children thereby and withall for her and
8 their maintenance after my decease, viz: to sell
9 the said house for the most advantage of ?? and
10 ?? do entreat **my brother Christian Mantle**
11 to be overseer of this my will and to see that my said

133 "Mantill"

12 children be beneficed ?? all of them with that sum
13 of money so raised of the sale of the said house and with
14 the most of all my moveables and goods, my debts being
15 paid and discharged and each of my children, after
16 the decease of their said mother, of what shall be
17 remaining of all the money, moveables and household
18 stuff that is left to be equally divided betwixt
19 them. So committing my soul in to the hands of
20 my lord and saviour, I make an end of this my bequ
21 est and will.

witness hereunto
the mark of

X

Christian Mantill

?? ??

John Wood

parish clerk¹³⁵

the name of

134

John Mantill ? he not

able of the writing hereof

134 looks like an attempt to write his name

135 and the writer of this will

On 6th December 1640, Francis Mantle, widow, married William Turner and four children were baptised between 1641 and 1646 - see [The Turners of Sevenoaks](#).

Will of John Maister/Masters, mercer

written 31st May 1626; proved 29th January 1628/9

John Maister buried 16th December 1628; transcript from original

John mentions four sons and a daughter in his will, all of whom seem to be over twenty-one. Mathew, his heir was baptised on 2nd March 1600 and two daughters of John Maisters, not mentioned in his will, were baptised earlier; perhaps they were married and had already been preferred although, of course, they could have died.

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The one and twentieth day of May 1626 in the second year of the reign of
- 2 our Sovereign Lord Charles, by the grace of God, king of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of
- 3 the faith, etc. I, John Maister of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, **merc**er, being in reasonable health and
- 4 of good and perfect remembrance, thanks be to god, therefore do make and ordain this my last will

5 and testament in manner and form following: viz: **First:** I bequeath my soul
into the hands of
6 Almighty god, my maker, steadfastly trusting to have free forgiveness of all
my sins through the death
7 and passion of Jesus Christ, my only redeemer, and my body to the earth
from whence it came. And
8 as concerning such worldly estate as it hath pleased god to lend me here in
this world, I will
9 and bequeath as followeth: **Imprimis** I give and bequeath unto the poor
people of the said parish of
10 Sevenoaks the sum of twenty shillings of lawful english money to be
distributed amongst them
11 at the time of my burial by the discretion executor hereafter named. **Item:** I
give and
12 bequeath unto **John Maister, my son**, forty shillings of lawful english
money. **Item:**
13 I give and bequeath unto **Moses Maister, my son**, twenty shillings of like
money. **Item:** I give and
14 bequeath unto **William Maister, my son**, forty shillings of like money. **Item:**
I give and bequeath unto
15 **Frances, my daughter**, five pounds of like money. **Item:** I give and
bequeath unto **George**

16 **Maister, my godson, and Sara Maister, my goddaughter,** twenty shillings a
piece of like money.
17 All which said legacies to be paid by my executor hereunder named within
one year next
18 after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Jane, my loving wife,** (in
recompense and being
19 of her jointure and dower) the moiety or one half of all my household stuff
being equally
20 divided. And also the sum of twenty pounds of lawful english money to be
paid unto her
21 by my executor hereafter named within one year next after my decease, if
she be then living¹³⁶. **Item:** I give and
22 bequeath more unto the said Jane, my wife, and her assigns likewise (in
recompense and being
23 of her said jointure or dower) one annuity or yearly rent of four pounds of
lawful
24 english money to be issuing and going as well out of all those my parcels of
land called
25 **Hillyfield and Bramblecroft** and all that my messuage or tenement in
th'occupation of **John**

136 this last phrase inserted, see note at the end

26 **Bagshaw, saddler**, lying all in Sevenoaks aforesaid as also out of all other
my messuage, shops,
27 lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever in the parish of
Sevenoaks or elsewhere. To have, ??,
28 receive and take the said annuity or yearly rent of four pounds as aforesaid
unto the
29 said Jane, my wife, and her assigns during her natural life. To be paid at
the four most
30 usual feasts or terms of the year viz. the nativity of St. John Baptist, the
feast of St.
31 Michael Th'archangel, The Birth of our Lord god and the Annunciation of
the virgin Mary by
32 equal portions, the first payment thereof to begin at that feast of the feasts
aforesaid which
33 shall first happen next after the decease of me the said John with sufficient
power and
34 authority to distrain for the same in such cases used and accustomed
provided always and
35 upon condition nonetheless that she¹³⁷, the said Jane, my wife, shall
immediately after my decease

137 "shee"

36 deliver unto my executor hereafter named the writing and bond heretofore
made unto her for her
37 jointure or other provision as by the said deed and bond more fully
appeareth. **Item:** I give and bequeath
38 unto **Mathew Maister, my son,** all and singular my goods and chattels
whatsoever unbequeathed
39 whom I make sole executor of this my last will towards the payment of my
debts and legacies aforesaid
40 and discharging my funeral charge. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the
said Mathew, my son, his heirs
41 and assigns, forever, all those aforesaid two parcels of land called Hillyfield
and Bramblecroft and the
42 said messuage in th'occupation of John Bagshaw and the shop thereunto
adjoining and
43 in th'occupation of one **William Porter** and of those shops which I bought of
one **Mr. Clarke** being all
44 severally situated in Sevenoaks aforesaid. And also all other my lands and
tenements whatsoever and
45 wheresoever not heretofore given or conveyed by me any way. To have
and to hold to the said parcels of land,
46 house, shops and shambles withall and singular their appurtenances
whatsoever unto the said Mathew Maister,

47 his heirs and assigns to th'only ?? use and behoof of him the said Mathew
Maister, his heirs and
48 assigns forever. In witness whereof I have to this my last will put my hand
and seal the day
49 and year first above written

In the name of god Amen.

the 29th of
March 1627¹³⁸

1 I, Thomas Morley, being very sick but
2 in perfect memory do ordain this to
3 be my last will and testament as followeth:
4 **Imp.** I commit my soul unto the Lord
5 and my body unto the earth. As for my
6 worldly goods, I bequeath them as follows:
7 I give unto **my eldest son, Thomas Morley,**
8 the sum of forty shillings more unto the
9 said Thomas, my son, a brass kettle of
10 three gallons.
11 I would have all my goods and cattell sold
12 and when my debts and legacies are paid
13 the remainder to be divided equally between
14 **my two sons, William Morley and**
15 **Henry Morley.**

138 written in the margin before the start of the will

16 And as for my house and land I will that
17 it be let and that the rent of it to be
18 for the maintaining of my son Henry
19 for the term of three years and after
20 which time being expired I will that the
21 said rent to be equally divided between
22 my three sons, Thomas, William and Henry
23 Morley until the said house and lands be
24 divided.
25 I give unto **my cousin, Elizabeth Loneless**, the
26 sum of ten shillings.
27 I ordain to be my executor now and
28 till my rents and goods and cattell and to pay all my debts
29 **John Cooper of Chipsted.**

The mark and hand
of Thomas Morley

witness **William Pains**

Edmond V Loneless

The will of Anne Morley of Sevenoaks written 16th September 1624 has survived (PCC: Bryde 104) but it has not been investigated.

. . I, ?? Thomas Mugworthy, vicar of Sevenoaks, compas mentis, etc. Imprimis .
. ** of Sevenoaks . . **Item:** . . reparations to the **¹³⁹ 20s . . **John Potkyn.**
Item: lego capellano . . 3s 4d. **Item:** lego cappellano . . John Baptist 3s 4d.
Item: . . 4d . . . Residium . . **Roger Mugworthy, my brother,** and ??
ordain and confirm the same Roger, ?? Pett and ?? John, clerk, mine executors.
And I give . . Roger and John for their labour 3s 4d.

139 ** - the same word as at ** on the previous line

N

Will of Stephen Nash	1623	PCC: Swann	54	N.1
Will of Thomas Nevill	1567	PCC: Stonarde	27 haberdasher	N.3
Will of Peter Newman	1510	PCC: Bennett	32	N.11

Nuncupative Will of Steven Nash

Steven Nash died 17th September 1622; probate 10th May 1623
transcript from probate copy

- 1 Steven Nash departing out
- 2 of the world the seventeenth day of September one thousand six hundred
twenty two
- 3 disposed his goods viz: **Primis** he did make one **John Browne** that married
his sister

4 his executor and his house he gave to his sister, Browne's wife, to her and
her
5 heirs, his apparel to his half brother, his debts he gave to his executor and
6 three pounds which before his death he was possessed on and by him
delivered to her, he left
7 it to his disposing. **Ralph Lonell, Richard Stockwood**

8 **Memorandum** that Steven Nash, late of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent,
9 **yeoman**, caused one Richard Stockwood to write his last will and hereunto
10 annexed wherein the said Stockwood mistakenly did set down and write
the name of
11 John Browne instead of **John Plomer** for, in truth, John Plomer (and no
other
12 person named John married any sister of the said Steven Nash. And the
said testator
13 in truth did nominate and appoint the said John Plomer to be his
executor¹⁴⁰.

This nuncupative will is interesting in that it shows the mistake made in the initial will. Was it actually Stockwood making the error or was he given the wrong name by whoever reported Nash's wishes?

140 this memorandum does not appear to have been signed by any witness

Will of Thomas Nevill, citizen and haberdasher of London

written on 26th February 1566/7 and proved in October 1567

transcript from probate copy

No other wills have survived for Nevills in the neighbourhood. The only known connection with Sevenoaks is that Nevill gave the poor of the town £5 to be distributed within eight months after his death.

1 In the name of god Amen. The 26th day of February Anno 1566
2 and in the 9th year of the reign of our most dread sovereign Lady Elizabeth,
by the grace of God
3 Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. I,
Thomas Nevill, **citizen**
4 and **haberdasher of London**, being whole of mind and perfect
remembrance, lauds and
5 praise be unto Almighty God, yet sick of body, make and ordain this my
present testament and
6 last will in manner and form following, that is to say, **First**: I give, will and
bequeath my
7 soul to our lord, Jesus Christ, my maker, saviour and redeemer, through
whose death, passion,

8 resurrection and ascension, my full hope and confidence is to be saved and
be an inheritor of the
9 kingdom of heaven. And my body to be buried in such place as god shall
appoint for it in
10 the parish of **St. Martins** where I am now a parishioner. **Item:** I will all my
goods and substance,
11 plate, ready money and other commodities shall be divided in to two equal
parts, the one part whereof after my
12 debts paid, I will, give and bequeath to **Mary, my beloved wife**, according
to the laudable use
13 and custom of the city of London. **Item:** I will, give and bequeath to **my**
mother, Joan Nevill, £40
14 of lawful money of England to be paid unto her within one year after my
decease. And if it fortune
15 that my said mother do decease before the same come to her hands, then I
will the same to remain
16 to the **2 daughters of my sister, Joan Bowdon**, equally between them. **Item:**
I give unto the same
17 Joan Bowden £20 to be paid to her within one year after my decease. **Item:**
I give and bequeath
18 to **Michael Nevill, my brother**, fifty pounds to be paid to him at the end of
one year after

19 my decease. **Item:** I give to **William Nevill, my ?? and brother's son**, one
hundred pounds
20 to be paid at th'end of his apprenticeship. **Item:** where I have appointed to
my sister
21 Bowden's two daughters twenty pounds a piece which is to be paid to
them, if the same
22 forty pounds be paid to my mother's hands during her life, my mind is if the
same
23 forty pounds be paid to my mother, that then either of my said sister's two
daughters
24 shall have by virtue hereof ten pounds to be paid unto them at their lawful
age or
24 days of marriage which first shall happen. **Item:** I give to **Robert Sterling of**
25 **Dedham** a black gown for remembrance and an other to his wife for
remembrance
26 and either of them ten pounds and to **their son Richard** ten pounds. **Item:** I
give
27 to **Christs Hospital** in London five pounds, to **Saint Bartholomews Hospital**
five pounds.

page 2:

28 To **St. Thomas's Hospital in Southwark** five pounds and to **Bedlam** five
pounds to be paid unto them at th'end of 6 months after my

29 decease. **Item:** I will that my executrix or her assigns shall distribute
30 among the poor of the parish
31 of **St. George in Southwark** at the feast of Christmas?¹⁴¹ yearly 3 loads of
32 coals while and until the
33 sum of fifteen pounds shall be bestowed and paid which coals I would
34 should yearly be bought
35 in summer at the best hand. **Item:** I will that three loads of coals shall be
36 yearly given at Christmas? amongst the
37 poor of the parish of **St. Patrick without Newgate** of London till the sum of
38 £15 shall be bestowed
39 in coals in form aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath among the poor of the
40 town of **Sevenoaks** in the county
41 of Kent five pounds to be distributed within eight months after my decease.
42 **Item:** I give to the poor of
43 **Micheltowe in the county of Oxford** five pounds to be distributed within
44 one year after my decease. **Item:** I
45 give to the poor of the town of **Stufefeld in the same county of Oxford** three
46 pounds to be distributed within
47 one year after my decease. **Item:** I give to the poor of **St. Martins the**
48 **Organe** £3 to be divided

141 "Xpemas"

39 amongst them within one year after my decease by the parson and church
wardens of the same parish for the
40 time being. **Item:** to the poor of **St. Mary Buthowe next Londonstone** three
pounds to be distributed
41 to them within one year after my decease. **Item:** I give to the **Company of**
Haberdashers in London thirty
42 pounds of good and lawful money of England to be delivered from two
years to four years by th'advice of the wardens
43 of the same company to four honest young men of the same company upon
good sureties without taking of any
44 man of commodities for the same. **Item:** I give to **Judith Sidney, my maid**
servant, ten pounds. **Item:** to **Rowland**
45 **Pynry** ten pounds. And to **Henry Beare, my servant**, ten pounds to be paid
to the said Rowland Pinry and
46 Henry Beare at the end of their apprenticeship. **Item:** to every **prison in**
London £5 to be paid within a year after my
47 decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath to twenty poor persons, every one of
them, a gown of the value of five shillings
48 the yard. **Item:** I remit **William Prinne**, my ??, ten pounds of the twenty
pounds he oweth me. **Item:** I
49 Give to **Alderman Becher** twenty pounds to be paid to him when he shall
be Sheriff of London and at my

50 decease to him a gown. **Item:** I bequeath to the sister of the said William
Nevill, my brother's son, £20.

51 **Item:** I give to **Clement Kelt** a black gown. **Item:** To **Thomas Herne** a black
gown and to his wife another.

52 And to **Humphrey Broke** five pounds. **Item:** I bequeath thirty pounds
towards the mending of the highways

53 between **Dunstable and Daintry** to be paid within 3 years after my decease.
Item: To twenty ?? of any ??

54 as my said executrix shall think good to go with my body to the church
twenty black gowns. **Item:**

55 I give to my **Mr. Robert Gabbet** twenty pounds. **Item:** to **Francis Warren** a
black gown. **Item:** to **Mother**

56 **Harmy** five pounds and to **Mother Warth** five pounds. To **Thomas Godfry**
five pounds. **Item:** to my Mr.

57 **Gabbet** a black gown. **Item:** to **Thomas Deane of Bubnell** in the county of
Warwick, twenty pounds.

58 And as touching the disposition of my lands and tenements whatsoever
they be, I will the same

59 shall remain in form following, that is to say, those four houses in the
parish of **St. Bothowe** aforesaid

60 near Londonstone¹⁴², three thereof being new and one old. And those two
houses in **St. Nicholas Lane** in
61 London, th'one in the tenure of **Christopher de Monte?** and his assigns and
the other next thereunto adjoining,
62 shall be and remain to my said wife during her life natural. And after her
decease, I do will give and bequeath
63 the same to the same William Nevill, my brother's son, and to his heirs for
ever. **Item:** I give, will and bequeath
64 all that my house withall and singular the appurtenances lying and being
at **Lambeth** within the county
65 of **Surrey** to my said brother Richard and his heirs and assigns for ever.
Provided always, and my
66 full mind and will is that, if my said wife be now with child or hereafter
shall be with child
67 during my natural life, that then such child to have the third part of all my
goods, wares
68 ?? and other substance according to the custom of the city of London.
And also all the said
69 houses, tenements and other hereditaments by me given and bequeathed
to the said William, my brother's

142 St. Mary Buthowe on line 40

70 son, and to my said brother, shall remain to the said child and his or her
heirs for ever. And of
71 this, my testament and last will, I make the said Mary, my wife, my sole
executrix. And overseers
72 thereof I ordain **John Doster, fishmonger**, and **Henry Beare of Bubnell** in the
county of **Warwick**.
73 And I give to either of them twenty pounds and a black gown. In witness
whereof hereunto I have
74 set my seal yeven the day and year first above written. by me Thomas
Nevill. Sigillaint
75 subscriptit et delibteraine in ?? ?? **Robert Sterling**, by me **Robert Gabbet**
by me **John Hewett**

In his will (PCC: Bennett 32) Peter Newman left his gelding to the vicar for his mortuary¹⁴³ and the tithes he owed. He also left a tawny cloak lined with "satin from Cypress" to the wife of his brother Richard whom, together with a friend Edmond Line, he made his executors.

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The 14th day of the month of September in the
year of our
2 lord ath v^c x, I, Peter Newman, being whole of mind and in good memory,
ordain and make this my last will and
3 testament in manner and form following: **First:** I bequeath my soul to
Almighty God, to his blessed mother Saint Mary and
4 to all the holy company of heaven. My body to be buried in the churchyard
of Sevenoaks. **Item:** I will that the vicar
5 of Sevenoaks aforesaid have my gelding for my mortuary and in
recompense of my tithes forgotten. **Item:** I be=
6 queath to the maintaining of Jesus mass in Sevenoaks aforesaid to pray for
my soul 3s 4d. **Item:** I will and do

143 a payment made to the parish priest on the death of a parishioner

7 ordain by this my present testament that immediately after my decease
that an honest priest shall sing for my
8 soul, my friends' souls and all Christian? souls by the space of one half
year, the same priest having for his salary
9 or wage 5 marks? **Item:** I bequeath to the **wife of Andrew Hoyse** 6s 8d.
Item: I bequeath to the **wife of my brother Ric.**
10 **Newman** a tawny gown lined with satin of Cypress. **Item:** I bequeath to
my ghostly father ¹⁴⁴ **Nicholas Robinson** 3s
11 4d. **Item:** I bequeath to **Thomas Tails** a tawny gown lined. **Item:** I
bequeath to 7 children being ?? Andrew Hoyse
12 2s 4d ¹⁴⁵. **Item:** I bequeath to **my brother Richard Newman** 40s in money
and a ring of gold price 40s. **Item:** I bequeath
13 to **Edmond Line** 40s. And the residue of all my goods not bequeathed unto
the said Richard Newman and Edmond
14 Line which Richard and Edmond I make and ordain my executors of this
my present testament. And their overseer
15 of the same I make and ordain as **John Press, clerk.** And I bequeath to him
for his labour to be had in that behalf

144 "ghostly fader" followed by a letter which looks like "B" but is not the same as the capital B used at the beginning of names in this will; it is perhaps an abbreviated "Sir", the courtesy title given to members of the clergy (mother and brother also spelled "moder" and "broder")

145 2s 4d, 28d, i.e. 4d per child

16 20s. In witness whereof to this my present testament I have put my seal
the day and year above written. These
17 witnesses being present ¹⁴⁶ **Edward Repe, vicar of Sevenoaks**¹⁴⁷, **Edmond**
Browne, priest, Andrew Hoyse, Thomas
18 **Blackboy, John Goldsmith, John Binley** and others

The Edmond Browne who witnessed this will was probably the same Edmond Browne who witnessed the will of Clemence Broke which was also written in 1510.

146 the same letter, similar to "B", here and before Edmond as before Nicholas on line 10

147 Edward Repe, M.A. was vicar of Sevenoaks from January 1504/5 until, at least, December 1514 (John Rooker, Parish Church of Sevenoaks, 1910). He possibly wrote this will (and also that of Richard Pette)

O

Moses Olyver, yeoman				O.2
Olyver, Moses (Panthurste in)	1606 PCC: Stafforde	32	yeoman	O.2
The Overys of the Sevenoaks locality				O.10
Overy, Martin	1628 CKS: Prs/w/12/102		tanner	O.11

Moses Olyver, yeoman

The Olyvers were a very large family based mainly in Seal. Twenty-three wills have been transcribed and details from these and the Seal parish records assembled - see [Olyvers in Families and Extra Transcripts](#)..

Will of Moses Olyver, yeoman of Panthurst

written 20th April 1606
transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The
2 twentieth day of April Anno domini millesimo sexentesimo sexto, I, Moses
3 Olyver of Panthurst within the parish of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent,
4 **yeoman**, being of perfect mind and memory do make my last will and
5 testament in manner and form following: And **First**: I do most willingly
6 give up my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my creator, hoping that
through
7 the mercy of his only son, my saviour and redeemer, he will receive the same
8 into his glorious kingdom. And my body even with a hearty good will, I
recommend unto

9 the earth from whence it came, hoping also that at the general resurrection
the
10 same shall be transformed into an immortal and celestial body then to
participate with my
11 soul the joys of heaven. And touching such worldly substance as God of his
goodness hath
12 bestowed upon me, **First:** I give unto the poor of the parish of Sevenoaks
aforesaid
13 the sum of twenty shillings to be distributed in the discretion of my
overseers hereafter
14 named. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto **my loving wife** the tenement and the
lease
15 thereof which I hold of **Richard Crooke** for all the years therein to come.
Also I give unto
16 my said wife twenty pounds of lawful english money to be paid unto her
within one
17 month next after my decease. And moreover, I give and bequeath unto my
said wife
18 all my household stuff, brass, pewter, linen, woollen and all other utensils
whatsoever
19 used within my house (my implements of husbandry excepted). **Item:** I will
to every of

20 **my daughters, Dorothy, Mary, Joane and Susan**, the sum of forty pounds a
piece to
21 be paid unto them at their several ages of one and twenty years or several
days of
22 marriage which shall first happen. And if it shall happen any of my said
daughters to
23 die before she or they have received or ought to receive her or their several
portions by
24 the true meaning of this my will, then I will that her and their portion and
25 portions so dying shall remain to the other sisters or sister surviving, equally
to be
26 divided (if more than one survive). And whereas God hath given me one
only son
27 who is yet young and not able to manage worldly affairs, I therefore will that
28 **my very loving brother-in-law Mr Alexander Waller of Otford and my good
friend**
29 **Edward Sisley** shall have the custody and government of my said son and of
that
30 portion of goods which I shall leave unto him. And herein, relying wholly
upon them, my
31 good friends, my will is that the said Edward Sisley shall have the
occupation of the farm

32 house wherein I now dwell and of all the lands thereunto belonging with
their
33 appurtenances called **Panthurst Park** devised unto me by **Samson Lambard,**
Esquire,
34 even as fully and wholly as I do now occupy the same, for and during all the
years to
35 come of the lease thereof if the said Edward Sisley shall so long live, hoping
that he,
36 the said Edward will (as he hath faithfully promised me) yield account to my
said
37 brother-in-law Mr Waller and together with him and by his discretion and
advice put
38 in stock or otherwise employ for and to the use and behoof of my said son
and for the
39 bringing up of my daughters such overplus of profit as in his conscience he
shall
40 find clearly to arise yearly upon the said farm during the said term of years
41 therein to come if he shall so long live and receive the same. And whereas
by my deed
42 indented of gift before the sealing and publishing of this my will, I have sold,
given and
43 granted unto the said Edward Sisley my stock of cattle, corn and
implements of

44 husbandry, particularly mentioned in a schedule to the said deed annexed,
for the sum of

page 2:

45 two hundred and forty pounds (which sum is still remaining in his hands),
my will
46 and meaning is that all and every the several sums of money given and
bequeathed by this my
47 will shall be paid out of the same sum of two hundred and forty pounds as
they shall grow due
48 and payable by the true meaning of this my last will and the overplus
thereof (my debts and
49 funeral expenses discharged) which I likewise, among other things,
commend to the love and care of
50 my said loving brother-in-law and the said Edward Sisley, I will to remain to
my said son
51 ?? at the only disposition of my said brother-in-law and the said Edward
Sisley to be by
52 them employed for and towards his bringing up and preferment as they, or
the survivor of them,
53 in their discretion, shall think meet until my said son shall accomplish his
full age of one

54 and twenty years¹⁴⁸. The residue of all my goods, chattels, cattel, corn and
money undispo
55 sed and unbequeathed, I give and bequeath unto **Nicholas Olyver, my son,**
whom I make and ordain
56 sole executor of this my last will. And I do constitute and appoint my said
loving brother-in-
57 law, Mr. Alexander Waller, and my said good friend Edward Sisley,
overseers thereof desi=
58 ring them, and either of them, to be aiding and assisting to my said son in
the proving and
59 execution of this my will. And also to have a loving care both for the good
bringing up of my
60 said son and daughters and also for their preferment and bestowing in
marriage hereafter
61 when it shall please God to be disposed of them. Provided always, that if
either my son or any
of my daughters will not be ruled, as well in their education and marriage as
in all other lawful

148 Moses Olyver had a son, Nicholas, baptised in Seal on 16th May 1592 and was thus nearly fourteen when his father wrote his will.

Edward Sisley's will, written in February 1619, has survived; if this testator was Moses's friend, he lived long enough to see Nicholas reach his twenty-first birthday.

62 things concerning this my last will, by my said overseers, or the survivor of
them, that
63 then they, and every of them so refusing to be ruled, shall utterly loose all
benefit to them of
64 arising by this my will, and the same to remain to the residue of my said
children in the discre=
65 tion of my said overseers, or the survivor of them, to be distributed. Provided
also that, if any
66 question or controversy shall happen at any time to arise amongst my said
children or any of
67 them, concerning any legacy that they, or any of them, shall claim by virtue
of this my will, if
68 then the only exposition, confirmation and judgement thereof shal lbe
referred and ?? to my
69 said loving brother-in-law Mr. Waller of whom I am assuredly persuaded
that for the natural
70 love and affection that he hath and beareth in general to all my children, he
will equally and
71 indifferently decide the controversies thereof arising between them with a
right and impartial
72 judgement in every respect. And if he be dead, then every such question to
be referred to

73 my said good friend Edward Sisley, my other supervisor of this my will. And
every of my said
74 children refusing so to refer the same controversies or, being referred, that
shall disobey any
75 such award and judgement therein given, or to be given, by virtue of this my
will, shall lose all
76 benefit of this my will. And then also the same benefit to be and remain
amongst the
77 residue of my said children equally to be divided. And in witness that this is
my very true
78 last will, I have to every leaf hereof set my hand and fastened the same
together with
79 my seal as the top hereof. And have published the same to be my last will
and testament
80 the day and year of the date hereof in the presence of **Nicholas Studley,**
Alexander
81 **Waller, Edward Richards.** The mark of Moses Olyver.

The Overys of Sevenoaks and the locality

Overy is not a common name but four seventeenth century Overy wills have survived from Sevenoaks and the neighbouring villages of Sundridge and Hever.

		written	proved		
Martin Overy	Sevenoaks	4 Jul 1628	28 Jul 1628	CKS: Prs/w/12/102	page O.11
William Overy	Sundridge	15 Jul 1633	17 Aug 1633	CKS: Prs/w/12/105	
Martyn Overy	Hever	6 Sep 1637	18 Jul 1642	CKS: Prs/w/12/109	
Edward Overy	Sundridge	16 Jun 1638	7 Sep 1638	CKS: Prs/w/12/106	

Martin Overy's short will looks to have been written by a professional scriptor and reads almost as a nuncupative will, particularly given the footnote added by William Turner, vicar of Sevenoaks.

There is no obvious connection between Martin of Sevenoaks and the other three. Much earlier, at the beginning of 1567, Elizabeth Overy married Edward Aylward and they had at least seven children between 1567 and 1585 - see Appendix 2. Even earlier, in 1528, the widow Alice Overie of Seal wrote her will.

Details of the other Overie/Overy wills are given in [Families and Extra Transcripts](#).

July the fourth Anno Dom 1628

1 I, Martin Overie of the parish of Sevenoaks
2 in the county of Kent, **tanner**, do make and ordain
3 **my wife, Elizabeth Overie**, my whole executor
4 of all my goods and chattels after my decease
5 to enjoy them as her own proper goods, my debts
6 and my funeral charges being paid and discharged
7 and also I do appoint my said wife Elizabeth to
8 pay unto **my daughter**¹⁵⁰ **Frauncis Overie** out of
9 those goods and chattels the sum of five pounds of good
10 money when she shall accomplish the age of eighteen
11 years and so commending my soul into the hands
12 of god and my body to be buried in the churchyard
13 of Sevenoaks, I take my leave.

In the presence and witnessing

149 "William, son of Martin Overy" was buried the day before his father - 6th July 1628

150 "dafter"

of Doritie Hollombie, the elder and Fraunces Fayarhall

the wife of **John Fayarhall**

the mark of Doritie Hollombie, the elder

the mark of Frauncis Fayarhall

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 Turner

P

Clemence Pearson, spinster					P.4
Pearson, Clemence	1606	PCC: Stafforde	61		
Elizabeth, Rose and Mary Petley					P.8
Petley, Elizabeth	1617/8	CKS: Prs/w/12/161	innholder		P.11
Petley, Rose (Bradbourne in)	1634/5	PCC: Sadler	5		P.14
Petley, Mary	1627/8	CKS: Prs/w/12/165	spinster		P.18
(wife of John of Ightham)					
Richard and John Pett					P.20
Pette, Richard	1513	PCC: Fetiplace	30		P.21
Pett, John	1593	PCC: Nevell	57	gent.	P.25

The Pocockes of Sevenoaks and Seal	P.37
Robert Pococke of Seal	P.39
Pococke, Robert of Seal	1565/6 CKS: Drb/Pw 8; Drb/Pwr 13.245 P.39
Inventory of Robert Pococke	P.41
The Sixteenth Century Pocockes	P.44
The Family of Thomas and Margery Pococke	P.46
William Pococke, the elder	P.51
The Family of George Pococke	P.54
John Pococke, will 1619	P.55
Thomas Pococke, will 1624	P.60
Elizabeth Pococke, maiden	P.63
Another John Pococke	P.65
Wills:	
Pococke, Thomas	1587 PCC: Spencer 30 yeoman P.67
Pococke, William (senior)	1596 PCC: Drake 60 yeoman P.72
Pococke, George	1613 PCC: Capell 65 gent. P.83
Pococke, John (the elder)	1622 PCC: Swann 17 yeoman P.89
Pococke, Thomas (Weald)	1624 CKS: Prs/w/12/166 yeoman P.97
Pococke, Elizabeth	1644/5 PCC: Rivers 40 spinster P.102

Thomas Poore, Yeoman of the Wardrobe				P.104
Poore, Thomas	1649	PCC: Fairfax	106	P.106
The Porters of Sevenoaks				P.113
The Potkyns and Sevenoaks School				P.117
The Potkyn Family				P.122
Sevenoaks School				P.123
Potkyn, William, gentleman	1537/8	PCC: Dyngeley	15	P.126
Potkin, John	1545	PCC: Alen	2	P.134
John Price, yeoman of Riverhead				P.144
Price, John	1625	CKS: Prs/w/12/171		

Clemence Pearson, spinster

This will (PCC: **Stafforde 61; Prob 11/108**) was probably written by John Spratt, vicar of Sevenoaks from 1584 to 1616; Clemence was buried on 29th June and the will was proved on 12th July 1606. She was described as "**spinster**" both in her will and the parish records but she appointed her husband as her executor. "Spinster" was often used to designate a woman, who could be married, making her living from spinning but the name of Clemence's husband was Griffin Henderson and she describes him as her "**husband by contract**". It is thus likely that the marriage had not actually taken place

Will of Clemence Pearson, spinster

written 23rd June 1606

transcript from probate copy

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The three
- 2 and twentieth day of June one thousand six hundred and six Anno Regni
Reg.
- 3 Jacobi Quarto. I, Clemence Pearson of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent,
spinster,

4 being sick of body but of good and perfect memory, thanks be given unto
god, do make
5 and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following:
First:
6 I commit my soul into the hands of my lord god, my saviour and redeemer,
and
7 my body to the earth from whence it was taken. **Item:** whereas there is a
bond in the hands of
8 **my uncle Anthony Turner**¹⁵¹ by virtue whereof I am to receive the legacies
due unto me by the
9 bequeathment of **my father, deceased**, and the gift of **my mother**, the said
bond with the benefit
10 thereof I give and bequeath to **Griffin Henderson, my husband**, by contract,
paying unto **my sister Anne**
11 forty shillings of current English money within one month after he shall
receive the said legacies.
12 **Item:** I give also to my sister Anne my two gowns, a kirtle with two laces,
three pair of
13 sheets of which she hath one sheet already, three smocks, a piece of new
cloth, twelve cross=

151 five wills have survived for Turners of Sevenoaks but from 1634 onwards and no Anthony Turner is mentioned

- 14 cloths, five cambric quaives¹⁵², five holland quaives, four white aprons, four neckcloths,
15 five ruffs of cambric or lace, a green apron and a little wrought¹⁵³ bib. **Item:** I give to
16 my mother and my father-in-law my cow and calf. **Item:** I give also to my mother twenty
17 shillings in gold, my best flannel petticoat with four laces and one ell¹⁵⁴ of holland. **Item:**
18 I give **my sister, my brother Thomas, his wife**, two pairs of sheets, a fine smock, a taffeta apron and
19 six ells of flaxen cloth. **Item:** I give to **Elizabeth Melter, my sister's daughter**, a smock wrought
20 with black, two quaifes of cambric and wrought with the Italian cutwork, a taffata apron
21 and a new pair of bodyes¹⁵⁵. **Item:** I give to **my brother Frances his wife** a girdle, my purse

152 spelled "quaifes" on line 20; coifs?

153 embroidered, decorated

154 1¼ yards

155 bodices?

22 and a pillow. **Item:** I give to my brother Frances ten shillings he hath in his
23 hands of mine and a pair of gloves. **Item:** I give to my brother Thomas a
handkercher¹⁵⁶. **Item:**
24 I give to **my brother Walter** a wrought handkercher. **Item:** I make and ordain
the said Griffin
25 Henderson the sole executor of this my last will. In witness whereof I have
hereunto put my
26 hand and seal the day and year above written and do publish this as my last
will
27 in the presence of **John Spratt, Richard Cooper**. Signum Clemence Pearson.

156 handkerchief

Elizabeth, Rose and Mary Petley

Two wills have survived for Petleys from Sevenoaks:

	written	proved		
Elizabeth Petley	23 Oct 1617	11 Mar 1617/8	CKS: Prs/w/12/161	P.11
Rose Petley	19 Oct 1634	8 Jan 1634/5 ¹⁵⁷	PCC: Sadler 5; Prob 11/167	P.14

Neither Elizabeth nor Rose were mentioned in the Sevenoaks parish register.

¹⁵⁷ proved by Rose's sister Bennet Petley

Other Petley wills which have survived from the Sevenoaks area are
 written: proved:

Thomas Petlie (senior)	Wrotham		1570	PCC: Lyon 22
Mary Petley	Ightham	5 May 1626	6 Feb 1627/8	CKS: Prs/w/12/185
				P.18
Thomas Petley, gent	Shoreham, (Violeston in)		1635	PCC: Sadler 94 ¹⁵⁸
Thomas Petley	Leigh	22 Oct 1628	1635	PCC: Sadler 127 ¹⁵⁹

The three PCC wills have not been investigated. Mary, the wife of John Petley of Ightham, owned property in her own right and her will is included here.

Rose was unmarried and mentions a brother and four sisters, two of whom were married. She had connections with the Bosvilles, leaving money for rings for Sir Ralph Bosville, knight, (who was one of the witnesses of her will), his lady and Mr. James Bosville.

¹⁵⁸ proved by Thomas's son, Ralph

¹⁵⁹ the witnesses were David Polhill and John Biggs, the latter making his mark

Rose's main legacies totalled £82 and many of these were to be paid on the feast day of St. John the Baptist (24th June) with the £20 to her brother Thomas being paid in three installments over three years. The will is unusual in that, instead of specifying St. John Baptist's day next after her decease, it says "[next ensuing the date hereof](#)", the will being dated 19th October 1634. Thus the first payment would have been due in June 1635 with the other two payments in 1636 and 1637. What if she had not died soon after the will was written?

Mary Petley was the wife of John Petley of Ightham but she owned some property in her own right which she left to her husband. How she came to own this property is not known but it was probably the reason that she wrote her will.

Elizabeth appointed Edward Sisley as one of her overseers. He was probably the Edward Sisley whose will of 1619 has survived. He was obviously a man well-respected by his contemporaries with John Spratt, the vicar of Sevenoaks, appointing him his executor, and John's widow, Beatrix, Thomas Wylde and Moses Olyver appointing him one of their overseers. Moses's son, whom he had appointed his executor was "[yet young and not able to manage worldly affairs](#)" so that Sisley and another man were to "[have the custody and government of my said son and of that portion of goods which I shall leave unto him](#)" using the income from the land left him for the upbringing of his son and four daughters..

1 In the name of god Amen. The three and twentieth
2 day of October in the year of our Lord God 1617. In the fifteenth year of the
3 reign of our sovereign Lord
4 James by the grace of God, king of England, France and Ireland, defender of
5 the faith. And of
6 Scotland the one and fiftieth. I, Elizabeth Petley of Sevenoaks, **widow**, in the
7 county of Kent, **innholder**,
8 sick in body (but thanks be to God) of good and perfect memory, do make
9 and ordain this my last will
10 and testament in manner and form following, that is to say, **First**: I bequeath
my soul into the hands
of Almighty God, my creator, in whom and by whom through the merits of
Jesus Christ, my saviour
only, I trust to be saved and to have eternal life. And for my body that
I bequeath to the earth from whence it came to be buried in the parish
church of
Sevenoaks aforesaid. **Item**: I give unto the poor people of the parish of
Sevenoaks aforesaid

11 the sum of twenty shillings current money to be distributed amongst them at
12 the
13 day of my burial by the discretion of my executor hereafter named. **Item:**
14 I give unto **Thomas Petley, my eldest son**, the sum of forty shillings of like
15 lawful money to be paid unto him by my executor within one month next
16 after
17 my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **William Petley, my third son**,
18 twenty pounds of lawful english money to be paid unto him by my said
19 executor
20 within six months after the expiration of his apprenticeship. **Item:** I give
21 and bequeath unto **John Petley, my younger son**, forty pounds of like lawful
22 money to be paid unto him by my said executor in manner and form
23 following:
24 viz: twenty pounds as part hereof to be paid unto him within one year next
25 after my decease. And the other twenty pounds to be paid unto
26 him within two years next after my decease. **Item:** I give and
27 bequeath unto **my eldest daughter, Annis, the now wife of William**
28 **Olliver of Otford** in the aforesaid county of Kent, **gentleman**, the
29 sum of five pounds currant english money to be paid unto her
by my executor within six months next after my decease.
Item: I give and bequeath unto **Winifrith, my second daughter,**
the now wife of Steven Enunor the sum of forty shillings of
like money to be paid unto her by my executor within one month

next after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Elizabeth Petley, my younger daughter**, the sum of twenty pounds current english money, ten pounds as part hereof to be paid unto her by my said executor within six months next after the day of her marriage. And the other ten pounds to be paid unto her six months after the payment aforesaid. **Item:** all the rest of my Goods, Plate, monies, Leases and Chattels whatsoever not mentioned or bequeathed in this my present will, my funeral discharged, my debts paid and my body decently brought to the earth, I give and bequeath, full and wholly, unto **Mathew Petley, my second son**, whom I make my sole executor of this my last will and testament. And I do make William Olliver, my son-in-law, and **Edward Sisley** of the parish of Sevenoaks aforesaid, Overseers of this my last will and testament.

And I do hereby revoke all former will or wills whatsoever heretofore made. **In witness** whereof to this my last will and testament containing two sides of paper, I have set my hand and seal the day and year first above written in the presence of these whose names do follow, viz.:

The mark of Elizabeth Petley

John Blondy
Edward Sisley
William Blame

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Rose
2 Petley of Bradbourne within the parish of Sevenoaks in the county of
3 Kent being of good and perfect memory but weak in body (for which I praise
4 Almighty God) do this present Sunday, the nineteenth day of October in
5 the year of our lord god 1634, make and ordain this my last will and
6 testament in manner and form following: **First:** I bequeath my soul into the
7 hands of my maker and redeemer by whose precious death I am assured to
receive
8 salvation of my soul. And as concerning my body, I recommend it to the
earth from
9 whence it came. And for my estates and the disposing thereof **Imprimis:** I
give and
10 bequeath unto **my brother Thomas Petley** the sum of twenty pounds of
lawful
11 english money to be paid to him after this manner. That is to say the sum of
12 £6 13s 4d at or upon the feast day of St. John Baptist next ensuing the
13 date hereof. And at or upon the feast day of St. John Baptist which shall be
in the
14 year of our Lord God 1636, the like sum of £6 13s 4d. And at or upon the

15 feast day of St. John Baptist which shall be in the year of our Lord God 1637
16 the like sum of £6 13s 4d. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my sister Anne**
17 **Brooks** (which I remit and acquit) the £8 which I have lent unto her. **Item:** I
18 give and bequeath unto her **three children Richard Harling, Edward Harling**
19 **and Barbara Harling** to either of them the sum of three pounds six shillings and
20 eight pence
21 to be paid by my executor for them into the hands of such several guardians
22 as either of them shall make choice of at the feast of St. John Baptist next
23 ensuing the date hereof, to be disposed for the profit, use and benefit of them
24 and
25 every of them and until the said Richard Harling and Edward Harling shall
26 attain unto their several ages of twenty four years. At which time the said
27 several sums of £3 6s 8d, with the benefits that shall arise thereby, shall
28 be paid and delivered up into their hands. And as concerning the £3 6s 8d
29 by me given and bequeathed (as aforesaid) to my niece Barbara Harling, I
30 would
31 have the same disposed of in manner and form as formerly mentioned for the

page 2:

29 benefit and use for her said two brothers until she shall attain unto the age of
30 21

30 years and that then the said three pounds, six shillings and eight pence,
together with the
31 benefits that shall arise by the said sum, to be paid into her hands. **Item:** I
give and
32 bequeath unto the **three daughters of my sister M^{rs} Dorothy Berisford,**
Elizabeth, Anne and Rose,
33 the sum of six pounds thirteen shillings four pence a piece to be paid to them
at the feast
34 of St. John Baptist next ensuing the date hereof. **Item:** I give and bequeath
unto **my sister**
35 **Mildred Petley** the sum of twenty pounds to be then likewise paid. **Item:** I
give and
36 bequeath unto **my cousins Samuel Overy and Anne Overy, his sister¹⁶⁰,** to
either of them the
37 sum of six pounds to be then likewise paid. **Item:** I give and bequeath to be
for therewith
38 paid to buy rings withall for **Sir Ralph Bosville, kt. and his lady** and for **my**
cousin Mr.
39 **Thomas Petley of Sibson and his wife** and for my sister M^{rs} Dorothy Berisford
for

160 Edward Overy of Sundridge whose will of 1638 has survived, had a brother Samuel and a sister Ann who, by that time, was married .

40 either of them the sum of ten shillings. And for a ring for **Mr. James Bosville**
the sum
41 of five shillings. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto that Reverend Divine who
shall
42 bestow a sermon upon me at my burial the sum of ten shillings. **Item:** I give
and
43 bequeath unto **Isabel Holmden**, who hath been careful and painful for me in
my
44 sickness, the gown which I have in making by **Mr. Henry Bosville, a tailor,**
dwelling
45 in **Bermondsey Street in Southwark, London.** Lastly I do hereby nominate
and
46 appoint for and to be executor of this my last will and testament, **my dear**
and
47 **beloved sister Bennet Petley.** In witness hereof that this is my last will and
48 testament, I have hereunto set my hand the day and year aforesaid. Rose
Petley,
49 her mark. Witnesses: **Ra. Bosville, Loukener Bosville.**

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Mary
2 Pettly, **the wife of John Pettly** of Ightham
3 being sick in body but of sound and perfect
4 memory, thanks be to Almighty god, do
5 ordain this my last will and testament.
6 **First:** I commend my soul into the hands
7 of Almighty god through the merit of
8 ¹⁶¹
9 body to be interred at the discretion of mine
10 executor.
11 **Impris:** I give and bequeath the sum of forty
12 shillings to the poor of the parish of Ightham and ??
13 to be equally divided and distributed amongst the
14 ?? poor upon the day of my burial or within
15 one month after. **Item:** I give and bequeath
16 to **my loving sisters Michal Cooper and Deborah**
17 **Woodgate** the sum of twenty shillings a piece to be

161 line hidden by crease and therefore unreadable

Richard and John Pett

Two wills have survived for the Petts of Sevenoaks:

	written:	proved:		
Richard Pett	5 Jun 1513	9 Feb 1513/4	PCC: Fetiplace 30; Prob 11/17	P.21
John Pett	22 May 1593	4 Jul 1593 ¹⁶⁴	PCC: Nevell 57; Prob 11/82	P.25

With eighty years between these wills it would be impossible, from them alone, to decide how Richard and John were related. The Petts, however, were a wealthy Sevenoaks family with Richard, his son Robert and his son John all owning, in turn, Riverhill house. Richard and John were thus grandfather and grandson. Richard gave part of his land at Quaker's Hall to Sevenoaks School. In 1560 John was appointed one of the Assistants (or Governors) of Sevenoaks School having given it some more land and £5 yearly charged on his Riverhill estate.¹⁶⁵

¹⁶⁴ John Pett, gent. was buried on the 28th June 1593

¹⁶⁵ Ward, p.282

Both of these wills could have been written by the men who were the vicars of Sevenoaks in 1513 and 1593: Edward Repe and John Spratt. The initial sentence of Richard's will is longer than usual: "In the name of god the father, the son and the holy ghost Amen" but there is no mention of the testator's soul or wishes for his burial, unexpected in a will written by a vicar (or the rector who was another witness).

Will of Richard Pett

written 5th June 1513

transcript from probate copy

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The 5th day of the month of June in the year of our
- 2 lord god ath v^c xiiij, I, Richard Pette, being in whole mind, make my last will and testament
- 3 in this manner wise: **First:** I bequeath my soul to Almighty God and to his blessed mother Mary
- 4 with all the company of heaven and my body to be buried in the church of Saint Nicholas in

5 of Sevenoaks¹⁶⁶. **First:** I bequeath to the high altar of the said church for
tithes forgotten 3s 4d.
6 I bequeath to the buying of a cross for the same church 40s. Also I
bequeath to the reparations of
7 church 40s. Also I bequeath to the mending of the book in the same church
40s. Also I bequeath
8 to the mending of the pament¹⁶⁷ of the same town 40s. Also I bequeath to
each of my godchildren
9 12d. Also I will that there be paid unto the maintaining of Jesus mass as
long as it is main
10 tained every year 6s 8d and for lack of payment thereof I will that the
wardens or rulers
11 of the same mass shall distrain in all my lands at **Renshall** for the said 6s 8d.
Also I will that
12 mine executors immediately after my decease give £10 to saying Saint
Gregory's great trentall
13 unto an honest priest for my father, my mother, my soul and all christian
souls as the great

166 "Senocke"

167 "pament" was quite a usual spelling of pavement in Middle and early Modern English (private correspondence from Oxford English Dictionary)

14 trentall ought to be withall manner of things thereto belonging. Also I will
that there shall be
15 at my burial 20s and at my month's day 40s. Also I will that an obit shall be
kept
16 for me 20 years lasting every year 6s 8d. And also that mine executors
bestow 6s 8d
17 every year during 6 years which is of my father's year by him. Also I
bequeath to **Richard**
18 **Dover** 30s and that to be paid by 4 years end after my decease. Also I
bequeath to each child
19 of **John Yerdley** and **Andrew Palmer** 6s 8d. Also I will that a priest shall
sing 2 trentalls
20 at **Shoreham** for **Master William Pette** and **William Aboth's** souls. Also I
give unto **Thomas**,
21 **the parish priest**, 3s 4d. Also I will that **Johane, my wife**, shall have half my
grains upon
22 the earth and half goods and chattels except such goods as belongeth unto
the plough. Also I make **Johane**,
23 **my wife**, and **Robert, my son**, mine executors and **Master Edward Repe**
mine overseer, he to have for his
24 labour 3s 4d.

page 2:

25 This is the last will of me, Richard Pette, the day and year
26 abovesaid. **First:** I will that Johane, my wife, shall have all my land lying
from
27 my mansion place unto the ?? pale of **Knowle**. Also **Hartsland, Heylborons**
Knowby
28 **lands Canulstede** and all my lands lying at **Riverhill** for term of her life,
29 yielding and paying yearly as long as she liveth 6s 8d unto the maintaining
of Jesus
30 mass. Also I will that she have my mansion place to dwell in as long as she
keepeth her sole.
31 Also I will that Robert Pette, my son, shall have a shop that horunt hereit in
the **market place**
32 of Sevenoaks and all my lands at **Westerham**¹⁶⁸ to him and to his heirs for
ever. The residue of
33 all my land and also the reversion of all the said lands above rehearsed, I
will that Robert,
34 my son, have them and to his heirs of his body lawfully begotten and for
fault of
35 such issue to remain unto John Yerdley, Andrew Palmer and to the heirs of
their bodies

168 "Wetham"

36 lawfully begotten and for fault of such issue to remain unto the right heirs of
37 **John Potkyn, Thomas Polley, Thomas Broke and William Cogger, my**
feoffees shall deliver
38 a state of all my said lands and tenements, rents and reversions according
unto this my last
39 will and testament and that the said estate be recorded and enrolled in the
chancery.¹⁶⁹

Will of John Pett, gentleman

written 22 May 1593
transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god the father, the
2 son and the holy ghost Amen. I, John Pett of Sevenoaks in the county of
3 Kent, **gent.** being of whole body and good memory and knowing it
convenient to give order for the
4 disposition of my goods and lands whilst god giveth me health and
understanding, as well to be

169 the will ends here without any witnesses, etc.

5 before of such day when it shall please god to visit me with sickness as also
for the avoiding of strife
6 that may ensue for want of order, do this two and twentieth day of May in
the five and thirtieth
7 year of the most happy reign of our most sovereign lady Queen Elizabeth
make and ordain
8 this my last will and testament in manner and form following, viz. **First:**
touching my goods and cattell, my
9 my will is and I advise that **Francis Pett, my wife**, shall have the use and
occupation of all my household
10 stuff, be it in plate, pewter, brass, iron, bedding, linen or in whatsoever other
sorts, until **my son**
11 **Thomas Pett** come to the full age of one and twenty years. At which time
my will is that my said
12 wife shall deliver unto my said son Thomas the one half of all my said
household stuff if he be
13 then living and require it. But if not, then to remain to my said wife to
dispose at her will and
14 pleasure. And for the better performance of my said will and devise herein,
I will that a true
15 inventory be made of the said plate and other my said household stuff in
witness indented between my

16 said wife and my overseers hereunder named, or some of them, within
fourteen days after my decease.
17 And that my said wife become then bound to my said overseers, or to some
of them, in an obligation of
18 the sum of two hundred pounds for the leaving of the one half of my said
plate and household stuff
19 to be and remain at the time aforesaid to my said son if he shall be then
living or if he shall be then
20 dead, to be at her own disposition. And I will that if my said wife shall
refuse to make such an
21 indenture or to seal and deliver such a bond, that then my said son shall
immediately after my
22 decease have all my said plate and household stuff, the same to be taken
and kept to his use by my
23 said overseers or by any of them. Also I give to **my cousin Joane Medcalf**,
the sum of ten pounds
24 of current money of England to be paid her within one year after my
decease. The residue of my
25 goods and cattells whatsoever, my debts, funeral and legacies being paid
and discharged, I
26 will and give to my said wife whom also I do make and ordain sole executrix
of this my said will

27 and testament upon condition that she make, seal and deliver such
inventory and bonds as
28 is aforesaid within such time as is aforesaid, if she shall be then required by
any of my said overseers.
29 And, if not, then upon condition that she shall do the same at any time after
when she shall be there
30 unto required by any of them. And upon any her refusal so to do, I will that
my said son shall be my sole executor

page 2:

31 of this my said will, praying that some of my overseers will be helping unto
him in that behalf as my
32 faithful trust is that they will.
33 And more as touching the disposition of my lands, tenements
34 and hereditaments, my will and mind is as followeth: **First:** I will and
devise to my said wife for and
35 in recompense of her dowry, all that principal messuage or dwelling house
with th'appurtenances, situated
36 in Sevenoaks and wherein I now dwell, together with the yards, garden and
orchards and all houses
37 thereunto belonging. And together with all and singular those my lands
being on either side of the

38 **High Street** of Sevenoaks aforesaid, now in the occupation of **Thomas**
39 **Master** of Sevenoaks aforesaid,
40 or of his assigns; also the house over against me with th'appurtenances
41 which **Charman, the cooper**,
42 lately dwelled in and now in the occupation of **his wife Johane**, to have and
43 to hold my said principal
44 messuage and dwelling house and all other my said houses and lands,
45 amounting in the whole to the
46 yearly value of fifty pounds or thereabouts, to her, my said wife, for and
47 during the time of her
48 natural life. And after to come to the said Thomas Pett, my son, and to the
49 heirs of his body
50 lawfully begotten. And for default of such issue to the heirs of my body
51 lawfully begotten. Provided always that if my said son Thomas Pett die
52 before his full age
53 of one and twenty years and without heirs of his body lawfully begotten,
54 that then all my
55 lands, tenements, hereditaments, shops, with all and singular
56 th'appurtenances shall be and remain
57 to the use and benefit of my said wife during the term of her natural life.
58 And after her decease,
59 then I will and bequeath all the foresaid lands, tenements and
60 hereditaments to **my cousin Humfrey**

49 **Wager, son of John Wager** lately deceased, in **Ireland**, the same to have,
hold, occupy and enjoy
50 only during the natural life of the said Humfrey Wager. All which premises,
I do give and
51 will in manner aforesaid to my said wife in full satisfaction and recompense
of and for her dowry
52 in all or any my lands, tenements or hereditaments whatsoever. And yet,
nevertheless, upon this
53 condition following, viz. if she, my said wife, shall at any time after my
decease demand
54 and take any dowry of or in all or any my lands, tenements or hereditaments
whereof I am or
55 have been seized of in any state of inheritance during the coverture¹⁷⁰
between her and me, or if
56 she shall contract or marry herself to any person without the assent and
good liking of **Mr.**
57 **Samson Lennard, Esq., Mr. Samuel Lennard, gent.** and of my brother Cooper
of London or
58 of **Thomas Lawson of London, merchant tailor**, or of two or three of them
whereof the said Mr.

170 the condition of a married woman as legally deemed under the protection of her husband

59 Samson Lennard, Samuel Lennard and of my brother Cooper (if any of them
three shall be then
60 living) to be one, then this my present will shall for and touching all and
singular legacies of the
61 said houses, shops and land to her bequeathed or willed herein be utterly
void and frustrate.
62 And the same shall be and come immediately from and after such contract
or marriage to my said
63 son and so ever of such and the same estate and estates as is before
specified. All the residue of
64 my lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever lying at **River Hill, the
Weald or Newfound**
65 **Street**¹⁷¹ in Sevenoaks aforesaid or elsewhere, I will and give to my said son
Thomas Pett
66 and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten. And for default of such issue
after the decease of
67 my wife, then to Humfrey Wager now dwelling with me only during his
natural life. And
68 for default of such heirs, then to the right heirs of me, the said John Pett for
ever. And I

171 In 1575 John sold some land "[abutting to the high road called Well Lane](#)". Well Lane was also known as Newfoundland Street but is now Oak Lane which leads from opposite the school to Kippington (Ward, p.283)

69 make and ordain **Mr. Justinian Champines, the elder, Esquire, Mr. William**
70 **Lambard, Mr. Edward**
71 **Cork of North Cray**, Mr. Samson Lennarde, Esquire, Mr. Samuel Lennarde,
72 gent., overseers
73 of this my last will and testament praying them to be aiding to my said son
74 and wife with
75 chen?? good helps and faithful advises. And I will and desire the said Mr.
76 Samson Lennarde,
77 Esquire, shall take the profits, issues and rents of all such lands, tenements
78 and hereditaments
79 as I have afore devised to my son or shall fall to him until his full age of one
80 and twenty years
81 allowing to my said wife yearly, until he shall be eight years of age, ten
82 pounds by the year,
83 out of the said rents, issues and profits, for his finding, if she my said wife
84 will so long
85 keep him and he so long live. And allowing to her yearly, from his age of
86 eight years until
87 the age of sixteen years, fifteen pounds by the year. And from his age of
88 sixteen years until
89 his age of one and twenty years after the rate of forty marks by the year or so
90 much more as

page 3:

80 to the discretion of the said Mr. Samson Lennarde shall be thought
convenient. And I will that the
81 residue of the said rents, issues and profits, he, the said Samson Lennarde
or his executors shall at
82 his said age of twenty one years make accompt and payment to my said son
Thomas Pett if he
83 shall be then living. And if he shall be then dead before, I will that within
one year next after his decease
84 accompt and payment to be made to the assistants and wardens of the
Grammar School¹⁷² of our Sovereign
85 **Lady Queen Elizabeth of Sevenoaks** aforesaid to be by them employed
charitably by their good
86 discretion to and for the relief of the poor almspeople of Sevenoaks
aforesaid. And I will and give
87 to the said Samson Lennarde, in consideration of his pains to be taken in
and about my said devise
88 and will, five marks of good and lawful money of England yearly during the
time that he shall

172 John was himself one of the Assistants of the school (Ward, p.282)

89 travail¹⁷³ therein as is aforesaid. And I will that if the said Mr. Samson
Lennarde shall die or refuse
90 to travail herein that then the said Samuel Lennarde, his brother, shall have
the same power
91 and receive the yearly sum of five marks aforesaid for his pains. And shall
accompt and allow
92 and pay as is afore appointed to the said Samson Lennarde. And I will that
if the said Samuel
93 Lennard shall die or refuse to travail herein, the said Justinian Champines
th'elder shall have the
94 same power and receive five marks by the year and to make accompt and
payments as is before
95 specified. And if the said Justinian Champines th'elder do die before or
refuse to travail herein,
96 that then my brother Cooper shall have the same power and receive the said
five marks
97 by the year for his pains in performing those things which Mr. Samson
Lennarde should do.
98 And lastly I will that from time to time any such of my overseers as shall
travail so herein as is

173 "travell" but travail makes more sense than travel

99 aforesaid shall have the custody of all my evidences, books and writings
whatsoever until the age
100 of twenty and one years of my said son. And shall also receive all such
plate and household stuff
101 as my wife shall leave him if it shall happen her to die before the age of one
and twenty years
102 of my said son. In witness whereof I have to this my last will and testament
concerning
103 my goods and lands set my hand and seal the day and year above written.
By me John Pett.
104 This present will was published, sealed and delivered in the presence of us
Richard Milborne,
105 **John Spratt,** witnesses.

106 Concerning the custody of my evidence, upon further advice,
107 I do will and require my executrix to provide a strong chest to put them in,
well barred
108 with iron having three several locks and three divers keys which keys I wish
to be kept
109 in the three ?? of my overseers during the time of their natural life and
afterwards

110 to be delivered to their survivors in order and time. And my will is that all
and singular my
111 evidences, writings and books shall be put and kept in the said chest and
delivered to Mr.
112 Samson Lennarde or any other of my overseers that shall travail according
to my former appointment
113 in the execution of my will until my son or my next heir come to the full age
of one and twenty
114 years. Provided always that the three keys be kept in three sundry hands.
By me John
115 Pett. Postscripted and signed by the testator in the presence of us, Richard
Milborne, John Spratt.

The Pocockes of Sevenoaks and Seal

Pococke (Pocock or Peacock) was a common name in Sevenoaks and a number of wills have survived but the earliest one is from Seal

	written:	proved:
Robert Pococke	18 Mar 1565/6	CKS: Drb/Pw 8; Drb/Pwr 13.245 P.39

Those from Sevenoaks are:

Thomas Pococke	27 Apr 1587	11 May 1587	PCC: Spencer 30	P. 67
William Pococke, the elder	17 Apr 1596 ¹⁷⁴	7 Aug 1596	PCC: Drake 60; Prob 10/167	P. 72
George Pococke	12 Apr 1613 ¹⁷⁵	1613	PCC: Capell 65; Prob 11/121	P. 83

¹⁷⁴ buried 9th August 1596 as recorded in the parish register but probate was granted on 7th August 1596

¹⁷⁵ "householder", buried 17th May 1613

John Pococke, the elder	1 Apr 1619 ¹⁷⁶	12 Feb 1622/3	PCC: Swann 17; Prob 11/141	P. 89
Thomas Pococke	12 Sep 1624 ¹⁷⁷	30 Oct 1624	CKS: Prs/w/12/166	P. 97
Elizabeth Pococke, maiden	9 May 1644	1 Feb 1644/5	PCC: Rivers 40; Prob 11/192	P. 102

The wills of Thomas Pococke (1587) and George Pococke were witnessed by John Spratt, vicar of Sevenoaks from 1584 to 1614, who was probably the scriptor. The will of Thomas Pococke (1624) was written by John Hooper who wrote a large number of wills in the area.

The following is an attempt to build up a coherent set of relationships for the Pocockes but, with limited data and the number of Pocockes with the same first name, choices have to be made between a large number of possible variations.

The will of Henry Pococke of Speldhurst is given in Families & Transcripts and the Pocockes of Shipbourne, West Peckham and Leigh in More Families & Transcripts.

¹⁷⁶ John Pococke, senior, buried 20 December 1622 about eight weeks before this will was proved

¹⁷⁷ Thomas Pocock, yeoman, buried 16th September 1624

Robert Pococke of Seal

The will of Robert from Seal, most unusually for the Rochester Diocese, is accompanied by an inventory and, for this reason, it is included here. It was witnessed by Gilbert Jenyns, vicar of Seal and Kemsing from October 1561 until 1603 and it looks like his writing but it was written very hurriedly, not surprisingly since Peacock must have been very close to death on 18th March being buried the next day. The value of all Richard's "goods, moveables and cattle" totalled £10.80 but he was owed another £10 by a number of local people.

Will of Robert Pococke of Seal

written 18th March 1565/6
transcript from original

1 In the name of god Amen. In the year of our
2 lord god 1565, the 18th day of March in the
3 eighth year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth,
4 I, Robert Pococke, of Seal in the county of
5 Kent, do make my last will and testament

6 in manner and form following: **First:** I bequeath
7 my soul to Almighty god and my body to be
8 buried in the churchyard of Seal.

9 **Item:** I give and bequeath my tenement that
10 I dwell in, with the appurtenances, unto **Johane,**
11 **my wife,** during her natural life and
12 after her decease, to remain equally
13 **to my sons** and to their right heirs for
14 ever. All the rest of my moveable
15 goods and debts I give to the
16 aforesaid Johane, my wife, whom I make
17 my sole executrix, these being witnesses,

Gilbert Jenyns, clerk
John Dormer, John Pococke

1 The **inventory** of all the goods, moveable and
2 cattalls of Robert Pococke, late of Seal
3 ?? he lived, the which he had at the
4 hour of his death, appraised and valued
5 by **William Hilles, John Pococke** and others
6 the 26th day of May in the year of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the
7 grace of god, Queen of England, France
8 and Ireland, defender of the faith, 8th year.

Impris:

in the hall, a table and forms, 1 chair, 2 cushions,
2 plain stools, 1 little cupboard and a little table 5s £ 0.25

Item: in the buttery, a malt querne¹⁷⁸, a pounding trough,
a kneading trough, a Towne, 2 kylers, 3 tubs,
2 ale p ?? aines, 2 ale pinns¹⁷⁹ 10s £ 0.50

Item: a sp?? of pewter and one salt cellar, 2 pewter pots 6s 8d £ 0.33

Item: 2 brass pots, 2 hanging bottles,
a little cauldron, 2 pewter pots 13s 4d £ 0.67

Item: a spit, a cobbarm, one frying pan, a gridiron 2s £ 0.10

Item: in the chamber: one featherbed, 2 bolsters,
2 pillows, one blanket and a covering 30s £ 1.50

Item: in linen: two pairs of sheets, 2 pillowberes,
2 tablecloths, 2 towels 40s £ 2.00

Item: 2 chests 5s £ 0.25

Item: in corn upon the ground and 2 acres of oats 20s £ 1.00

178 a stone handmill

179 a pin is a cask of 4½ gallons

Item: 3 cattle, 3 kyne ¹⁸⁰	£4	£ 4.00
Item: 2 hogs	4s	£ 0.20
TOTAL	£10 16s	£10.80

The debts owing to me, Robert Pococke

Item: Barnard of Sevenoaks	33s 4d	£ 1.67
Item: Baylest of Greatness	20s	£ 1.00
Item: Bayleaf of Seal	20s	£ 1.00
Item: Thomas Romney ¹⁸¹ of Seal	20s	£ 1.00
Item: William Heist	30s	£ 1.50
Item: William Listney	40s	£ 2.00
Item: Harry Hadlow of Yalding	20s	£ 1.00
Item: Paynes, widow of Otford	16s 8d	£ 0.83

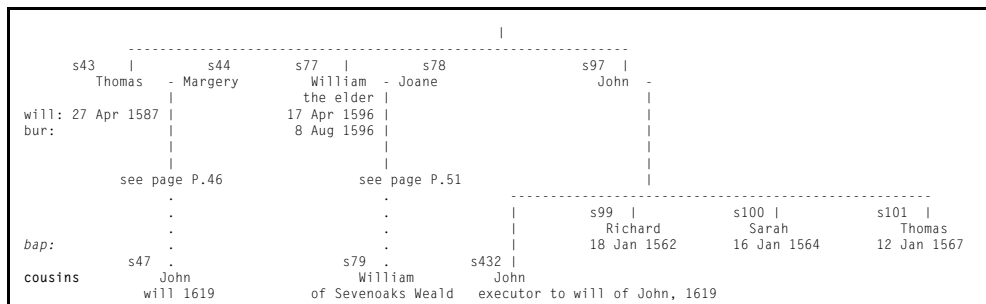
180 "kine" is just cows whilst "cattle" can refer to any beasts of pasture, particularly oxen and bulls as well as cows

181 Thomas Rumney was buried in Seal in February 1585

The Sixteenth Century Pocockes

In the 1550s and 1560s there were at least three Pocockes having children in Sevenoaks: John, Thomas (will 1587) and William (will 1596). Both Thomas and William were yeomen and, particularly since Thomas's son John mentions cousins, these three could have been brothers. Thomas and his wife Margery had a large family and at least two of their sons, George and John, left wills.

The Three Brothers

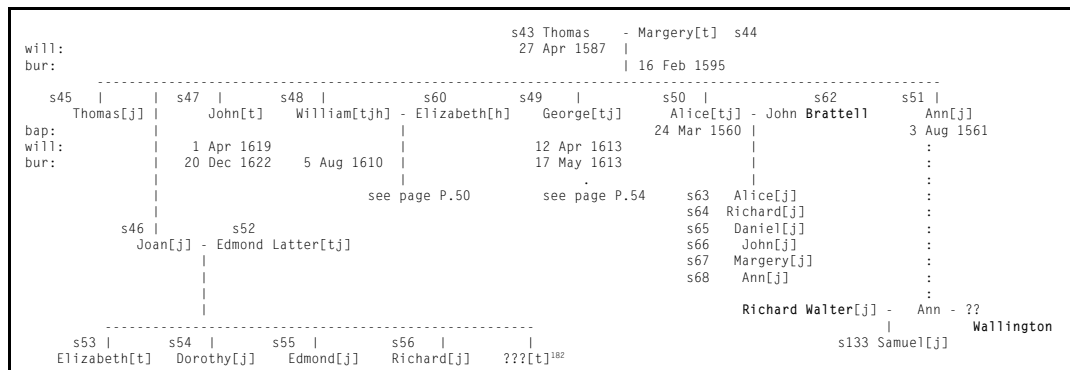


Nothing is known about John (s97) except for his three children but if he had a son, John, born perhaps before the parish registers started, that son could have been the cousin John whom John, son of Thomas, made his executor in 1619

George and John Pococke, the elder, were two of Thomas's sons. John can be identified by his brothers and sisters, the George who died in 1613 being his brother since John leaves money to his nieces, George's daughters. In addition, John left to his heir, the son of his executor, the land in Rotherfield which he had inherited from his father.

There were two William Pocockes having children in the 1580s since at least the nine baptised between 1581 and 1595 are too close together to be all the same family. William, the son of Thomas and Margery, was one of these. William Pococke, the elder who died in 1596 also had a son, William Pococke, the younger, who could have been the "[William Pococke of Sevenoaks Weald](#)" the cousin of the John who died in 1619 .

Tree P.1: The Family of Thomas and Margery Pococke



In the above tree and those of William and Elizabeth and of George, [t] indicates someone mentioned in Thomas's will(1587), [j] in John's will (1619) and [h] in the will of **Hellen Hadsoule** (1595). William Pococke was appointed Hellen's executor and his wife, Elizabeth, was left all her household stuff. Hellen could have been a Pococke.

182 Thomas, their grandfather, mentions Elizabeth and "four other children of the said Edmond Latter"

Hellen also left legacies to a number of Pococke brothers and sisters without giving their father's name but it is likely that John, William, Dorothy, Rachel, Hellen and Elizabeth were the children of William and Elizabeth. Given that "Elner" from the parish records was Hellen, the children given for s48 agree with the exception that no Rachel or Elizabeth born before 1595 were recorded. Elizabeth, daughter of his brother William, deceased, was also mentioned in John's will of 1619. Since s48 died before 1619 he could have been the "[William Pococke, householder](#)" who was buried on 5th August 1610.

Joane was probably the eldest daughter of Thomas and Margery since she married Edmond Latter on 2nd June 1574 and must therefore have been born about 1550; this implies that Thomas was born in the early 1520s and was therefore approaching seventy when he died. Since Margery lived for another eight years she could have lived well into her seventies..

When her father wrote his will **his daughter, Alice**, was twenty-seven and presumably not married since he left her £30. From her brother John's will, Alice married twice, first to John Brattell by whom she had at least six children, and secondly to Richard Wood.

Thomas and Margery's youngest daughter, Ann, was twenty-five when her father wrote his will but she was not mentioned in it, perhaps because she was already

married. On 1st June 1579, Ann Pococke married Richard Walter and this could have been Thomas's daughter who would then have been eighteen. Another pointer to Thomas's daughter being the wife of Richard Walter is that John, in 1619, left ten shillings to his godson, Samuel Walter. By this time, John's sister was "Ann Wallington" and he left her £2. He also left Nicholas Wallington £1 (he could have been Ann's husband) and William Wallington, his "cousin", some furniture from the house in which William was living.

When Thomas's will was written in 1587 he owed £150 by a bond to William Hodsell and £6 13s 4d to Mr. John Lennard, Esquire. Hodsoll was sometimes written as "Hadsoul" so that the William Hodsell to whom Thomas Pococke owed £150 could have been related to Helen Hadsoule, perhaps he was her husband. These debts and Thomas's legacies (£30 to his daughter plus some small bequests) were to be paid by his three sons, John, William and George. Thomas specified how much each of his sons was to contribute from the land he inherited and they were to enter into bonds to their mother, who was the executrix of the will. These amounts are given in the third column of Table P.1; they total £300 which is over £100 more than the amount needed for the debts and legacies specified by Thomas.

Table P.1: Land Left by Thomas Pococke in 1587

John	s47 ¹⁸³	houses, lands and tenements called Bletchingly in Sussex, totalling 160 acres	£140
William	s48	houses, lands and tenements at Bayleys Hill, Sevenoaks	£ 80
George	s49	a meadow near Hatch Landgate, a parcel of land called Covenenth - 16 acres a parcel of land called Culverden - 4 acres	£ 80

William and George shared, with their mother, all Thomas's cattle: horses, kyne, sheep and hogs and George, on his mother's death all Thomas's goods and household stuff and plate.

¹⁸³ s indicates a reference in the Sevenoaks database

The Children of William and Elizabeth

bur:									
s48 William[tjh] - Elizabeth[h] s60									
5 Aug 1610									

s139	s141	s162	s143	s368	s145	s146	s147	s148	
John[h]	William[h]	Rachel[h]	Elnor/Helen[h]	Elizabeth[h]	Dorothy[h]	Thomas	Thomas	Elizabeth[j]	
bap: 5 Jun 1582	24 Jun 1585		26 Oct 1589		16 Dec 1593	6 Mar 1595	15 Mar 1598	11 Oct 1607	
bur:									
see page P.? for the family of John s139					<Oct 1607		6 Jun 1595		

In 1619, John also mentioned a brother Thomas in his will but Thomas, the father, did not make any reference to him in his will. He could have been the eldest son, born in the 1550s, and perhaps had already been set up by his father but it is strange that there should be no mention of him or his family. Another possibility is that he had left home and lost contact with his parents but returned sometime between 1587 and 1619. John seems to have lent him money since, in addition to giving him £2, he released Thomas from "[all such debts and demands any way to me due from him to me unto this present](#)".

A Thomas Pococke married Agnes Goding on 12th February 1588 nine months after Thomas (s43) wrote his will. Using a considerable amount of conjecture, Thomas's story can be expanded by suggesting that, on hearing of his father's death, Thomas returned home in the hope of a legacy but, finding that his father had not left him anything, getting his unmarried brother John to help fund him so

that he could marry Agnes. It is also possible that this Thomas was the man who wrote his will in 1624 - see page P.60.

The Family of William Pococke, the elder

		s77 William, the elder - Joane[w]		s78																						
will:				17 Apr 1596																						
bur:				9 Aug 1596																						

	s79	s80	s81	s82	s83	s84	s85	s86																		
bap:	William[w]	Henry[w]	Elizabeth[w]	Mary	George[w]	Susan[w]	Edmond	Gathered[w]																		
bur:			29 Nov 1561	26 Feb 1564	15 Dec 1566	19 Mar 1569	26 Jul 1573	5 Jun 1575																		
				<1596			<1596																			

	s138	s140	s142	s144																						
bap:	William	Thomas[j]	Rachel	Elizabeth[j]																						
bur:	15 May 1581	6 Oct 1583	3 Mar 1587	19 Oct 1592																						

[w] indicates someone mentioned by William in his will. The William baptised in 1581 and Elizabeth in 1592 were recorded as the children of "[William Pococke, junior](#)". It is because of this description that the Elizabeth of 1592 was not included in s48's family although s48 had a daughter, Elizabeth, mentioned in Helen Hadsoule's will of 1595. John in 1619 mentions Elizabeth and Thomas, children of his cousin William.

William owned a "capital messuage or tenement and buildings, barns, stables and outhouses . . . orchards, lands, meadows, pastures, feedings, woods and underwoods" which had been divided up in a complicated way, different parts being occupied by different people. There was a "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" towards the east and "to a certain old barn or stable . . . towards the west, which said new stable is also now in the tenure or occupation of the said George Shawe". A part of the orchard had been "marked and shifted out by me, the said William Pococke th'elder in the presence of William Olyver of Stonestreet and Robert Robinson of Sevenoaks aforesaid, which said part of the said orchard abutteth on one side to the yard or close of the said capital messuage or tenement towards the east, to the upper part of the said old barn south, to the upper or other part of the said orchard west. And so goeth directly cross from the said upper part of the said old barn unto the lands of John Sone where there is a pale chopped for a mark north".

There was also "that part of the said capital messuage or tenement" where Robert King and his son William lived. This included two little gardens one of which "abutted to the great barn" and was "newly paleed". It was this part that George was to inherit with Henry having the other part which must have included the main entrances since George "his heirs and assigns and every of them, and all such as shall be his or their farmer or farmers to the said premises, shall have free liberty, entry, ingress, egress and regress in at the great gate of the close to the

said capital messuage or tenement belonging, to go and to come with horses, carriages or other necessary things whatsoever to the said new stable, orchard and garden aforesaid. And also further to have free liberty for him or them that shall so occupy that part of the said messuage or tenement wherein the said Robert and William King do now inhabit or dwell, to come and go to the draw well to the said capital messuage or tenement belonging to fetch, have, draw, take and carry away from the same meet and sufficient water for their needful and necessary expenses at all times meet and convenient for ever."

William's Money Legacies included:

to:

his youngest son George	£20	to be paid by Henry within two months of the end of his apprenticeship with Edward Lawrence of Sevenoaks
his daughters, Elizabeth Susan and Gathered	£10	each, to be paid by William's son Henry within two years of William's decease
Garthered Stevens, daughter of Ralph Stevens	£2	to be paid at age 16

The Family of George Pococke

	s70	Elizabeth	-	s49	George	-	Michall Besbeeche (widow)	s73
will:					12 May 1613			
bur:		7 Aug 1594			17 May 1613			
	s71		s72		s74		s75	
	Margaret		Margery[j]		Michell[j]		Deborah[j]	
bap:	10 Nov 1592		16 Sep 1593		2 Oct 1598		25 Mar 1601	
bur:	15 Jan 1611							24 Jul 1603

George married Michell Besbiche (Besbeeche), widow, on 21st July 1595. She had a son, Richard, from her first marriage who was probably only a year or two old when his mother remarried whilst George was himself a widower with two daughters under three. "[Margaret, daughter of George](#)" was buried on 15th January 1611. Richard Besbeeche's will of 1633 has survived.

George Pococke, who describes himself in his will as a gentleman, had four daughters but no son. By the time her uncle John wrote his will in 1619, Margery, the surviving daughter from George's first marriage, was the wife of Thomas Burgess of Rotherfield. George left each of his daughters some land and property. Two of his properties he describes as an "[Inn, messuage or tenement](#)"; these were called the Pied Bull and the Crown. He also mentions a hemploft and a hop garden, the latter perhaps supplying hops for the beer sold in his inns.

George made his wife the executrix of his will and left her all the residue of his goods, etc, ("as well real as personal") in consideration of which he charged her "faithfully to pay and discharge" all his debts and legacies "within as short and convenient time as she can possibly".

John Pococke, will 1619

The John whose will was written in 1619 (s47) was probably the John buried on 20th December 1622 since the will was not proved until February 1623. Although described as John Pococke, the elder, he had no wife or children and, like many bachelors, left a large number of legacies to his nieces, nephews, cousins, etc..

Table P.2 - Legacies Left by John in 1619

The third column gives the number of years within which legacy was to be paid; excluding annuities to goddaughters, the legacies listed in this table total £50 3s 4d (£50.17).

To:	relationship	yr	Total	
Elizabeth, daughter of brother, William, decd. s148 ¹⁸⁴	niece	1	£ 5	£ 5
Thomas, son of William of Sevenoaks Weald s140	son of cousin	1	£ 2	£ 2
Alice s50	sister	2	£ 2	£ 2
Alice, her daughter s63	niece		£ 2	£ 2
her 5 other children	nieces & nephews		£ 1 each	£ 5
Thomas s45	brother	1	£ 2	£ 2

184 reference in the Sevenoaks database; Pococke daughters are indexed under Pococke, not their married name

Joan	s46	sister	1	£ 2	£ 2
Dorothy, her daughter	s54	niece	3	£ 2	£ 2
Edmond & Richard	s55,s56	nephews	3	£ 2 each	£ 4
Ann Wallington(m)	s51	sister		£ 2	£ 2
Nicholas Wallington	s135	?		£ 1	£ 1
William Wallington	s137	cousin		furniture	
Samuel Walter	s133	godson, nephew	1	10s	10s
six Lutten children		cousin's children	1	10s each	£ 3
daughters of brother George:					
Margery Burgess(m)	s72		2	£ 1	£ 1
Micholl & Deborah	s74,s75	nieces	2	£ 1 each	£ 2
Mary	s76		2	£ 2	£ 2
daughters of John Pococke:					
Dorothy & Elizabeth	s152,s154			£ 2 each	£ 4
Mary, wife of John	s150	goddaughter		£ 5	£ 5
Rachel Copping(m)				6s 8d	6s 8d
Samuel Madder		godson		6s 8d	6s 8d

John Masters	godson		6s 8d	6s 8d
William King and his 3 children			6s 8d each	£ 1 6s 8d
Edmond & Alice Latter s58,s59	children of cousin		6s 8d each	13s 4d
Mary, daughter of brother Thomas s96	niece		6s 8d	6s 8d
Elizabeth, daughter of cousin William s144	daughter of cousin		6s 8d	6s 8d
Susan Cronke Elizabeth Morley	goddaughters		3s 4d each a year	

John had connections with Wadhurst and Rotherfield in Sussex since he left money to the poor of these parishes in addition to those of Sevenoaks. His cousin, John Lutten and his family and also Thomas Burgess and his wife Margery who was John's niece, lived in Rotherfield but there is no other mention of Wadhurst.

John mentioned his brother William Pococke, deceased, and appointed as his executor his "[cousin, John Pococke](#)", yeoman of Sevenoaks whose heir was also a

John. "Cousin" was often used to describe a nephew and therefore his executor could have been s139, the eldest son of his brother William who would have been thirty-seven in 1619. This could have been the John Pococke who had at least six children between 1611 and 1620 particularly since two of the daughters of s139 were Dorothy and Elizabeth which agrees with the bequests made to them by John, the testator.

John left his "mansion called or known by the name of Bletchingly withall the house, edifices, barns, gardens, orchards, lands, meadows, pastures, feedings, woods and all other hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situated" in Rotherfield, Sussex, to his executor because, he said, his "personal and real estate of goods and chattels" was insufficient to discharge his debts, legacies, probate of his testament and will and pay "several expenses about me belonging". It would appear, however, that only part of this inheritance would be needed to pay the debts, etc. since the house was eventually to go to the executor's son, another John.

John mentioned two cousins called William, one of Sevenoaks Weald who had a daughter Elizabeth and a son Thomas; this William is taken as s79, the son of John's uncle William. The other cousin William was "late of Tonbridge" and it was his son (another William) that John left "two parcels of land commonly called Kettles lying in Sevenoaks".

Twenty-two years later, In 1641, Alice Charman of Otford, widow of John Charman, carpenter of Sevenoaks, granted the residue of the lease of 2 fields, 12 acres, called Kettles in Sevenoaks to Thomas Baker of Otford. Her husband had had the lease for 41 years from his uncle, John Pococke, yeoman of Sevenoaks, by his uncle's will¹⁸⁵.

Kettles, just north of the village of Underriver, was in the parish of Seal but the parish boundary between Seal and Sevenoaks runs very close to Kettleshill Farm so that some of its land could have been in the parish of Sevenoaks; in the 1580s it was owned by the Olyver family of Seal.

Thomas Pococke, will 1624

The Thomas Pococke who died in 1624 was from “[Sevenoaks Weald in the parish of Sevenoaks](#)”; very unusually for Sevenoaks, his will was proved at Rochester. He could have been the Thomas Pococke who married Agnes Goding on 12th February 1588 and also the brother of John and George. Although John mentions

185 Gordon Ward Notebooks, Sevenoaks VI, p.52

his brother Thomas in his will he does not mention a wife; he does, however, mention Mary, daughter of his brother Thomas.

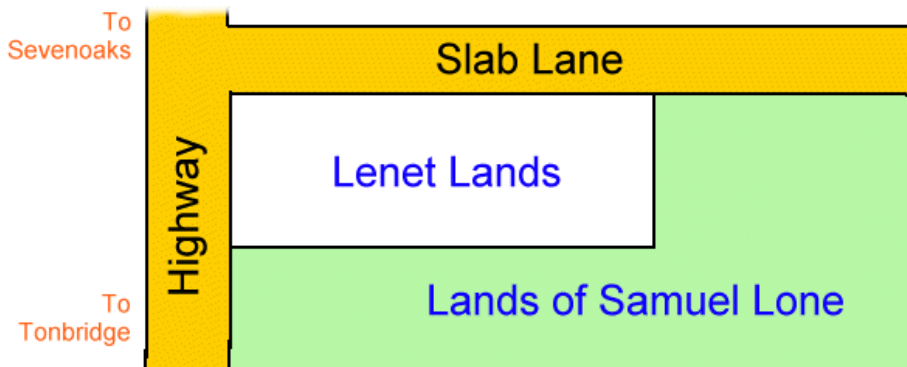
William (s79), the son of William the elder, was described as “of Sevenoaks Weald” in his cousin John’s will of 1619. He had a son Thomas who could also have been of the Weald but, since he was born in 1583, he could not have been the testator of 1624 whose daughter, Francis, was born in 1594,

The Two Families of Thomas Pococke

		s45			
s88 Agnes Goding -		Thomas	-	Dorothy[T]	s91
will:		12 Sep 1624			
bur:		16 Sep 1624		28 Dec 1624	
-----		-----			
s89		s90		s125	
William		John[T]		Francis[T]	
bap:	18 Oct 1590	1 Nov 1591		10 Jun 1594	
bur:	8 Dec 1590			9 Jan 1597	
				26 May 1599	
				s94	
				s95	
				twins	
				s96	
				s149	
				Dorothy	
				Mary[jT]	
				Henry	
				20 Oct 1603	
				2 Aug 1607	
				16 Aug 1604	

whom he mentioned in his will including a Mary born in October 1603. These are indicated In the above tree by [T].

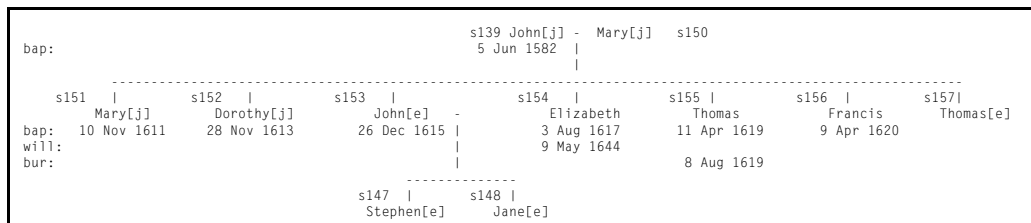
Thomas had already "preferred" his three daughters and son William; Henry was not mentioned and most likely died as a baby. John, the eldest son was to be joint executor with Thomas's wife. Thomas owned some land to the south of Sevenoaks which Henry Godman held in mortgage. This was to be sold so that John, his son and executor, could redeem all the lands and tenements which Thomas had mortgaged, Thomas "[having a great desire that all my debts as well those which I owe by bonds as those which I owe upon mortgages or otherwise . . . should be . . . truly paid and discharged](#)".



Elizabeth Pococke, maiden

There were a number of John Pococke's having children from 1611 onwards. One of these was John s139, the son of William (s48) and the grandson of Thomas and Margery. The John who died in 1619 (s47) appointed as his executor s139 whose wife, Mary, was s47's goddaughter.

John's daughter, Elizabeth could have been the Elizabeth Pococke, maiden, who died in 1644. Her brother John whom she implicitly made her executor, would have been old enough by then to have a son and a daughter.



In the above tree [j] indicates someone mentioned in the will of s47, [e] someone mentioned in Elizabeth's will. Elizabeth's brother Thomas was in Ireland when

she wrote her will but although a number of her kinswomen were left legacies, she did not mention any other brothers or sisters. Her will is concerned with the forty pounds she owned; this was in the care of her "kinsman" John, possibly her brother.

Table P.3 - Legacies Left by Elizabeth in 1644

brother Thomas	s157	£ 5
kinswoman Rachel Day, widow		£ 5
kinswoman Anne Clarke, wife of John Clarke		£ 5
kinswoman Elizabeth, the wife of John Ward		£ 1
Mary, the wife of Thomas Longley		£ 1
John and Mary, the two children of Edmond Besbeeche		10s
Edward, the son of John Pococke, if he be living		10s
Stephen, the son of brother John	s147	£ 8
Jane, the daughter of brother John	s148	£ 8
TOTAL		£34

The phrase "if he be living" implies Elizabeth did not know much about the whereabouts of "Edward, son of John Pococke" when she wrote her will. The residue of the £40 was to go to her brother John to pay the costs of her funeral and any debts she owed

Another John Pococke

There was yet another John who had children between 1618 and 1625, Edward and Anne being recorded as the children of "John Pococke, junior" who would have to have been born in the early 1590s. The John who meets this requirement is s90, the son of Thomas born in 1591. Although "junior" was usually used to describe a son with the same name as his father, it could also be used where there were two men of different generations within an extended family. "John Pococke, junior, householder" was buried on 22nd March 1625, the same day as his youngest daughter who was only a few months old.

The Children of John Pococke, junior

			s90 John -	
bap:			1 Nov 1591	
bur:			22 Mar 1625	
	s158		s159	
	Edward[e]		Ann	
bap:	25 Jan 1618		26 May 1622	
bur:				
			s160	
			Agnes	
			4 May 1623	
			s161	
			Dorothy	
			16 Jan 1625	
			22 Mar 1625	

Perhaps the “[Edward, son of John Pococke](#)” to whom Elizabeth left 10s was s158, the son of s90. He and Elizabeth were the same age as each other.

The Wills of the Sevenoaks Pocockes

Below are given the transcripts of the six wills which have survived for the Pocockes of Sevenoaks

1 In the name of god Amen. The seven and twentieth day
2 of April Anno dm one thousand five hundredth eight seven. I, Thomas
Pococke
3 of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, sick in body but of perfect
memory, thanks be given
4 to god, make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form
following: **First:** I
5 give my soul to Almighty god who made me, to Jesus Christ, his only son
who redeemed me
6 and unto the holy ghost who sanctified me in which three persons and one
god my whole hope
7 and trust of salvation doth consist. My body of which I have small care, I
will it be buried
8 at the discretion of my wife and children. All my goods, household stuff and
plate in my house in
9 Sevenoaks wherein I now do dwell, I will and bequeath to **Margery, my**
wife, for term of
10 her life. And after her decease I give all the said goods and household stuff
and plate to **George**

11 **my son. Item:** all my cattle¹⁸⁶ as horses, kyne, sheep and hogs which I have
12 in the parish
13 of Sevenoaks I give and bequeath to Margery, my wife, and **William and**
14 **George, my sons,**
15 equally betwixt them to be divided. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Alice, my**
16 **daughter,** thirty pounds
17 of good and lawful money of England. **Item:** I give and bequeath to
18 **Goodman King, his wife,**
19 three shillings four pence. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Elizabeth Latter,**
20 **daughter to Edmond**
Latter, twenty shillings. **Item:** I give and bequeath to the other **four**
children of the said
Edmond Latter, to every of them three shillings and four pence. All the rest
of my goods and cattells¹⁸⁷
not bequeathed, I give to Margery, my wife, whom I make my sole executrix.
Item: I give and
bequeath to the poor of the parish of Sevenoaks to be divided amongst them
at the discretion
of my executrix twenty shillings.

186 "cattell"

187 does this mean "chattels" here since he bequeathed all his cattle on line 11

21 This is the last will and testament of me, the said Thomas
22 Pococke as touching and concerning my lands already not given or
bestowed which I give and
23 bequeath in manner and form following: **First:** I give and bequeath to **John**
Pococke, my son,
24 and to his heirs for ever, all my houses, lands and tenements in **Sussex**
called **Bletchingly**
25 containing, by estimation, a hundred threescore acres more or less in
consideration whereof my will is

page 2:

26 that he, the said John, shall pay of my debts and legacies one hundred and
forty pounds and to be
27 bound to my executrix for the true payment thereof. **Item:** I give and
bequeath to William Pococke,
28 my son, and to his heirs for ever, my houses, lands and tenements at
Bayleys Hill, one mead
29 excepted lying at **Hatch Landgate** in consideration whereof my will is that
the said William, my son,
30 shall pay of my debts and legacies four score pounds and to enter in to bond
to my executrix for
31 the true payment thereof. **Item:** I give and bequeath to George, my son, and
to his heirs for

32 ever, one parcel of meadow ground lying to Hatch Landgate, containing, by
estimation,¹⁸⁸
33 acres, more or less, the said meadow to be divided from a little parcel or
hoppet of ground with
34 a hedge to be made through the middle of a shaw¹⁸⁹ being betwixt the
meadow and the said
35 hoppet or little piece of ground. Also I give and bequeath to the said
George, my son, and to
36 his heirs for ever, one parcel of land called **Covenenth** containing, by
estimation, sixteen acres more
37 or less. Also I give and bequeath to the said George, my son, and to his
heirs for ever, one
38 parcel of land called **Culverden** containing, by estimation, four acres more or
less. In consideration
39 whereof my will is that the said George, my son, shall pay of my debts and
legacies four
40 score pounds. And to enter into bond unto my said executrix for the true
payment thereof.

188 although this is the probate copy, it looks as if a space was left here on the original to put in the acreage when the will was signed but that this was never entered

189 small group of trees

41 **Item:** my will is that whereas I do owe unto **Mr. John Lennard, Esquire**¹⁹⁰,
42 six pounds, thirteen
43 shillings four pence that my three sons, John, William and George, shall pay
44 the same equally
45 betwixt them. My debts and legacies by my three sons to be paid are these:
46 To Mr. John
47 Lennard, Esquire, six pounds thirteen shillings and sixpence. To **William**
48 **Hodsoll**, by bond, a
hundred and fifty pounds. To Alice, my daughter, thirty pounds. Which
debts and legacies by my three
sons, John, William and George, to be paid amount unto two hundred four
score six pounds
thirteen shillings four pence¹⁹¹. The mark of Thomas Pococke. Witnesses at
this will
making **John Spratt, John Talbot, Philip Tomson.**

190 John Lennard's will, written 28th November 1587, has survived

191 the above debts and legacy total £156 13s 4d but the probate copy definitely has £256 13s 4d

Will of William Pococke, yeoman

written, as a long scroll, on 17th April 1596; proved 7th August 1596
transcript from probate copy, to which paging refers

1 In the name of god Amen. The seventeenth day of April
2 in the year of our Lord God a thousand, five hundred four score and six
3 teen. And in the eight and thirtieth year of the reign of our sovereign Lady
4 Elizabeth, by the grace of God of England, France and Ireland, Queen,
defender
5 of the faith, etc. I, William Pococke th'elder of the parish of Sevenoaks in
the
6 county of Kent, **yeoman**, although weak and sick in body yet being whole
of
7 mind and of good and perfect remembrance, thanks be to god, therefore do
8 ordain, constitute and make this my present last will and testament in
manner
9 and form following, that is to say, **First** and principally I give and bequeath
10 my soul unto Almighty god, my only maker, and to his son Jesus Christ, my
11 only Redeemer, by whose death and passion I trust to be saved and by
none
12 other means. And my body to be buried at the discretion of my executor or

page 2:

13 executors where it shall please Almighty god to appoint the same. **Item:** I
give
14 and bequeath unto the poor people of the Town and parish of Sevenoaks
ten
15 shillings of good and lawful money of England to be given and distributed
unto them
16 at the time of my burial by the discretion of my said executor or executors
here
17 after in this my will to be named. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **George**
Pococke,
18 my youngest son, twenty pounds of like money to be paid and delivered
unto him
19 by **Henry Pococke**, his brother, another of my sons, his heirs or assigns
within
20 two months next after the end of his apprenticeship with **Edward Lawrence**
21 of Sevenoaks aforesaid, moreover the which is at the feast St. Michael th'ar
22 changel, the which shall be¹⁹² in the year of our Lord god a thousand, five
hun
23 dred, fourscore and eighteen next ensuing the date hereof. **Item:** I give and

192 "shalbe" for "shall be" throughout

24 bequeath to my three daughters, namely **Elizabeth, Susan** and **Gathered**,
and
25 to each of them, the sum of ten pounds of like good and lawful money of
England.
26 To be paid unto them, and every of them, by my said son Henry, his heirs
27 executors, administrators or assigns, within two years next after my
decease.
28 **Item:** I give unto **Garthered Stevens**, the daughter of **Ralph Stevens**, forty
29 shillings of good and lawful money of England to be paid and delivered
unto
30 her at her age of sixteen years by my executor or executors or their assigns.
31 Also I give and bequeath unto **William Pococke**, my eldest son, one cow to
be
32 delivered unto him presently after my decease and the same to be the best
that he
33 can choose amongst all the kyne that I shall have at the time of my death.
Also
34 I give and bequeath unto George Pococke, my son, my twelve monthling
stoned colt
35 and the same to be kept by my executors for him two whole years next after
36 my decease. The residue of all and singular my goods, cattell and chattels,
not be

37 fore given nor bequeathed, my debts, legacies and funeral expenses being
paid
38 and discharged, I give and bequeath unto **Joane, now my wife**, and to the
said
39 Henry Pococke, my said son. And I do ordain, constitute and make the said
40 Joane and Henry my executors of this my present last will and testament.
41 This is the last will and testament of me, the said William Pococke th'elder,
42 made and declared the day and year above written concerning the gift and
43 disposition of all my messuages, lands, tenements and other my
hereditaments situated,
44 lying and being in the said parish of Sevenoaks. That is to say, **First**: I
45 give and bequeath unto the said William Pococke, my eldest son, all that
46 messuage or tenement, withall and singular the lands, gardens, orchards
47 hereditaments and appurtenances whatsoever to the same belonging or in
any
48 wise appertaining wherein one, **Richard Mondie**, doth now inhabit and
dwell,
49 situated and being in Sevenoaks aforesaid. The which I lately bought and
50 purchased of **William Sisley**, late of Sevenoaks aforesaid, deceased, and
Griffin

51 **Sisley**¹⁹³ of the same and of either and both of them. To have and to hold
the
52 said premises and every part and parcel thereof, withall and singular
appur=
53 tenances, hereditaments, commodities and profits thereunto belonging or
in any
54 wise appertaining to him, the said William Pococke, his heirs and assigns,
55 for ever. **Item:** I give and will unto the said Joane, my wife, all that my
capi=
56 tal message or tenement withall the outhouses, barns, stables and other
57 th'edifices and buildings to the same. And also all the gardens, orchards,
lands,
58 meadows, pastures and feedings to the same capital message or tenement
59 belonging or in any wise appertaining, now in the several tenures or
occupations
60 of **Henry Gifford**¹⁹⁴, **George Shawe** and **Robert and William King**, their
assig=
61 nee or assigns. To have and to hold the said premises, and every part
62 and parcels thereof, to her the said Joane, and her assigns, during the term

193 see Sisley wills for details of the Sevenoaks Sisleys

194 the will of Henry Gifford, yeoman, written 1604, has survived

63 of her natural life if she so long keep her self sole and unmarried. And that
64 neither she nor her assigns do not make any wilful spoil or waste in or

page 3:

65 upon the said premises or any part or parcel thereof. And after her decease
66 I give and bequeath all that part of the said capital messuage or tene=
67 ment and buildings, barns, stables and outhouses to the same and also all
the
68 orchards, lands, meadows, pastures, feedings, woods and underwoods to
the
69 same capital messuage or tenement belonging withall and singular their
appur=
70 tenancies, hereditaments, commodities and profits whatsoever, the which
now be in
71 the tenure or occupation of the said Henry Gifford and George Shawe or
their
72 assignee or assigns, except one new stable near situated to the said capi=
73 tal messuage and adjoining unto a lane there called Pococke Lane and to
74 a certain new stone wall of me, the said William Pococke th'elder, towards
75 th'east to a certain old barn or stable there likewise of me the said William
76 Pococke towards the west, which said new stable is also now in the te=
77 nure or occupation of the said George Shawe. And also further except a
part

78 or parcel of the orchard to the said capital messuage or tenement like=
79 wise belonging as it was marked and shifted out by me, the said William
Po=
80 cocke th'elder in the presence of **William Olyver of Stonestreet**¹⁹⁵ and
Robert Ro=
81 **binson** of Sevenoaks aforesaid, which said part of the said orchard
82 abutteth on one side to the yard or close of the said capital messuage or
83 tenement towards the east, to the upper part of the said old barn south,
84 to the upper or other part of the said orchard west. And so goeth directly
85 cross from the said upper part of the said old barn unto the lands of
86 **John Sone** where there is a pale chopped for a mark north. To have and
87 to hold all and singular the said capital messuage or tenement,
88 outhouses and buildings, orchard, lands, meadows, pastures, feedings,
woods
89 and underwoods to the same capital messuage or tenement belonging or
ap=
90 pertaining withall and singular their appurtenances, hereditaments,
commodities
91 and profits whatsoever, the which now be in the tenure or occupation of the
said

195 "Stoneshett" (probate copy); Stone Street was part of the parish of Seal and the Olyvers were a very large Seal family but it is not possible to identify this William.

92 Henry Gifford or George Shawe or their assignee or assigns, except before
93 excepted and reserved out of the same to him, the said Henry Pococke, my
son, his
94 heirs and assigns for ever, immediately after the decease or marriage of the
said
95 Joane, now my wife. Also I give and bequeath to the said George Pococke,
my
96 youngest son, all that part of the said capital messuage or tenement
97 wherein the said Robert King and the said William King, his son, do now
dwell
98 and have in their possession or occupation, together with a little garden to
the
99 same belonging. And also another little garden now newly paied abutting
to
100 the great barn to the said capital messuage or tenement belonging now
101 in the tenure or occupation of the said George Shawe. And also the before
ex=
102 cepted new stable and the piece of the orchard also before in this my last
103 will and testament by me also excepted and reserved withall and singular
their
104 appurtenances, commodities and profits, to have and to hold all and
singular the

105 said premises, withall and singular their appurtenances, commodities and
profits,
106 to him, the said George Pococke, his heirs and assigns, for ever, likewise
107 immediately after the death or marriage of the said Joane, now my wife.
And
108 further, my will, mind and intent is that the said George Pococke, my son,
his
109 heirs and assigns and every of them, and all such as shall be his or their
farmer
110 or farmers to the said premises, shall have free liberty, entry, ingress, egress
111 and regress in at the great gate of the close to the said capital messuage or
112 tenement belonging, to go and to come with horses, carriages or other
necessary
113 things whatsoever to the said new stable, orchard and garden aforesaid.
114 And also further to have free liberty for him or them that shall so occupy
that
115 part of the said messuage or tenement wherein the said Robert and William
116 King do now inhabit or dwell, to come and go to the draw well to the said
capital

page 4:

117 messuage or tenement belonging to fetch, have, draw, take and carry away

118 from the same meet and sufficient water for their needful and necessary
expenses
119 at all times meet and convenient for ever. And my further will and mind is
that if
120 the said Henry Pococke, my son, shall be driven to make sale of any of the
woods that
121 are growing in or upon any part of the lands before by me given to the said
Joane,
122 now my wife, for the payment of my legacies aforesaid, it shall and may be
123 lawful to him, the said Henry, my son, the said woods and underwoods, to
fell,
124 cut, have, take and carry away to help to pay the same withall, without any
125 restraint against, saying or denial of the said Joane, now my wife, or any
other
126 farmer or occupier of the said lands or tenements. Provided always and
127 my whole and full mind and intent is that, if the said Henry Pococke, my
said
128 son, his heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, or some of them, shall
not
129 well and truly, according to the tenor, meaning of this my last will and
testament
130 content, satisfy and pay the legacies above in this my last will and
testament

131 by me given and bequeathed to my other children and the which are
appointed by
132 me to be paid to them or any of them, it shall and may be lawful to them
and
133 every of them that are not satisfied and paid, into all and every the premises
134 that are before given and bequeathed to the said Henry, my son, to enter
and
135 th'issues and profits thereof growing and coming amongst them equally to
136 divide and shift until they, and every of them, of their and every of their
said
137 several legacies be fully satisfied and paid. In witness whereof to this my
pre=
138 sent last will and testament, I have put my hand and seal in the presence
of
139 William Olyver, Robert Robinson and me, George Shawe, the writer hereof.
Richard Brooker and **Hugh Haite**. the mark of the said William Pococke.

1 In the name of god Amen. The twelfth day of
2 April in the eleventh year of the reign of our sovereign Lord James,
3 by the grace of God king of England, France and Ireland, defender of the
faith,
4 etc. and of Scotland the five and fortieth. I, George Pococke of Sevenoaks in
5 the county of Kent, **gentleman**, being weak in body but of good and perfect
6 remembrance, thanks be given to Almighty god, do make and ordain this
7 last will and testament in manner and form following: **First**: I bequeath my
8 soul unto Almighty god, my creator, trusting most assuredly to be saved
9 only by the merits, death and passion of Jesus Christ who, of his infinite
10 mercy, without all¹⁹⁶ desert of mine, hath redeemed from the curse of law
and
11 made me an heir of everlasting salvation. And I will my body to be buried
in that
12 church of Sevenoaks aforesaid in decent manner as best metes a Christian.
13 **Item**: I give to the poor people of the parish of Sevenoaks aforesaid

196 definitely "all" at least in the probate copy; "any" would make more sense

14 twenty shillings in money to be distributed amongst them on the day of my
burial
15 at the discretion of my executrix hereafter named. All the residue of my
goods and
16 chattels, as well real as personal, my debts and legacies being first paid
and my
17 funeral expenses performed, I give and bequeath unto **Micall, my
wellbeloved wife,**
18 whom I make sole executrix of this my last will and testament. In
consideration

page 2:

19 whereof I do require and charge her faithfully to pay and discharge all my
debts
20 and legacies within as short and convenient time as she can possibly. This
is
21 the last will and testament of me, the said George Pococke, made the day
and year
22 above said as touching the disposition of all my lands, tenements and
hereditaments
23 whatsoever and wheresoever. **First:** I give and devise unto the said Micall,
my wife, all

24 that message or tenement commonly called **Brookes Tenement** wherein I
now
25 dwell in Sevenoaks aforesaid withall the edifices, barns, buildings,
sowehouse, yards,
26 backsides, garden, orchards and hemploft thereunto adjoining and
belonging, to have
27 and to hold the said message or tenement called Brookes barns, buildings
and
28 premises aforesaid with th'appurtenances unto the said Micoll, my wife,
and her
29 assigns for, by and during her natural life. And after the decease of the said
Micoll,
30 my wife, I give and devise the said message or tenement called Brookes
and
31 premise aforesaid with th'appurtenances unto **Margery Pococke, my eldest**
32 **daughter**, to have and to hold unto her, the said Margery Pococke, her heirs
33 and assigns for ever. **Item:** I give and devise all the residue of the lands,
tenements,
34 hop gardens and hereditaments belonging unto the said message or
tenement
35 called Brookes and which were sometimes the lands and tenements of
Reginald

36 **Pococke and George Brooke**, or of one of them, lying and being in
Sevenoaks
37 aforesaid, to have and to hold unto Margery Pococke and to her heirs
38 and assigns for ever. **Item:** I give and devise unto the said Margery
Pococke,
39 and to her heirs and assigns for ever, all that Inn, messuage or tenement
common=
40 ly called the **Pied Bull** wherein **Elizabeth Petley, widow**¹⁹⁷, now dwelleth,
41 withall the barns, stables, edifices, yards, gardens and ground thereunto
42 belonging with th'appurtenances, situated, lying and being in Sevenoaks
43 aforesaid. **Item:** I give and devise unto the said Micoll, my wife, all that Inn,
44 messuage or tenement commonly called **The Crown** withall the barns,
stables,
45 edifices, buildings, closes, yards, gardens, lands, meadows, pastures,
woods,
46 underwoods and hereditaments whatsoever thereunto adjoining, belonging
47 or in any wise appertaining, containing in the whole, by estimation,
nineteen acres,
48 more or less, together situated, lying and being in Sevenoaks aforesaid. To
have

¹⁹⁷ the will of Elizabeth Petley, widow and innholder, written in October 1617 has survived

49 and to hold the said Inn messuage or tenement called the Crown and
premises
50 aforesaid with th'appurtenances unto the said Micoll, my wife, and her
assigns
51 for and during her natural life without impeachment of any manner of
waste in
52 the said woods only. And after the decease of the said Micoll, my wife, I
give and
53 devise the said Inn, messuage or tenement called the Crown and premises
54 aforesaid with th'appurtenances unto **my three daughters, Micholl Pococke,**
55 **Deborah Pococke and Marie Pococke**, to have and to hold to them, the said
Micoll
56 Pococke, Debora Pococke and Marie Pococke, their heirs and assigns for
ever.
57 **Item:** I give and devise unto the said Debora and to her heirs and assigns
58 forever, all that messuage or tenement wherein **John Rumney** now
dwelleth, situated
59 and being in the **Town of Sevenoaks** aforesaid. **Item:** I give and devise unto
that
60 said Mary Pococke all that messuage or tenement with the hemploft and
ground
61 thereunto adjoining used, belonging or in any wise appertaining, situated,
lying

62 and being near unto the said dwelling house of me, the said George
Pococke, in
63 Sevenoaks aforesaid and late in the tenure or occupation of **William Walter**
or of
64 his assigns, to have and to hold unto the said Mary Pococke, her heirs and
65 assigns for ever. And I do hereby revoke and annul all other wills and
testaments
66 whatsoever by me heretofore made, published and declared. In witness
whereof
67 I, the said George Pococke, have to this my last will and testament set my
68 hand and seal the day and year above written. The mark of George
Pococke.
69 Sealed, subscribed, declared and published as my last will and testament in
the presence
70 of those whose names are hereunder written. **John Spratt¹⁹⁸, Richard**
Bebith¹⁹⁹ The mark
71 of **Michael Boortman**

198 vicar of Sevenoaks and probably the writer of the will

199 possibly Richard Besbeech who could have been the Richard who wrote his will in 1633 (s105)

Ao dm 1619

1 In the name of god Amen. The first day of April in the
2 year of the reign of our sovereign Lord James by the grace of God king of
England,
3 Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc., that is to say, of
England, France
4 and Ireland the seventeenth and of Scotland the 42nd. I, John Pococke,
th'elder of Sevenoaks
5 in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being at the time of the making hereof in
perfect re=
6 membrance and in reasonable health of body, thanks be to God, do ordain
and make this
7 my present testament and last will in manner and form following: **First:** I
commend my soul
8 into the hands of almighty god. And my body to the earth until the
resurrection
9 of the just and perfect men in Christ, my only saviour and redeemer with
whom I hope to live
10 eternally. **Item:** I bequeath to the poor of the parish of **Wadhurst** in the
county

11 of **Sussex** twenty shillings of lawful money of England and also to the poor
of
12 the parish of Sevenoaks aforesaid forty shillings of like lawful money. And
to
13 the poor of the parish of **Rotherfield** only in the said county of Sussex, forty
14 shillings yearly for and during the space of four years next after my decease,
15 and no longer, to be distributed by my executor hereafter named, at his
discretion
16 where most need is of relief. **Item:** I bequeath to **Elizabeth Pococke, one of**
the
17 **daughters of my brother, William Pococke, deceased,** five pounds of like
lawful money
18 and to **Thomas Pococke, son of my cousin William Pococke** of Sevenoaks
Weald, forty
19 shillings of like lawful money. And to
20 **Samuel Walter, my godson,** ten shillings of like lawful money. And to the
six
21 children of **my cousin, John Lutten of Rotherfield** aforesaid, ten shillings a
piece

page 2:

22 of like lawful money. And to **my goddaughters, Susan Croncke and**
23 **Elizabeth Morley**, ten groats
24 a year of like lawful money²⁰⁰. All which aforesaid legacies unlimited I
ordain to be paid by
25 my executor hereafter named within one year next after my decease. **Item:**
I bequeath to **Alice**
26 **Brattell, my sister, the now wife of Richard Wood** and to **Alice, her daughter,**
forty
27 shillings a piece of like lawful money. And to **Richard Brattell, Daniell**
Brattell
28 and **John Brattell**, three of my said brother John Brattell, his sons. And to
Margery
29 **Brattell and Ann Brattell, his daughters**, twenty shillings a piece to be paid
to every
30 of them within two years next after my decease. And if any of the said sons
or daughters
31 of the said John Brattell happen to decease before their said legacies
aforesaid shall be
due and payable, that then his, her or their legacy aforesaid so deceased to
remain and

200 forty pence a year (3s 4d), throughout their life?

32 to be paid to the survivor or survivors of them then living as before limited
unto them.

33 **Item:** I do bequeath to **my brother Thomas Pococke** forty shillings of like
lawful

34 money to be paid him within one year next after my decease and I do
hereby release

35 and acquit unto him all such debts and demands any way to me due from
him to me unto

36 this present. **Item:** I do bequeath to **my sister Joan Latter, now wife of**
Edmond Latter,

37 **th'elder,** forty shillings of like lawful money to be paid unto her within one
year

38 next after my decease and to Edmond Latter, aforesaid, I do acquit all debts
and demands

39 to me by him owing unto this present. **Item:** I do bequeath to **Dorothy**
Latter, one of the

40 daughters of the said Edmond and Joane, forty shillings of like lawful
money. And to **Edmond Latter,**

41 **the younger,** and **Richard Latter, the younger,** two of the sons of the said
Edmond Latter

42 and Joane, forty shillings a piece of like lawful money to be paid to them
within three

43 years next after my decease. And if it happen any of the sons or daughters
of the
44 said Edmond Latter, th'elder, to decease before his, her or their portions
shall be due by
45 virtue of this my will, that then his and their portions so deceased shall be
equally
46 divided and paid to the survivor or survivors of them then living as before
limited
47 to be paid. **Item:** I bequeath to **Margery, now wife of Thomas Burgess of**
Rotherfield
48 **in Sussex, and to Micholl and Deborah Pococke, daughters of my brother**
George
49 **Pococke, deceased,** twenty shillings a piece. And to **Mary Pococke, another**
daughter of the said George, forty shillings of like lawful money to be paid
to them within two
50 years next after my decease and if any of the said daughters of the said
George happen
51 to die before her portion shalbe due, that then her portion so deceased shall
be paid unto
52 the survivor or survivors of them living as before limited to be paid. **Item:** I
bequeath to **Rachel,**
53 **the wife of Nicholas Copping,** six shillings and eight pence of like lawful
money to be

54 paid within half a year next after my decease. **Item:** I bequeath to **Dorothy**
and **Elizabeth**
55 **Pococke**, daughters of my cousin **John Pococke**, forty shillings a piece and
to **Mary**,
56 **mother of his daughters and my goddaughter**, five pounds of like lawful
money to be
57 paid at their several ages of eighteen years. **Item:** I bequeath to **Samuel**
Madder,
58 **my godson**, six shillings and eight pence and to **William King**, th'elder, and
to **his three**
59 **children**, six shillings and eight pence a piece. And to **Anne Wallington**, **my**
60 **sister**, forty shillings and to **Nicholas Wallington** twenty shillings of like
law=
61 ful money of England. And to **John Master**, **my godson**, six shillings and
eight pence. And
62 to **Edmond Latter** and **Alice**, his sister, children of my cousin **Edmond**
Latter, the younger,
63 six shillings and eight pence a piece. And to **Mary Pococke**, daughter of
Thomas
64 **Pococke**, six shillings and eight pence. And to **Elizabeth Pococke**, daughter
of my cousin
65 **William Pococke**, six shillings and eight pence of like lawful money of
England. And

66 to **William Wallington, my cousin**, a joined bed or livery bed and a great
plank table
67 and trestles standing in the house wherein the said William now dwelleth.
All which
68 aforesaid legacies I do ordain to be faithfully and truly paid by John
Pococke,
69 my cousin, of Sevenoaks aforesaid, yeoman, whom I ordain and make my
sole executor
70 of this my testament and last will. This is the last will of me, John Pococke,
th'elder,

page 3:

71 of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, yeoman, made and declared the first
day of April in the
72 year of our Lord god one thousand, six hundred and nineteen concerning
the disposition of all my land
73 and tenements within the realm of England. **First** whereas my personal
and real estate of goods and
74 chattels are insufficient (for my executor, John Pococke, mentioned in my
last testament) to
75 discharge my debts, legacies, probate of my testament and of this my will
and several expenses about me the

76 said John, therefore I do will and give unto him, the said John Pococke, my
cousin and my executor
77 aforesaid, all that my mansion called or known by the name of **Bletchingly**
withall the house,
78 edifices, barns, gardens, orchards, lands, meadows, pastures, feedings,
woods and all other hereditaments
79 and appurtenances thereunto belonging, situated and being in Rotherfield
in the county of Sussex,
80 for and during the natural life of him, the said John Pococke, my executor,
without impeachment of
81 waste and, after the decease of him, the said John, then I will and give the
said mansion and premises unto
82 **John Pococke** (the son and heir of the said John Pococke, my executor,
aforesaid) and to his heirs
83 for ever. **Item:** I will and give to **William Pococke, son of my cousin William**
Pococke, late of Tonbridge in
84 the county of Kent, deceased, all those my two parcels of land commonly
called **Kettles** lying in
85 Sevenoaks aforesaid to him, the said William, and his heirs forever. In
witness whereof I, the said John Pococke, th'elder,
86 to this my last will have set to my hand and seal and hereby revoke all
former wills, the day and year

87 aforesaid. Signed John Pococke, sen. Published and declared in the
presence of us **Robert Symons, Thomas**
88 **Smith, Thomas Ashdowne, Thomas Pococke**²⁰¹.

Will of Thomas Pococke, of Sevenoaks Weald, 1624

written 12th September 1624

transcript from original

1 In²⁰² the name of god Amen. The twelfth day of September in the
2 year of our Lord God One thousand Six hundred twenty and four. And
3 in the two and twentieth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord James, by
4 the grace of God, king of England, France and Ireland, defender of the
5 faith, etc. And of Scotland the eight and fiftieth year. I, Thomas
6 Pococke of Sevenoaks Weald in the parish of Sevenoaks in the county of
Kent,
7 **yeoman**, do ordain and make this my testament and last will in manner and
8 form following: **First** and principally, yielding to Almighty God, my maker,

201 could have been John's brother

202 decorated "I"

9 my soul with an assured hope of salvation through his mercy in the merit
10 and mediation of his dear son Jesus Christ, my saviour. And my body to the
11 earth in decent manner to be buried. **Item:** I will to the poor
12 people resorting to my burial forty shillings to be distributed at the
13 discretion of my executors and overseers or any of them hereafter named.
14 **Item:** I will and give to **William, my son**, whom I have already preferred,
15 forty shillings of lawful english money to be paid him by my executors
16 within one year next after my decease. **Item:** I will and give to **my three**
17 **daughters, viz. Frankwell²⁰³, Elizabeth and Marie**, whom I have already also
18 preferred, the sum of five shillings a piece.
19 The residue and all other my moveable goods, I wholly give and bequeath
20 unto **Dorothy, my loving wife**, and **John Pococke, mine eldest son**, whom
21 I make executors of this my testament and last will. And I desire,

page 2

22 and appoint **John Walter and William Frankwell** of Sevenoaks
23 aforesaid, yeomen, to be overseers of this my testament and last will that
24 the same may take effect according to my mind and meaning, desiring
them to
25 be assisting to my said executors in the equal dividing of any said moveable

203 Thomas's eldest daughter Francis married William Frankwell on 5th February 1616

26 goods and chattels between them which I will equally to be divided. And I
give
27 to my said overseers five shillings a piece over and above
28 their charges any way to be expended about this my will.
29 This is also the last will of me the said Thomas Pococke made and
30 declared the day and year first above written touching the
31 ordering and disposing of all my lands and tenements. **Item:** I will
32 give and devise to John Pococke, mine eldest son, and to his heirs, all
33 my lands, tenements and hereditaments with their appurtenances, after
34 the death of Dorothy, my wife. And also all my rendcon and rendcons
35 of all lands and tenements. And all my right of entry and recultrie
36 of, in and to all such lands and tenements as I have heretofore
37 mortgages, either by my self or with the said John and my said wife,
38 to have and to hold all the said lands and tenements, hereditaments
39 (rendcon, rendcons and all other the premises and all my remainder,
40 right and denture of, in and to all and any the same) unto the said John,
41 my son, his heirs and assigns, to the only use and behoof of the said
42 John, my son, his heirs and assigns for ever. And I do hereby

page 3:

43 assign and appoint the said John, my son, and his heirs to redeem all the
44 lands and tenements, mortgaged as aforesaid, with the moneys that shall
45 arise and be made of the lands hereafter mentioned. And therefore,

having a great desire that all my debts as well those which I owe by bonds as those which I owe upon mortgages or otherwise (in consideration of my gift and devise aforesaid to my son John) should be by him and his executors and assigns faithfully and truly paid and discharged, I will, ordain and appoint that my said son John and the said Dorothy, my wife, do and shall so soon as they can or may conveniently after my decease, by deed with livery and seizence²⁰⁴, indenture with seizence or enrolment or any other lawful devise and conveyances in the law, bargain, sell, grant, enfeof and confirm to any person or persons and their heirs (who shall buy the lands hereafter mentioned) all those my lands with the profits and appurtenances thereto belonging commonly called **Lenet lands** lying and being in Sevenoaks aforesaid (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. And with the moneys for which the said lands shall be sold, shall pay and discharge all my debts by me owing as aforesaid. And if the said moneys shall not extend to the payment thereof, I will that my executors shall, at their equal charges pay the rest and residue of my said debts which the said moneys

66 shall not extend unto. In witness whereof, I, the said Thomas

page 4:

67 Pococke have to this my testament and last will set my hand

68 and seal yeven the day and year first above written.

Read, sealed, published

Thomas his

and declared in the presence of

Pococke mark

Richard Fletcher

William Wall

Humphrey Marshall

William Frankwell and

John Hooper

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 I, Elizabeth Pococke of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, **maiden**, being
3 sick and weak in body but of good and perfect remembrance, thanks be
given to
4 Almighty God, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form
5 following: And **first** and above all I commend my soul into the hands of my
lord
6 and only saviour and my body to be decently buried at the discretion of my
??
7 **loving brother John Pococke** in the parish church of Sevenoaks or as he
8 shall see fitting. And for that my estate which all is my kinsman John
Pococke's
9 hands which is in money to the sum of forty pounds which said sum my will
10 and bequest is as followeth: **Item:** I do will and give unto my brother
11 **Thomas Pococke**, if he be alive and shall survive to come home out of
Ireland,
12 five pounds. And unto **my kinswoman Rachel Day, widow**, five pounds
more. And
13 unto **my kinswoman Anne Clarke**, the wife of John Clarke, five pounds more.

14 And I give unto **Elizabeth, the wife of John Ward, my kinswoman**, the sum of
15 twenty shillings. And unto **Mary, the wife of Thomas Longley**, the sum of
16 twenty shillings. And unto the two children of **Edmond Besbeeche, John and**
17 **Mary**, ten shillings to them. And unto **Edward, the son of John Pococke**, if
he
18 be living, ten shillings. And unto **Stephen, the son of my brother John**
19 **Pococke**, the sum of eight pounds. And unto **Jane, the daughter of my said**
20 **brother John**, the sum of eight pounds. And further I do will that if my
21 said brother Thomas who is now in Ireland be dead or do not arrive in
Sevenoaks
22 to make challenge of this said five pounds, that then this said five pounds
23 shall be equally divided between Stephen Pococke and Jane, the son and
24 daughter of my said brother John Pococke. The residue of the said sum of
25 forty pounds, I desire that my said brother John Pococke shall dispose of it
26 about my funeral expenses and to pay and discharge any debts as I do owe.
27 Thus commending my soul unto my god, I end this my last will and
testament
28 and do confirm the same with mine own hand this ninth day of May 1644.
29 The mark of Elizabeth Pococke. Witness hereunto **Griffin Holdenson, John**
30 **Wood**²⁰⁵, parish clerk.

205 John Wood, parish clerk, wrote a number of Sevenoaks wills between 1629 and 1636 and could have written this one

Thomas Poore, Yeoman of the Wardrobe

Thomas Poore, who was Yeoman of the Wardrobe at Knole about 1620²⁰⁶, sat at the Long Table in the Hall there; he wrote his will (**PCC: Fairfax 106**) himself (see lines 52 and 35) and this may account for some of the strange wording particularly in the last part when he was disposing of his land. He had no wife or children but he did have a large number of cousins to whom he left over £250 pounds in legacies, mainly to his various cousins - see the table below.

In addition he left small sums of money and pieces of gold to a number of people to buy pairs of gloves. He had three pieces of land, one in Sevenoaks Town which he left to his cousin Thomas Poore who was his executor and two in Surrey which were left to his cousins Anthony and George Poore.

The William Blome who was an overseer of Thomas's will was probably the son of John Blome who wrote his will in 1624.

Table P.4 - Thomas Poore's Monetary Bequests

To:	Amount	paid within:
Sir John Sackville	£3	3 months
cousin Mathew Farley the elder	£5	6 months
Mathew Farley's son, Mathew	£5	1 year
cousins: Richard Snelling	£5	9 months
Robert Snelling	£5	
cousin Mary Fuisse	£50	2 years
cousins: Ann Poore	£26 13s 4d ²⁰⁷	3 years
Elizabeth Poore	£20	4 years
Joane Poore	£26 13s 4d	4 years
Anthony Poore	£50	4 years
George Poore	£50	4 years
servants: Mary Anderson	20s	
Richard ?ovis	20s	

Edmond Lunner's wife	5s	
cousin Charles Barnes	5s	
Total	£258.84	

Will of Thomas Poore

written 24th May 1649; proved 3rd July 1649
transcript from probate copy

- 1 In the name of god the father, God
- 2 the son and God the holy ghost, three persons and one eternal God to
whom be
- 3 ascribed all honour and glory forever, I, Thomas Poore of the parish of
Sevenoaks²⁰⁸ in the
- 4 county of Kent, make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner
and form
- 5 as followeth: **First** and before all things I commend my soul unto God, my
glorious creator

208 "Seavenocke" throughout

6 who gave it me and my blessed saviour which shed his blood for my
redemption and my
7 body to be buried in the churchyard of Sevenoaks in hope of a joyful
resurrection, the charge
8 shall be at my burial and other charges defrayed by **my cousin Thomas
Poore** whom I make
9 my executor and enjoin him hereby to pay and discharge all such legacies
as are here recited.
10 **Item:** I give²⁰⁹ to the poor people of Sevenoaks twenty shillings. **Item:** I give
to the poor people
11 of the parish of **West Horsley**²¹⁰ in the county of **Surrey** twenty shillings.
Item: I give and
12 bequeath unto **my cousin Mary, now wife of John Fusse**, fifty pounds to be
paid her within

209 "and bequeath" inserted here

210 this is difficult to read but is ??rsley or ??rstey and there is a West Horsley in Surrey about four miles east of
Guildford

13 two years after my decease.²¹¹ **Item:** I give to **my cousin Ann Poore** forty
marks²¹² to be paid her in
14 three years after my decease. **Item:** I give unto **my cousin Joane Poore** forty
marks to be paid
15 her, being their youngest sister²¹³, within four years after my decease.
Provided that, if they be
16 capable of using or disposing thereof, I mean the three daughters last
named, but if it shall
17 please god to take me away before they shall be able to employ their
legacies, then my will is it
18 shall rest in my executor's hands till they attain to the age of twenty years a
piece, then shall
19 they require it. **Item:** I give unto **my cousin Anthony Poore, their brother,**
fifty pounds and
20 **my cousin George Poore,** I give him also fifty pounds to be paid them in four
years after my

211 inserted here: **Item:** I give to **my cousin Elizabeth Poore** twenty pounds to be paid to her within four years after my decease.

212 $40 \times £2/3 = £26.67$; why should some legacies be in pounds and another in marks?

213 indicating that Mary, Elizabeth, Ann and Joan were all sisters; if they were first cousins they were the daughters of the testator's paternal uncles.

21 decease if they have attained to the age of one and twenty years, my will is
22 that they have it not
23 till they come to be one and twenty years a piece for then they will be able
24 to give a discharge
25 and make use of their money. **Item:** I give unto **my cousin Mathew Farley,**
26 **th'elder** five pounds
27 to be paid him within half a year after my decease. **Item:** I give unto his
28 son, **my cousin, Mathew**
29 five pounds to be paid him within one year after my decease. **Item:** I give
30 unto **my cousins Richard**
31 and **Robert Snelling?** five pounds a piece to be paid them within nine
32 months after my decease.
33 **Item:** I give unto **my noble friend Sir John Sackville** three pounds to buy one
34 brewing of malt to be
35 paid within three months after my decease. **Item:** I give unto **my friend Mr.**
36 **William Blome** five
37 pounds to be paid him within one year after my decease. **Item:** I give unto
38 **my fellow Richard**
39 **Rundell** five pounds to be paid him also within one year after my decease.
40 And I desire Mr. Blome
41 and my fellow Richard Rundell will be overseers of this my will. **Item:** I give
42 unto **Mary**

32 **Anderson** now servant to the **Lady Sackville** twenty shillings. **Item:** I give
unto **Richard ?ovis**, sometime
33 servant at **Knole**, twenty shillings. **Item:** I give unto **Edmond Lunner's wife**
five shillings. **Item:** I give
34 unto my cousin **Charles Barnes** forty shillings. **Item:** I give unto my Lady
Sackvill, now wife to Sir
35 John Sackville, five shillings for a pair of gloves. **Item:** I give to **Mris**²¹⁴
Dorothy Sackville and her
36 sister **Mrs Elizabeth Catherine** ?? ??²¹⁵ a piece to buy either²¹⁶ of them a
pair of gloves. **Item:**
37 I give **Mr. William Sackville and his brother Edward** ?? a crown a piece to
buy either of them
38 a pair of gloves. **Item:** I give also to **Sir John's men and maids** two shillings
a piece to buy them
39 gloves. **Item:** I give unto **Pendente Rundell** one piece of gold²¹⁷ of fifteen or
sixteen shillings value

214 abbreviation for Mistress?

215 --rin groard

216 either was used where current usage would be "each"

217 "gould"

40 to buy her a pair of gloves. **Item:** I give unto **Mary Peifer now wife of**
41 **Richard Peifer**, one piece of
42 ?? gold to buy her a pair of gloves of the value of seven shillings. **Item:** I
43 give unto my cousin
44 Anthony Poore, my house, barn, backside and ground thereto belonging in
45 the parish of West
46 **Horsley** because of the convenience of it to his land. I mean it him forever if
47 he have lawful
48 heirs of his body but, if he fail of such heirs, then I mean it ?? brother
49 George and to the heirs
50 of his body. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto my cousin George Poore my
house, barn, backside and
ground thereto belonging in **West Croydon** to him and the heirs of his body
lawfully begotten but if
he fail thereof, and his brother has heirs, I mean it him. But if it shall
happen so that neither
he nor his brother have heirs of their body, then my meaning is that both
my tenements fall to their
?? brother, my cousin, Thomas Poore whom I have made my executor. To
whom I give my
house in **Sevenoaks Town**, my lease and whatsoever is mine and
undisposed of to th'end he should

51 careful, diligent and trusty to see this my will performed and satisfied of
which I require him not
52 fail as he expecteth blessing with that which I leave him. I have written
this my will with mine own
53 hand according to my weak creativity and for the confirmation hereof I put
my hand and seal
54 on the said four and twentieth of May, one thousand six hundred and forty
nine. Thomas Poore
55 This is the last will and testament of Thomas Poore ?? acknowledged in
the presence of is
56 **William Blome Richard Rundell**

The Porters of Sevenoaks

The Porters were one of a number of large Seal families for which records go back to the fifteenth century. There were also Porters in Sevenoaks. Although no wills have survived from here, some details of the Sevenoaks family, taken from the parish records, are given below. See the [Transcripts and Families Section](#) for details of the Seal clan.

Both Edmond and Edward Porter were having children in Sevenoaks in the 1570s and 1580s. Both seemed to have been very unfortunate: at least five of Edmond's eight children died young, four of them under two and Elizabeth, the eldest daughter aged 6½. Edward and his wife Alice had eleven children including a set of twins. The twins died at 9 months and 13 months, two of the others very young and Edward, the second son, aged 7.

Tree P.2: The Family of Edmond Porter of Sevenoaks

s268 Edmond - wife			
bur: 5 Mar 1626 18 Apr 1623			
s271	s273	s275	s277
Elizabeth	Katherine	Joan	George
bap: 19 Feb 1577	21 Dec 1579	16 Jun 1583	6 Aug 1587
bur: 19 Oct 1583		20 Nov 1584	
aged 6½ yrs		aged 17 months	
s272	s274	s276	s278
Alice	Edmund	William	Robert
bap: 26 Oct 1578	20 Nov 1580	17 Jan 1586	23 Nov 1589
bur: 15 Mar 1579	30 Sep 1582		24 Nov 1589
aged 5 months	aged 22 months		a few days old

In 1615, there was an Edmond Porter living in a house in the Town of Sevenoaks owned by **Richard Vane**. In 1624, **John Blome**, the rich mercer, left to his son George "the messuage or tenement which he now inhabiteth with the warehouses and other edifices, gardens, orchards and backsides and appurtenances to the same messuage belonging . . which I purchased of Edmund Porter". This could have been s268 who died in 1626. His wife had died in April 1623 when Edmond would have been about seventy. Perhaps shortly after being widowed he sold his house to John Blome.

He could also have been the Edmond Porter who is known to have witnessed three wills:

- **Richard Carter** of Seal (#19) on 15th May 1616 which he could have written.
- **John Knight of Cowden** on 24th April 1618 which was written by **Robert Hedley** who had written the will of John Knight's father in 1609.
- **Thomas Burgis** of Sevenoaks on 16th April 1620 which he could have written.

The will of **Anthony Barton of Great/East Peckham** was written, on 4th August 1624, by Edmund Porter. In 1623, when John Porter of Seal wrote his wife, John's daughter Margaret was married to Anthony Barton and this could account for Anthony's leaving £1 to the poor of Seal. This connection also makes it possible that the writer of his will was Edmund Porter of Sevenoaks. See **Barton in Familie and Extra Transcripts** for more details.

Tree P.3: The Family of Edward Porter of Sevenoaks

		s269 Edward - Alice Thaxbie s270			
mar:		23 Sep 1576			
bur:		26 Oct 1601			
s280		s282		s285	
William		Edward		Elizabeth	
bap: 25 Jul 1577		23 Apr 1580		29 Aug 1584	
bur:		15 Aug 1587		23 Sep 1587	
		aged 7 years			
s281		s283	twins	s284	
Elizabeth		James		Thomas	
bap:	5 Apr 1579	24 Aug 1582	24 Aug 1582		26 Oct 1589
bur:	15 Jul 1579	5 Oct 1583	15 May 1583	24 Jul 1588	Mar 1592
aged:	3 months	13 months	9 months		a few days

The five children for whom burials were not recorded were all alive in 1607 when John Porter, originally from Seal but by then a citizen and fishmonger of London, left will £60, Edward £40 and the three girls £20 each.

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George could have been an infant who died at birth but his burial was only 10 months after Mary was baptised; but he could have been born prematurely. If he were a child older than this whose baptism was not recorded in Sevenoaks, he must have been born between Elizabeth and Mary (unless he was older than William)

The Potkyns and Sevenoaks School

The will of John Potkyn who asked to be buried in Sevenoaks church was written on 8th April 1543 with a codicil "[written with mine hand as parcel and part](#)" of the earlier will added on 29th August 1545; it was proved in January 1545/6. (**PCC: Alen 2; Prob 11/31**). This will has been transcribed in full. The wills of John's uncle Peter and father William have also survived:

	written	proved	
Peter Potkyn, clerk	25 May 1520		PCC: Maynwaring 2
William Potkyn, gent.	10 Jan 1537/8	30 Apr 1538	PCC: Dyngeley 15 P. 126

Both were to be buried in London although William mentioned Sevenoaks in his will; neither has been investigated in detail but there are abstracts of both (and also the will of John Potkyn) in the Hugh Miller MSS, Vol.2, pp.189-198 (Centre for Kentish Studies). The extracts from William Potkyn's will given in this document are taken from this abstract but with the spelling modernised.

Peter was parson of St. Leonard in East Cheap which is where he asked to be buried; he left money and other gifts to the children of his two brothers, William

and John. In addition to leaving both his servants forty shillings (a year's wages), he gave them 12d a week "for their board for half a year if they have no masters".

William ordained that all his goods should be valued and the money there from, together with that that came from the sale of his "capital messuage called the *Starre*" and most of his other lands, etc. in London, was to be "indifferently divided into three equal parts", one part for his wife, one to his son John and the third he reserved to himself for use for a number of charitable causes. Among his bequests to the poor, William left 12d to each of the sixteen people in the almshouses of Sevenoaks.

William was to be buried in the parish church of St. John Zachary in London; his wife had been married previously since she had two sons: Edmond and Franunces Jenny. She and William had had two daughters and two sons and, from the bequests made by both William and his son John, they all formed a close family. William had a number of rings including:

- "my ring of gold with my best emerald"
- "my ring of gold with my best sapphire stone in it"
- "my ring with a head enamelled in the top"
- "my best ring of gold with three stones in it, a diamond, a ruby and an emerald"; this he gave to his son John who, in his will, left it to Sir John Baker.

John Potkyn was not married - or at least he mentions neither wife nor children in his will. He left his house in "Coventry" to his sister; unfortunately he does not give any county and the place name could as easily be interpreted "Canentry".

His "[capital house called the Stare in Bread Street, London](#)" together with all his rents and other housing in Bread Street, the parish of All Hallows or elsewhere in the City of London was bequeathed to the six men listed in Table P.4. Although the will says that all his estate in London was to go to them and their heirs for ever, each man was also given a special gift "[upon condition that he do give and distribute all this my foresaid lands and tenements in London accordingly as I have humbly desired him by writing](#)"; these gifts are also given in Table P.4. But, having made these bequests, John then left to Nicholas Payne his tenement in Bread Street; he also adds the short comment that all his land was in socage tenure. Nicholas Payne (his nephew), Edmond Jenney (his stepbrother) and Thomas Hyde were to be John's executors.

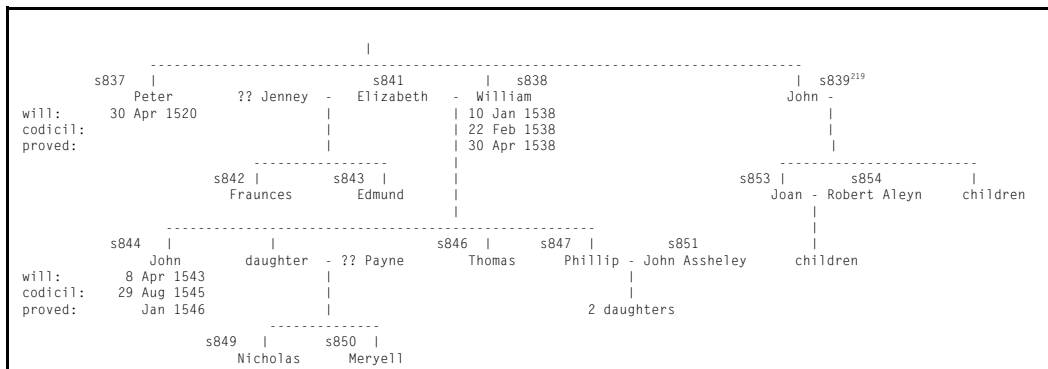
Table P.5: Men Charged with Distributing John Potkyn's London Properties

Sir John Baker, knight	"my best ring with three stones, viz. a diamond, an emerald and a ruby"
Thomas Smyth	"my diamond triangled in a ring of gold"
Richard Randall, gent., of the Inner Temple	"my fine coverlet with daycerne praised at £3 6s 8d"
Thomas Argall	"my ring of gold with a sapphire which my father gave me 17 years past when I ride to Coventry weighing 45s in gold or thereabout"
Edmond Jenney, gent.	"my lease of my gardens lying at Cripplegate in Redcross Street, London"
Thomas Hynde, haberdasher	"five pounds"

The first call on John's London estate was to be an annuity of £9 to be paid to Sevenoaks School - see below. After this had been organised and the various charges paid, the six men were to sell the rest and distribute the proceeds to

Nicholas Payne, Meriall Payne and to the children of his sister Asshley. Like his father, John wrote a codicil, this time two and a half years after the will itself was written. This seems to overwrite at least some of the arrangements specified in the original will. In the codicil there is no mention of the six administrators for the London estate but a number of annuities in addition to the £9 to Sevenoaks School were to be paid out of it. John's land in Kent was to go to Nicholas Payne, as previously, but with the remainder direct to Thomas Potkyn; perhaps Merriall Payne had died in the interim.

The Potkyn Family



Sevenoaks School

All three Potkyns were concerned for the welfare of Sevenoaks School. When William wrote his will he had already specified that certain lands and tenements in the city of London were to be purchased "for the augmentation of the stipend of the school master of Sevenoaks". In his will he gives details of Peter's interest in Sevenoaks School as well as bequests of his own. He starts with some background to the founding of the School:

"whereas one William Sevenoke, sometime alderman of London deceased" by his will, gave some lands and tenements in London to the parson, vicar and churchwardens of the parish of Sevenoaks on condition that paid for a school master and paid other yearly bequests to certain poor people of the town.

The money available was not, however sufficient to keep a school master and carry out the other bequests, and so Peter Potkyn, "moved with charity at the time of his decease, intending that a school master, being honest, discrete and well learned, should there be kept for evermore, to instruct, inform and teach poor scholars coming to the said school, after the form and rules of grammar taught in Paul's School founded by Master Doctor Collet, late dean of the cathedral church of St. Pauls of London and that the said school master there being should have a

sufficient and convenient stipend and salary so that he do teach and instruct the children of the said school, willed and declared" that the residue of his money should be used to purchase as much lands, etc. in the city of London as "should make up the yearly wage of the forsaid school master in Sevenoaks, teaching and instructing in form aforesaid . . . to the sum of £13 6s 8d with the wages that is and shall be paid of the last will of the said William Sevenoake".

William, since the decease of his brother Peter sixteen or more years ago, had been paying for the maintenance of the school master. Even so, he decided that his capital messuage called the Starre and all his tenements in London should be "sold to the most profit and of the money I will my executors shall purchase as much lands and tenements within the said city of London as shall extend to the yearly value of £9 10s, whereof I will that £9 yearly be paid to the school master of Sevenoaks . . . to augment his yearly stipend and towards the finding of an usher there and 10s yearly distributed amongst the poor scholars of the said school" provided that they sang anthems and masses and said prayers for "the souls aforesaid and all christian souls".

But six weeks later William had had second thoughts: instead of £9 10s being given yearly to the School indefinitely, it was to be paid only until £100 had been spent with £66 13s 4d from the sale going to his wife and £100 to his son John. Since, when John wrote his will his capital messuage was the Starre, it looks as if it was never sold - or at least that John bought it from his father's estate.

Five years later John willed an annuity to the School but he was not happy about how it was being run: "the inhabitants of the town . . . have let the lands of William Sevenoke and have taken bribes so that it will utterly decay except there be remedy found. Also upon the change of the school master, they cause the next school master to grant a pension of £3 6s 8d only as if it were chopping of a benefice. Whereas, except it be substantially looked to, it will utterly decay".

Another problem was that it did not have a ruling body. The six men John had appointed as administrators were therefore to try and set up some organisation for the administration of the School.

John also decreed that Sir John Baker's name be written in the book as a "benefactor"²¹⁹ for his pains to be prayed for with my father, my uncle Peter Potkyn and my name John Potkyn".

Whatever was arranged at John's instigation does not seem to have solved the problems since in 1571 Anthony Pope made a gift to the School into which he was more or less forced since he had obtained for himself a long lease on some of the School's London property which had been "outrageously undervalued"²²⁰. This took the form of an endowment of £7 or £8 a year to start when died.

²¹⁹ of Sevenoaks School presumably

²²⁰ Brian Scragg: Sevenoaks School, A History; Bath 1993, p.26

One of the earlier benefactors of the School was William Pett who, in 1510, made a gift of fifteen acres of land in Sevenoaks; see above for details of John Pett who was a Governor of the School from 1560. John Blome is another benefactor whose will has survived; in 1624 he left money towards some new building work but with the proviso that it should not be paid until six months after building started which was not until 1631 when the School was "so ruinated that of necessity the same must be pulled down". This work was supervised by Thomas Pett, an Assistant (Governor) from 1626 until 1667²²¹

Will of William Potkyn of London

written 10th January 1537/8; codicil 28th February 1537/8

William Potkyn of London, **gentleman**, . . .

to be buried in the high chancel of the parish church of St. John Zachary, London,
. . . all my goods shall be praised and the money therefrom . . . as all such moneys
as shall come of the sale of my capital messuage called **the Starre** in the parish of
Allhallows in Bread Street and of all my other messuages, lands, etc. . . in the said
parish, over and above the purchase of certain lands and tenements which I have

221 Scragg, pp. 26,44

willed to be purchased by my executors within the city of London for the augmentation of the . . stipend of the school master of **Sevenoaks, Kent**, shall be indifferently divided into three equal parts, one part I give to **Elizabeth, my wife**, one other part to **John Potkyn, my son**, and the other third I reserve to myself . . I bequeath thereof (bequests for masses, to the poor, to prisoners in London, to the poor in almshouses of Sevenoaks, to six lazar houses in London, to the marriages of ten poor maidens) . . to **John Assheley** a gown of black cloth and to **Philip, my daughter, his wife**, a gown and a kirtle of black cloth . . to the said Philip . . weekly, for 3 years after amy decease 12d²²² and to either of **their two daughters** £3 6s 8d when of age . . and to **my brother John Potkyn** 40s to every of his children by his last wife 20s . . to **Robert Aleyn, citizen and goldsmith and my cousin, Joan, his wife, my said brother's daughter** 40s . . to every of their children 3s 4d . . to **William Hollande of Sevenoaks** a coat cloth value 10s . . to either of my maid servants called **Ellen Abromeham** and **Johane Cogger** 20s . . to **James Hayle and to Anne, his wife**, 20s . . to **Richard Marche, my clerk**, £5 . . to **Edmund Jenny, my wife's son** a dozen silver spoons, to **Nicholas Payne, my daughter's son**, to bind him prentice £3 6s 8d, to **his sister Meryell** other £3 6s 8d . . to **Henry Husey, gentleman**, a ring of gold value 20s and I will that my said executors shall distribute . . by the advice of the executors of **Master John Rice, clerk**, late one of the ?? of the cathedral church of **Exeter**, among the poor scholars, students in the

222 surely not 12d

University of Oxenforth and born within the diocese of Exeter . . to pray for him . .
£13 6s 8d. . . .

I will that all such books as I have which later were **my brother Doctor Peter Potkyns**, late one of the advocates of the Court of Arches . . London, deceased, to whom I was executor, shall be distributed among the creditors to whom **my son Thomas** was indebted unto, within the town and university of Oxenforth and amongst the poor scholars of the same by the discretion of **Master Thomas Barret, Doctor of Law** . .

And whereas one **William Sevenoke**, sometime alderman of London deceased, whose soul Jesu pardon, in his good memory by his will, gave his lands and tenements in **Petty Wales of London** unto the parson, vicar and churchwardens of the parish of **Sevenoaks, Kent**, to hold for ever under condition that they . . of the profits . . should pay yearly to a school master perpetually to be had and founded in the said town of Sevenoaks . . 10 marks and other bequests . . to certain poor people of the said town of Sevenoaks.

And for as much as the said lands, etc. . being not sufficient to keep . . a school master and other his bequests, the foresaid Peter Potkyn, moved with charity at the time of his decease, intending that a school master, being honest, discrete and well learned, should there be kept for evermore, to instruct, inform and teach poor scholars coming to the said school, after the form and rules of grammar taught in

Paul's School founded by Master Doctor Collet, late dean of the cathedral church of St. Pauls of London and that the said school master there being should have a sufficient and convenient stipend and salary so that he do teach and instruct the children of the said school, willed and declared . . to the foresaid Richard March that his will was that he should show and declare to me, the said William Potkyn, that the residue of the money of the said Master Peter Potkyn which should come to my hands after fulfilling his will, should be employed in purchasing of as much lands and tenements . . within the city of London as should make up the yearly wage of the forsaid school master in Sevenoaks, teaching and instructing if form aforesaid . . to the sum of £13 6s 8d with the wages that is and shalbe paid of the last will of the said William Sevenoke if the residue of this money would thereunto extend. Or else as much land as the money would amount to, as in a schedule thereof made by Richard Marche whereof the tenor, word by word, hereafter doth follow . . . declared unto him the last day of April 1520.

. . .
of the which said residue I, the forsaid William Potkyn, since the decease of the said Master Peter Potkyn my brother, which is 16 years and more passed, have paid yearly for the maintaining of the school master. That notwithstanding, in accomplishing and fulfilling the contents of the said schedule and in performing of this will and to the extent that the scholars there shall pray for

I will . . . that my forsaid capital messuage called the Starre in the parish of All Hallows in Bread Street, London and all other my tenements in the same parish shalbe sold to the most profit and of the money I will my executors shall purchase as much lands and tenements within the said city of London as shall extend to the yearly value of £9 10s, whereof I will that £9 yearly be paid to the school master of Sevenoaks . . . to augment his yearly stipend and towards the finding of an usher there and 10s yearly distributed amongst the poor scholars of the said school to the extent that the said scholars shall every night that they have learning or they depart from school sing an anthem of our lady in the said school and also that certain of the same scholars, such as shalbe appointed by the same school master of the said school . . . yearly on the Fridays accustomed shall sing Jesus mass in the parish church of Sevenoaks as heretofore hath been accustomed and need to be done; and after every such anthem and mass so to be sung and done, the said scholars to say the psalm of De profundus for my soul, the soul of my said brother Peter Potkyn and other the souls aforesaid and all christian souls

and I will . . . that the forsaid lands and tenements which shall be so purchased by my executors shall be divided and given for the augmentation of the wages of the said school master and usher and for the anthem and mass to be had and done in form aforesaid as by the counsel learned of my said executors and overseers shalbe thought most sure to be devised, had and done according to the

law and as nigh as can be made to the tenor and effect of a note on paper ready made and drawn.

And to every of my servants being with me at my decease a black gown. **Item:** I give to **Sir Thomas Willoughby**, one of the justices of the King of his common pleas, for that he shalbe good to my wife and to my son and aiding the performance of this my will . . . my ring of gold with my best emerald . . . To **Master John Cocke, Doctor of Law**, for like extent, my ring of gold with my best sapphire stone in it . . . To **Master John Baker, Esq.** and attorney to our sovereign, my ring with a head enamelled in the top . . . To **Mary Willoughby, daughter of Sir Thomas Willoughby**, a ring of fine gold of the value of a Ryall²²³ to be made and enamelled with flowers. . . to **Elizabeth, my wife**, a cup with a cover of silver and gilt and also I will Elizabeth shall have the preferment of the term of my house I dwell in the parish of St. John Zachary . . . to **Fraunces Jenny, Esq., my wife's son** a ring . . . to John Potkyn, my son, my best ring of gold with three stones in it, a diamond, a ruby and an emerald, and further I will that if my said third part will extend to the payment of my foresaid bequests, then I give to my said son John Potkyn three of my best furred gowns and three of my best jackets, if not, to go to the performance of this my will. And also I give to **Richard Giffard, citizen and innholder of London** for his pains to be had £5.

223 an old English gold coin worth about ten shillings

The residue, if any, my executors shall distribute towards the exhibition of poor scholars of the university of Oxenforth, to poor maidens marriages and other works of pity and charity, provided always that my mind is that if my said portion will not extend to the full payment of my legacies, then I will that an indifferent defalcation be made . . part like except the rings bequeathed to Sir Thomas Willoughby, Doctor Cocke and Master Baker.

executors: Elizabeth, John Potkyn and Richard Giffard.

This **codicil** made by me, William Potkyn of London, gentleman, the 22 February 1537/8, 29 Henry VIII. **That whereas** I have willed . . that my capital messuage called the Starre . . be sold and of the monies thereof coming . . that my executors should purchase as much land, etc. in the city of London as should extend to the value of £9 10s whereof I willed that £9 yearly shalbe paid to the school master of Sevenoaks . . to make up and augment the yearly stipend of the same school master and towards the finding of the usher there. And 10s I willed yearly to be given among the poor scholars . . for certain intents expressed in my will and the residue to be divided in three equal parts and devised as in the same more at large doth appear.

Know ye, me, the said William Potkyn, for certain causes me moving, by this codicil, I do renounce and disannul . . as well the said purchase of the lands and tenements . . of the yearly value of £9 10s . . and the payment of £9 10s to the said school master and scholars of the said school of Sevenoaks as the distributing of the residue of the money coming from the sale and everything there shalbe void . . But then as now and now as then, I will and declare by this codicil that my will is that the money coming of the sale of the said messuage shall be given in form following: £100 to be paid to the sustenance and maintaining of the said school master and scholars, that is to wit, yearly £9 10s until the said £100 and every parcel thereof be contented, to the said school master and scholars, they doing, observing and fulfilling every ordinance and thing which I have willed in my said last will to be done and kept and £66 13s 4d coming of the said sale I give to Elizabeth, my wife, and £100 of the same sale I give to John Potkyn, my son.

1 This is the last will and testament of me, John Potkyn, **gentleman**, made the
2 8th day of April
3 in the 34th year of our sovereign lord king Henry the eighth in manner and
4 form following: **First**: I bequeath
5 my soul unto Almighty God, redeemer and maker of all the world. Also I
6 bequeath to the **eldest son of my**
7 **sister Asshley** 66s 8d to bind him prentice. **Item**: I will, give and bequeath
8 unto my sister Asshley
9 my house in **Coventry** to her and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten,
10 the remainder thereof unto
11 **Nicholas Payne** and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, the
12 remainder to **Meriall Payne**²²⁴ and
13 to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten, the remainder to **Thomas Potkyn**
14 and to the heirs of his body
15 lawfully begotten. Also I do will, give and bequeath all my lands and
16 tenements and buildings

224 one of William Potkyn's daughters married a Payne and had, at least, a son Richard and a daughter "Meryell". Thus "Meriall" was John's niece and Nicholas was probably his nephew.

9 lying in Sevenoaks in the county of Kent or in the parish of Sevenoaks or
Leigh²²⁵ in the same county unto
10 Nicholas Payne and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, the
remainder unto my sister Asshley
11 and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten, the remainder unto Meriall
Payne and to the heirs of
12 her body lawfully begotten, the remainder unto Thomas Potkyn and to the
heirs of his body lawfully
13 begotten, the remainder to **Edmond Jenney, my brother-in-law**²²⁶, and to the
heirs of his body lawfully
14 begotten. **Item:** that I have made a lease unto the said Thomas Potkyn of all
my lands lying in the
15 **Weald of Sevenoaks** for term of 21 years paying yearly 53s 4d and if Nicholas
Payne do die
16 before the said years be expired, then I will for the residue of the said years,
he shall pay yearly
17 but 40s as by my writing it doth more plainly appear. **Item:** I do will, give
and bequeath

225 "Lye"

226 from William's will it is known that Edmond Jenney was the son of William's wife by her first husband and therefor John's step-brother

18 unto **Sir John Baker, knight, Thomas Smyth, Richard Randall, gent. of the**
19 **Inner Temple,**
20 **Thomas Argall,** Edmond Jenney, gent. and **Thomas Hynde, haberdasher,**
my capital house
21 called **the Starre in Bread Street²²⁷, London** with all my rents and housing
lying and being in the said
22 Street or in the parish of **All Hallows** and all my lands and tenements lying
and being within the **City of London**
23 to have and to hold the foresaid capital house with the rents, housing,
buildings with all my lands
24 and tenements lying and being within the City of London unto the said Sir
John Baker, Thomas
25 Smyth, Richard Randall, Thomas Argall, Edmond Jenney and Thomas
Hynde, and their heirs
for ever. I give unto the said Sir John Baker my best ring with three stones,
viz. a diamond

227 "Bredstrett"; in the will of William Potkyn, John's father, his capital message on Bread Street was called "the Starr"; although the name in this will looks like "Stere", it must be the same message

page 2:

- 26 an emerald and a ruby upon condition that he do give and distribute all this
my foresaid lands and tenements
- 27 in London accordingly as I have humbly desired him by writing. **Item:** I give
unto Thomas Smyth my
- 28 diamond triangled in a ring of gold upon like condition, unto Richard
Randall my fine coverlet with
- 29 daycerne praised at £3 6s 8d upon like condition, unto Thomas Argall my
gold ring with
- 30 a sapphire²²⁸ which my father gave me 17 years past when I ride to Coventry
weighing 45s in gold
- 31 or thereabout upon like condition, unto Edmond Jenney my lease of my
gardens lying at **Cripplegate**²²⁹
- 32 in **Redcross Street, London** which is ?? the rent yearly 33s 4d except one
garden which I will
- 33 my sister Asshley shall have paying nothing. I do will it to the said Edmond
upon like condition.
- 34 **Item:** I give unto Thomas Hynde five pounds upon like condition. **Item:** I
will there be disposed at my

228 "safer"

229 "Crepulgate"

35 burial but £6 whereof I would there should be distributed to the poor people
40s. **Item:** I will my father's
36 legacies be paid by my executors for they shall have sufficient. I do ordain
and make my executors
37 Nicholas Payne, Edmond Jenney, Thomas Hynde, haberdasher. **Item:** I do
will and dispose unto Nicholas
38 Payne and to his heirs of his body, my tenement in Bread Street lying in
Bread Street in London which one **Humfrey**
39 **Hart** doth occupy. **Item:** that all my lands are in socage tenure²³⁰. **Item:** I
give my best towel to the parish
40 church of Sevenoaks to be occupied when the people shall be houseled they
then saying deprofundus for
41 the souls or **William Potkyn, Margaret Potkyn, John Potkyn, Cuthbert and**
Thomas Potkyn all christian souls.
42 This is my humble desire, request and suit concerning my lands in London.
First: I humbly desire
43 Sir John Baker, knight, and also do instantly desire Master Thomas Smyth,
Mr. Richard Randall,
44 Mr. Thomas Argall, Edmond Jenney, my brother-in-law, and Thomas Hynde
to give, or cause to be given,

230 tenure of land by service

45 nine pounds yearly to the school of Sevenoaks for ever; and that they do
limit some order who shall have the
46 order and rule thereof for as it is now, in their order the inhabitants of the
town will and do bring it to
47 nought for they have let the lands of **William Sevenoke** and have taken
bribes that it will utterly decay
48 except there be remedy found. Also upon the change of the school master,
they cause the next school master
49 to grant pension of £3 6s 8d only as if it were chopping of a benefice.
Whereas, except it be substantially
50 looked to, it will utterly decay. Also they be not incorporate and for the
residue above the expenses and other charges,
51 I do instantly desire them to sell it and to distribute to Nicholas Payne,
Meriall Payne and to my sister Asshley's
52 children. **Item:** I will that Sir John Baker's name be written in the book as a
benefactor for his pains to be
53 prayed for with my father, **my uncle Peter Potkyn** and my name John
Potkyn.
54 **Memorandum** that the 26th day of the month of August in the year of our
lord god a thousand
55 five hundred, forty and five, and in the 37th year of the reign of our
Sovereign lord Henry the eighth, by the

56 grace of God, of England, France and Ireland, king, defender of the faith
and, in earth, of the churches of
57 Scotland and Ireland, chief and supreme head, I, John Potkyn of London,
gentleman being of whole mind and
58 of good and perfect memory do make and declare this my present codicil
willing the same to be annexed unto
59 my testament and last will hereto fore by me made and written with mine
hand as parcel and part
60 thereof in manner and form following: **First:** I will and devise to the **school**
of Sevenoaks £9 yearly
61 for ever if the laws of the realm will suffer it to be levied and taken out of my
capital message
62 called the Stare in Bread Street lying and being in the city of London and if
the laws of the realm will
63 not suffer this devise to be for ever that the sum devised to be for 20 years.
Also I will, give and devise
64 to Nicholas Payne and to his heirs of his body lawfully begotten all my
lands, tenements and hereditaments
65 in the county of Kent and, for default of issue of the body of the said
Nicholas lawfully begotten, the same
66 lands, tenements and hereditaments to remain to Thomas Potkyn and to the
heirs of his body lawfully

67 begotten. Also I give, bequeath and devise to **Lucy Smyth**, to have to her
during her life, an annual
68 sum of five pounds of lawful money of England to be paid, levied and taken
out of my said capital
69 messuage called the Stare in Bread Street and if the said annual rent of five
pounds be behind in part
70 or in all, that then it shall be²³¹ lawful to the said Luce, in the said capital
messuage called the Stare in
71 Bread Street, to enter and distrain and distress then to be taken to keep,
drive, lead and carry away till she be
72 contented and paid of the annual rent and of every parcel thereof so being
behind. Also I give and bequeath
73 to the said Lucy 2 featherbeds, the bolsters, pillows, sheets, blankets and all
other things belonging to the
74 same featherbeds. Also I give, devise and bequeath to my sister **Philip
Asshley** during her life one
75 annual rent of five pounds of lawful money of England to be ?? , levied and
taken out of my said
76 capital messuage called the Stare in Bread Street and I will she shall
distrain for the same annual

231 "shalbe"

77 rent if it be behind unpaid. And after the decease of my said sister Philip, I
will that Asshley, son
78 to my said sister shall have to him and to his heirs of his body lawfully
begotten the said annual rent of
79 five pounds here before willed and devised to my said sister and that it shall
be lawful to the said Asshley

page 3:

80 and his heirs of his body to distrain for the said annual rent of five pounds in
the capital messuage
81 for default of payment. And for default of issue of the body of the said
Asshley, I will and devise that the
82 said Nicholas Payne shall have the said annual rent of five pounds to him
and to his heirs males of his
83 body lawfully begotten and that it shall be lawful to the said Nicholas and
his heirs of his body to distrain in
84 the said capital messuage for the said annual rent for default of payment of
the same. **Item:** I will
85 and devise to **my cousin Langley's wife** all my napery remaining in her
house saving a towel of

86 eight ells which said towel and a crosen cross I will and give to the high
altar of Sevenoaks. They
87 being present and witness hereof²³².

²³² does this mean that the witnesses to the codicil were the same as to the main will?

This will was proved at the Deanery of Shoreham and it is therefore the original rather than the probate copy. From the way the names of the witnesses are written, it looks as if the will taken to be proved was a copy of the actual original.

1 In the name of god Amen. I, John Price
2 of **Rethered**²³³ in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being
3 sick in body but of perfect memory (thanks be
4 given to God) **First:** I bequeath my soul into
5 the hands of my most merciful creator by
6 whose death and the shedding of his blood I have
7 an assured hope of the forgiveness of my sins.
8 So after life being deceased, my soul I trust
9 shall remain in heaven amongst the
10 blessed. That little substance of goods I have,
11 I give to **Joyce Price, my beloved wife**. And
12 namely also I give unto her one house or

233 No mention of Sevenoaks in the will but the index to the Deanery of Shoreham wills gives the will as of Sevenoaks, Riverhead in?

tenement having there unto one acre and
a quarter of land more or less, situated, lying
and being in **Biddenden** now in the tenure
or occupation of **Henry Steven** which house
and land being bought by **my father, Richard**
Price of one **John Austen**, yeoman, of the
parish aforesaid. Also I make and ordain
my beloved wife, Joyce Price, my full and
whole executor of this my last will and testament.
In witness whereof I have set to my
hand this 12th day of November
1624. The mark of **John Price, John**
Chapman, the mark of **William Price, Richard**
Stockwood.

R

Martin Rebankes of Sevenoaks Weald

This will (CKS: Prs/w/14/21) is the only one to have survived for a Rebankes; Martin had two daughters with six children between them, each of them having one son. This made it simple for him to leave his messuage at Idehill to be divided equally between his two daughters and then to go to his two grandsons. He appointed as his executors his two sons-in-law, William Blackman and Steven Hall who was probably s444, the brother of Walter Hall whose will was dated 1641.

Martin, who was a tailor, describes himself as "of Sevenoaks Weald" but the messuage at Idehill which he left to his daughters was in the parish of Sundridge and he left a chest "standing in Brasted" as well as the one "standing in the Weald" without mentioning any house/messuage/tenement in either of these places.

will:		s532 Martin -			
		30 Dec 1629			

s534		s535		s451	s444
Katherine	-	William Blackman		Ann	- Steven Hall

s536	s537	s538	s539	s530	s531
Martin	Susan	Barbara	Elizabeth	Steven	Joan

Will of Martin Rebankes

written 30th December 1629; proved 18th January 1629/30
transcript from original

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The thirtieth day of December in the fourth year
of the reign of our
- 2 sovereign lord Charles, by the grace of God, king of England, France,
Scotland and
- 3 Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. 1629, I, Martin Rebankes of Sevenoaks
Weald¹ in the parish
- 4 of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, **tailor**, being well in memory but weak in
body,
- 5 make this my testament and last will in manner and form following: **First**
and principally

¹ "Wield"

6 yielding my soul to Almighty god, my maker, with assured² hope of
salvation through his
7 mercy in the merit and mediation of his dear son Jesus Christ, my saviour,
and my
8 body to the earth in decent manner to be buried in the churchyard of
Sevenoaks aforesaid.
9 **Item:** I will and bequeath unto **Katherine Blackman, my eldest daughter, her**
four children,
10 **Martin, Susan, Barbara and Elizabeth,** forty shillings a piece. **Item:** I will
and bequeath unto **Ann Hall, my**
11 **youngest daughter, her two children Steven and Joan,** forty shillings a
piece. As for my
12 lands and tenements and my messuage lying at **Idehill**³ in the parish of
Sundridge my mind
13 and will is that it be equally divided between my two daughters, Katherine
and Ann,
14 during their natural lives and, after their decease, then unto their two sons,
Martin Black
15 man and Steven Hall, to their heirs forever. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto

2 "anssured" - an assured?

3 "Iedhill"

16 Martin Blackman,
 my eldest daughter's son, one chest standing at **Brasted** as it is furnished
 with a joined chest
 17 standing there at Brasted. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto Ann Hall, my
 youngest daughter, one
 18 joined chest standing in the Weald in the parish of Sevenoaks furnished as it
 standeth. **Item:** I
 19 will and bequeath unto Steven Hall, my youngest daughter's son, one
 halberd. **Item:** I will unto
 20 my youngest daughter, Ann Hall, one pair of pothooks. **Item:** I give and
 bequeath unto Ann, my youngest
 21 daughter, one iron pot. All the residue of my goods and chattels, I will and
 bequeath unto **William**
 22 **Blackman and Steven Hall, my two sons-in-law**, whom I make my full and
 whole executors
 23 of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have to this my
 testament and
 24 last will set my hand and seal yeven the day and year first above written.
 Sealed, published and delivered }
 in the presence of ?? } the mark of
Francis Everest Martin Rebanke
William Walter
James X Oliver his mark

S

Sackville wills - *not investigated*

Sackville, Richard (Knole in)	1624	PCC: Byrde	27	Earl of Dorset
Sackville, John (the elder)	1619	PCC: Parker	110	Esq.; Sussex
Sackville, Anne (Knole in)	1618	PCC: Meade	84	Countess Dowager of Dorset
Sackville, Thomas (Sir)	1609	PCC: Dorset	1	K.G.; Earl of Dorset
Sackville, Cicely (Knole in)	1616	PCC: Cope	9	Countess Dowager of Dorset
Sackville, Robert (Knole in)	1609	PCC: Dorset	23,57	Earl of Dorset

George Scott, citizen and grocer of London

S.4

Scott, George 1648/9 PCC: Fairfax 23

S.8

Sevenok, William 1432 PCC: Luffenham 16 *not investigated*

William Seyliard, gentleman of Sevenoaks						S.21
Seyliard, William	1632	PCC: Audley	110			S.25
Sharpe, Rebecca (Bradbourne in)	1641	PCC: Evelyn	91	daughter		S.39
Sibbell, Edward	1593	PCC: Nevell	29	gent.		S.43
The Sisleys of Sevenoaks						S.45
Sisley, Edward	1619	PCC: Parker	90	yeoman		S.46
Wills of the Smiths of Sevenoaks						S.51
Smith, Percevall	1617	CKS: Prs/w/14/212		yeoman		S.52
Smith, Richard	1628	PCC: Barrington	66		<i>not investigated</i>	
Smith, John (senior)	1630	CKS: Prs/w/14/250		wheelwright		S.56

The Soales, innholders of Riverhead						S.59
P	Soale, John	1647	PCC: Fines	205	innholder	S.60
P	Soale, John (th'elder)	1647	PCC: Fines	259	²³⁷	
John and Beatrix Spratt						S.63
John Spratt, vicar						S.64
Beatrix Spratt and Sarah Rosen						S.66
P	Spratt, John	1614	PCC: Lawe	36	vicar	S.67
S	Spratt, Beatrix	1616	CKS: Prs/w/14/204		widow	S.70
Martha Stanford's Bequests						S.75
S	Stanford, Martha	1640	CKS: Prs/w/15/21		widow	S.77

²³⁷ unusual for a will of this date, it was written in Latin and has therefore not been investigated in detail

George Scott, citizen and grocer of London

George Scott, who was a citizen and grocer of London, was married but did not have any children, his heirs being his nieces and nephews. His will (PCC: Fairfax 23; Prob 11/207) was written on 8th May 1645 but not proved until 2nd February 1648/9. According to the transcript of the Sevenoaks parish register (CKS: P330, 1/44) "[Mr. George Scott, Esquire](#)," was buried on 20th February 1648/9. This burial date is also given in the Hugh Miller MSS, Vol.1²³⁸. Did George die in London (where the will was written) with it taking over three weeks to get his body to Sevenoaks, his will having been proved in the meantime? The Hugh Miller MSS also gives details of other Scott wills although none of the others seem to have been connected with Sevenoaks. The introduction to George's will and the preamble concerning his soul is unusual but that of Nicholas Scott of London, written on 9th August 1601 has a similar introduction.

In 1635, Thomas Locke of Norfolk mortgaged his "[large house or Inn called the Bull](#)" in Riverhead for £100 to George Scott, paying him £7 a year until such time as the loan was redeemed. After the death of George and his wife, for as long as the loan was outstanding the £7 a year was to be paid to the Sevenoaks

churchwardens who were to provide each Sunday throughout the year "fifteen two penny loaves of good and wholesome wheaten or household bread of a day old" to be distributed to such of the poor of Riverhead "frequenting divine service every Sunday morning as shall be nominated and appointed by the tenant for the time being that shall dwell in my manor house called Brook Place at Riverhead". The wardens and clerk of the church were to have the remaining ten shillings²³⁹ a year for "their care and pains to be taken".

In order that the churchwardens could collect and administer this gift effectively, the deed and writings concerning the annuity were to be delivered to them on the death of George and his wife "safe and uncanceled. And so to be kept by them and their successors for ever in the church chest and to be made use of from time to time as occasion shall require".

In addition to his house in Riverhead, George had a house in the City of London. His wife, Elizabeth, was to have the majority of the household equipment from both these houses and also his two coaches with their horses and all their "harness and furniture", all her "wearing apparel, jewels, chains of gold and . . . rings for paraphernalia"²⁴⁰. This was in addition to the jointure already made to

239 fifteen loaves at 2d each - 30d per Sunday. Fifty-two Sundays in a year gives a total of 1560d = 130s = £6 10s

240 this used to mean property other than dower that remained under a married woman's own control, especially jewellery, dress, ornaments of dress, etc. (Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary)

her and to that part of his personal estate "due unto her by the custom of the City of London", that is one third.

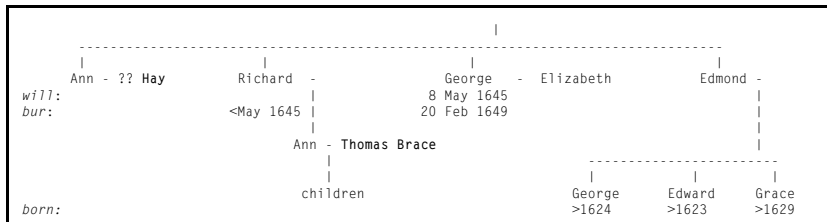
George's wealth was to be distributed widely amongst his family. His cousin Humphrey of Hawkehurst was to receive £100 to repair his mansion house. His brother, Edmond who seems to have been much more hard up than the other members of the family, had two sons, George and Edward, and a daughter, Grace, all underage in 1645. Edmond, his wife and children were the main beneficiaries of the will.

Before writing his will, George was already giving Edmond £60 a year whilst their sister, Ann Hays, was allowing him £20 a year. George was worried that Ann or her executors might fail to pay the £20 and made provision in his will for his estate to pay it if necessary. If Edmond died leaving his wife and children, each of them was to receive £10 a year, his wife for the rest of her life, the sons until they were twenty-one but Grace only until she was sixteen. This was for "their maintenance and education" but why should Grace's cease at such a young age? Each of them, when their annuity ceased was to receive £100.

But George Scott's estate consisted of more than money and lands in England. 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, . . . in the Kingdom or Dominion of Virginia" were to

be divided between Edmond's three children. George had also subscribed "into the Chamber of London to the Treasurers for that purpose appointed" £125 "towards the reducing of the Irish Rebels according to several acts of Parliament". All the benefits and profits from this "which shall happen to fall by lot or otherwise by reason of my said subscription" were also to go to George, Edward and Grace.

He appointed as his executor Thomas Brace, husband of his niece Ann and all the residue of his estate was to go to Thomas Brace, the remainder after George's debts, legacies and expenses had been paid, was to be divided between the children of Ann and himself. Given the annuities to Edmond his family, George's estate would have considerable commitments for a number of years.



1 In the name of god Amen.
2 For as much as the soul of man hath no perpetual dwelling within
3 the carnal body but is separable from it at the will and pleasure of
4 Almighty God at his time appointed, which time to man is always
5 uncertain, therefore it is requisite and most necessary that every
6 Christian man prepare and make himself ready at all times to leave
7 the same so that whensoever he shall be called he not found unprepared.
8 Wherefore the eighth day of May in the year of our Lord god one thousand
9 six hundred forty and five and in the one and twentieth year of the
10 reign of our sovereign Lord Charles, by the grace of God king of
11 England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. I, George
12 Scott, **citizen and grocer of the City of London**, being in reasonable good
13 health and in perfect mind and memory, laud and praise being given
14 to Almighty God therefore. And intending by his grace to prepare and
15 make my self ready to go forward in the universal journey of all flesh when
16 it shall please his goodness to call me, do first revoke and make void all
17 former wills and testaments by me at any time heretofore intended,
declared
18 or made. And do hereby make and declare this my last will and testament

19 containing the disposing of all and singular my goods and chattels
20 whatsoever within the realm of England or elsewhere in manner and
21 form following: And for because nothing is so precious as my soul nor any
22 thing presentable to God besides it, **First:** I commit that into the hands of
23 Almighty God, my maker, trusting that through his infinite mercy and
24 love of his eternal council together with his elect he hath chosen me and
25 will receive me to be saved through the merits of Jesus Christ, my redeemer,
26 who is the blessed lamb of god sent by his father to take away the sins
27 of the world. And he hath loved us and washed us from our sins with
28 his blood by suffering death for us upon the cross. And he is that Lion of the
Tribe of
29 ?? that hath overcome and hath gotten the victory of death and hell and
hath laid
30 up a Crown of Immortality for me. And I believe that he shall come at the
last
31 ?? ?? And that I shall be raised again out of the earth with the
32 rest of his elect and be clothed with my skin and with mine eyes shall see
33 God. In the meantime, my will and desire is to be buried in the parish
church
34 of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent in a grave to be made in the ground
within

page 2:

35 a vault which I lately caused to be made at the upper end of the south aisle
of the
36 chancel of the same church for the laying of the body of **my late dear mother**
37 and such others of her posterity as shall desire to be buried there. And the
order
38 and manner of my funeral I leave to the discretion of my wife and executor
here
39 after named. And touching my goods and chattels, I do dispose of them in
40 manner and form following: **Imprimis:** I do give unto the **Corporation or**
41 **Company of Grocers** of the City of London whereof I am a member my
42 greatest standing cup and cover of silver all gilt containing about thirty
43 and three ounces with its case thereunto belonging. **Item:** I give to the poor
44 of the parish of Sevenoaks aforesaid five pounds of good English money to
be
45 distributed to and amongst them on the day of my burial or within four days
46 next after at the discretion of my wife and executor. And whereas by a
certain
47 deed or writing indented bearing date the fifth day of February in the tenth
48 year of the reign of our said sovereign Lord king Charles²⁴¹, I have bought

49 and purchased of **Thomas Lock of Cranworth**²⁴² in the county of Norfolk,
clerk,
50 and **Mary, his wife**, one annuity or yearly rent charge of seven pounds
51 of lawful money of England to be paid unto me, the said George Scott and
52 **Elizabeth, my wife**, and the heirs of me, the said George Scott, for ever, half
53 yearly at the feasts of the Annunciation of the blessed virgin Mary and Saint
54 Michael the Archangel or within fourteen days next after either of the said
55 feasts by even and equal portions. And issuing and going out of all that
56 large house or Inn called **the Bull** sometimes two tenements with the barns,
57 stables and other buildings to the same tenements or Inn belonging and out
of
58 certain other lands, tenements and hereditaments in the said deed
particularly
59 mentioned, situated, lying and being within the parish of Sevenoaks
aforesaid
60 now in the tenure or occupation of **John Sole, innholder**, or of his assigns²⁴³.
In

242 15 miles west of Norwich

243 it would appear that although Thomas Lock lived in Norfolk, the land and inn which were the subject of the deed were in Sevenoaks. John Soale of Riverhead is described in his will of 1647 as an innholder and his son, also John, as an innholder when he was buried, also in 1647 - see the Soales below for more details

61 which deed of annuity is contained a certain provision or condition, that is if
the
62 said Thomas Lock and Mary, his wife, or the heirs and assigns of the said
63 Thomas Lock shall well and truly pay, or cause to be paid, unto me the said
64 George Scott and Elizabeth, my wife, or to the heirs or assigns of me, the
said
65 George Scott, the sum of one hundred pounds of lawful money of England,
66 together with the said annuity and the arrearages thereof (if any be) at
either
67 of the said feast days on which the same ought to be paid within the space
68 of seven years next ensuing the date of the said deed, then the said annuity
69 or yearly rent charge of seven pounds should cease as by the said deed
70 ?? being thereunto had more plainly may appear. Now my will
71 and mind is that the said annuity being not redeemed according to the
72 proviso in the said deed, the said annuity or yearly rent charge of seven
73 pounds from and immediately after the decease of me, the said George
Scott,
74 and Elizabeth, his wife, shall be and continue for ever half yearly ??
75 paid unto the wardens of the parish church of Sevenoaks aforesaid and
76 their ?? to the end that the said wardens for the time being shall
77 weekly provide against every Sabbath day fifteen two penny loaves of
78 good and wholesome wheaten or household bread of a day old to be given
and

79 distributed to and amongst such poor of the village or ?? of **Rethered**
80 als. **Riverhead** frequenting divine service every Sunday morning as shall be
81 nominated and appointed by the tenant for the time being that shall
82 dwell in my manor house called **Brook Place at Riverhead** als Rethered
83 aforesaid. And my will and mind is that the overplus of the said annuity
84 being ten shillings per annum shall be and remain yearly unto the wardens
85 and clerk of the said parish church for the time being equally to be divided
86 amongst them in respect of their care and pains to be taken in the ??.

page 3:

87 And in case it shall happen the said annuity or any part thereof is behind or
88 unpaid by the said space of fourteen days next after either of the said feasts
89 wherein the same ought to be paid as aforesaid contrary to the tenor and
90 true meaning of the said deed, then and so often, I do hereby give and
91 grant unto the churchwardens of the said parish church of Sevenoaks for the
time
92 being full liberty, power and authority to make and take distress in and
upon
93 the said house, inn, lands and all other the premises, or any part thereof,
liable
94 thereunto by virtue of the said deed as fully and amply in every respect as I
95 myself might or should do the same if I were living. And for the better
96 enabling them thereunto, I hereby will that as well the said deed as all other

97 writings which I shall leave behind me rehearsing the said annuity shall,
98 within twenty days next after the decease of me and my said wife, be
delivered
99 to the churchwardens of the said parish for the time being, safe and
uncancelled.
100 And so to be kept by them and their successors for ever in the church chest
101 and to be made use of from time to time as occasion shall require. **Item:**
102 give and bequeath unto **my very loving sister Mrs. Ann Hay** and to my
103 **loving cousins Herbert Hay and Ann Bryen** my silver and gilt
104 pots with covers all gilt to each of them one. **Item:** I give to **my loving**
105 **niece Ann Brace** my second standing cup of silver with a cover all gilt
106 made grapewise. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my loving brother Edmond**
107 **Scott** my great seal ring of gold and twenty shillings in money. **Item:** I
108 give and bequeath the sum of one hundred pounds of lawful money of
109 England to be given and paid by mine executor at the end of two years after
110 my decease unto **my loving cousin Humphrey Scott of Congerhurst** in the
111 county of Kent aforesaid, Esquire, towards the repair of his mansion house
112 called Congerhurst aforesaid in the parish of **Hawkhurst**²⁴⁴ in the said
county
113 of Kent. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth, my loving wife, all my
114 implements of household and household stuff as well in my dwelling house

115 in the City of London as also in my dwelling house at Riverhead aforesaid
116 excepting all my white silver plate and silver and gilt plate and all
117 such implements as are useful and belonging unto my trade. And I
118 do give her my two coaches withall my horses for coach and cart with
119 all harness and furniture to them respectively belonging or appertaining.
120 And I also give and bequeath unto my said wife all her wearing apparel,
121 jewels, chains of gold and ?? and rings for paraphernalia
122 over and above the jointure I have heretofore made unto her. And also
123 over and above that part of my personal estate which is due unto her
124 by the custom of the City of London. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto my
125 brother Edmond Scott the sum of twenty pounds per annum during his
126 natural life over and above the three score pounds a year which I do
127 now allow him in case my sister Mrs. Ann Hay, her heirs, executors or
128 administrators do fail to make payment of the yearly portion or annuity
129 of twenty pounds which she now allows him and not otherwise. To be paid
130 by mine executor hereafter named at the four usual feasts of the year, the
131 first quarters payment to commence at the next usual feast after my
132 decease in case my said sister Ann Hay, her heirs, executors or
administrators
133 do fail to pay as aforesaid. **Item:** my will and mind is that in case my
134 said brother Edmond Scott doth happen to die leaving **Mary, his wife,**
135 **George and Edward, his sons, and Grace, his daughter,** to survive him,
136 then I give and bequeath to every and each of them ten pounds yearly

137 in manner and form following: that is to say, to the said Mary, his wife,
138 the sum of ten pounds yearly during her natural life to be paid

page 4:

139 quarterly after his decease at the next four usual feasts in the year. And
140 after the decease of my said brother Edmond, I do give and bequeath unto
his
141 said sons George and Edward, to each of them, ten pounds yearly for
142 their maintenance and education to be paid quarterly at the next four
143 usual feasts after his decease aforesaid until they come to the full age of
144 one and twenty years if they so long live. And to his said daughter
145 Grace, for her like maintenance and education, the sum of ten pounds
146 per annum to be paid quarterly as aforesaid until she come or attain unto
the age
147 of sixteen years if she so long live. But if it shall happen that the said
George
148 and Edmond, or either of them, do die before they come to the age of one
and
149 twenty years, or the said Grace die before she attain to the age of sixteen
150 years, then this my yearly annuity so given to any of them so dying
151 shall surcease. And if it shall happen the said George and Edward do live
152 to the full age of one and twenty years and the said Grace to the full
153 age of sixteen years, then I give and bequeath to every one of them so long

154 living the sum of one hundred pounds. **Item:** whereas I have subscribed
155 and paid into the Chamber of London to the Treasurers for that purpose
156 appointed the sum of one hundred twenty and five pounds towards the
157 reducing of the Irish Rebels according to several acts of Parliament in
158 that case made and provided, I do hereby give, grant, devise and bequeath
unto
159 George Scott, Edward Scott and Grace Scott, the three children of my
brother
160 Edmond Scott aforesaid, their heirs and assigns forever, all the benefit and
161 profits of my said subscription and money paid into the said Treasurers
162 with all shares in ?? which shall happen to fall by lot or otherwise by
163 reason of my said subscription. To have and to hold the sum of his Majesty?
164 to them and their heirs for ever according to the Act of Parliament aforesaid.
165 and moreover I devise and bequeath unto the said George Scott, Edward
166 Scott and Grace Scott, the three children of my said brother Edmond Scott,
all and singular
167 my freehold or other lands, tenements, plantations, goods, chattels,
hereditaments
168 and adventures whatsoever of what nature or quality soever to me of right
169 belonging, situated, lying and being in **Martins Hundred** or elsewhere
within
170 the **Kingdom or Dominion of Virginia**. To have and to hold all and singular
the

171 said lands, tenements, plantations, goods, chattels, hereditaments and
adventures
172 whatsoever and of what quality soever unto the said George Scott, Edward
173 Scott and Grace Scott, their heirs and assigns forever, to the only proper
174 use and behoof of them the said George Scott, Edward Scott and Grace
Scott,
175 their heirs and assigns for evermore. And all other my goods and chattels,
176 my debts and legacies being paid, my funeral expenses discharged and
177 my wife's part, due unto her by the custom of the City of London as
aforesaid, taken
178 out, my will and meaning is shall be and remain in the hands of my
executor
179 hereunder named and shall be, by him, given and paid unto the children of
my
180 **loving niece Anne Brace, daughter of my brother Richard Scott, deceased.**
And
181 to their children's children at the discretion of my said executor and my said
niece
182 Anne Brace. **Item:** I do ordain, constitute and appoint **my loving cousin**
Thomas
183 **Brace, husband to my said niece Anne Brace,** full and sole executor of this
my last
184 will and testament whom I desire faithfully to perform the same in all

185 things according to the true meaning thereof. In witness whereof I, the said
George
186 Scott have hereunto put my hand and seal the day and year first above
written
187 George Scott. Signed, sealed, declared and published in the presence of
188 us before the signing, sealing and publishing hereof by the within named
George
189 Scott, these words were interlined (daughter of my brother, Richard Scott,
deceased
190 and to their children's children at the discretion of my said executor and my

page 5:

191 said niece Ann Brace. **Hoogan Lovell, Charles Davis, Ed. Wilson,**
192 **Edward Phillips, parish clerk of Mary Woolchurch, London**

The Seyliards

A number of Seyliard wills have survived from Brasted and Sundridge, the Seyliards (or Selyards) having been in the area from at least the end of the fifteenth century. Four hundred years earlier, in 1200, a grant of 41½ acres of land in Brasted was made by Almaric, Earl of Gloucester, to Richard, son of Ralph atte Seylyerde²⁴⁵. The surviving wills, , except for that of Nicholas of Ightham, are from the sixteenth century.

245 Gordon Ward, *Sevenoaks Essays*, Sevenoaks 1980 edition; p.253

William Seyliard, gentleman of Sevenoaks

William's will (PCC: Audley 110; Prob 11/162) gives the date it was written at the beginning as 10th February 1630/1. At the end is the statement that it was "sealed, signed and published to be the last will and testament of me, the said William Seyliard this 24th day of October 1632", over one and a half years after it was started. It was proved on 8th November 1632. Was it originally written at the beginning of 1631 and sealed, etc. when William was on his deathbed?

William's will is interesting for the way his considerable wealth, which took the form of land and premises in London, was to be used to provide for his children. He had four sons and two daughters, all under twenty one when he wrote his will. Thomas, the eldest son but under sixteen in 1631, was to receive William's land, etc. with each of the others receiving a portion of £250 when they came of age (or, in the case of his daughters, when they married if this was when they were under twenty-one). In the meantime, a maintenance allowance was to be paid to each of them, the amount depending on their age:

Table S.1: Portion and Yearly Maintenance for William's Children

	portion	stage 1	stage 2	stage 3	stage 4
Dorothy	£250			£12	£16
Thomas				£15	£20
William	£250		£10	£15	£18
John	£250	£6	£10	£15	£18
Robert	£250	£6	£10	£15	£18
Ann	£250	£7	£9	£12	£16

the four stages were:

- 1 up to 7yrs (8 for Ann)
- 2 from 7 to 10 yrs (8 to 12 for Ann)
- 3 from 10 to 16 yrs (12 to 16 for Ann)
- 4 from 16 yrs until portion was paid.

William's wife, Ann, was left two silver bowls, making her selection "[out of the rest](#)" with the rest of his goods and chattels being given to his executors towards his funeral expenses and the payment of his debts and legacies. Ann, however, was to have "[to use during her widowhood](#)" as much of William's household stuff "[as she shall make charge for her own usage and afterwards, the same to be delivered back again to my executors hereafter named to be disposed of for the purposes aforesaid](#)". She was also to "[enjoy during her natural life such part of my](#)

said messuages, lands and tenements as before marriage I did assure her for her jointure".

It was from the rents, etc. from his "messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments in or near the City of London" that his executors were to pay the portions and maintenance of his children. In addition, these rents had to cover:

- the payment of those debts and legacies remaining after the proceeds from the sale of his goods and chattels had been used
- the repair of those of his houses for which he and his heirs were responsible
- an annuity of £5 to William's brother Robert
- the expenses of the executors.

Obviously the work from the executors would have been considerable, with the rents to collect and the money allocated as specified until Thomas was twenty-one, a minimum of six years since he was under sixteen when the will was written. William further requested them that when they had in "their hands the sum of forty pounds or more, to put out the same upon such security and upon such rates as mine overseers . . . shall consent unto. And then, if such monies so put out shall not be recovered again, my said executors shall be discharged thereof upon their accounts".

William's messuages, etc, in London were all close together and he was worried that if there were a fire in the neighbourhood his estate could suffer a considerable loss. He therefore gave authority that if, before sufficient money to pay all his children's portions had been received, there should "happen a fire among my said houses (which god defend) whereby" the loss was £100 or more, then the portions of his younger children could be reduced to whatever his overseers and executors thought fit "having respect to the greatness or littleness of the loss that shall be sustained by such fire".

1 In the name of god Amen. The 10th
2 day of February in the year of the reign of our sovereign lord Charles, by the
3 grace of God of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, king, defender of the
4 faith, etc. the sixth and in the year of our lord God 1630, I, William Seyliard
of
5 Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, **gent.** being of good and perfect
remembrance (God be
6 therefor praised) so make and ordain this my last will and testament in
manner and
7 form following²⁴⁶: **First** and principally I
8 commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God, fully and assuredly
hoping of my salvation
9 through the only merits, death and passion of Jesus Christ, my saviour; my
body I yield to
10 the earth therein to be decently buried according to the order of Christians.
Item: I give

246 "ordain this my last will and testament in manner and" was repeated; presumably the clerk copying the original made a mistake

11 and bequeath unto the poor of the said parish of Sevenoaks three pounds in
money to be
12 distributed according to the discretion of my executors hereafter named.
Item: I give to **Ann**
13 **my beloved wife**, two of my silver bowls, which of them she shall please to
choose out of the rest
14 **Item:** I give to all my servants which shall dwell with me at the time of my
decease ten shillings
15 a piece. The rest of my goods and chattels I give and bequeath to my
executors hereafter
16 named towards my funeral expenses and towards the payment of my debts
and legacies.
17 But my will and meaning is that my said loving wife may have to use during
her widowhood
18 so much of my household stuff as she shall make charge for her own usage
and afterwards, the
19 same to be delivered back again to my executors hereafter named to be
disposed of for the
20 purposes aforesaid. **Item:** I will and devise to my executors hereafter named
all and singular my
21 messuages, lands, tenements and hereditaments in or near the **City of**
London or elsewhere

22 within the realm of England for them to take and receive the rent, issues
and profits thereof

23 until **my son, Thomas Seyliard**, shall accomplish his age of one and twenty
years and,

24 in case my said son Thomas shall decease before his said age, then until **my
son William**

25 **Seyliard** shall accomplish his age of one and twenty years. And in case my
said son

26 William shall decease before his said age, then until **my son John Seyliard**
shall

27 accomplish his age of one and twenty years. And in case my said son John
shall decease

28 before his said age, then until **my son Robert Seyliard** shall accomplish his
age of one

29 and twenty years, for the uses and intent hereafter expressed and declared.
That is to

30 say, in the first place for the paying and discharging of such of my debts and
legacies

31 as shall not be discharged by the sale of my goods and chattels, for the
repairing of

32 such of my houses as I and mine heirs are liable to repair, to and for the
yearly

33 maintenance of my children, for the satisfying of the expenses of mine
executors hereafter
34 named in and about this my will and for the paying of the portions hereafter
given to my
35 children. But my will and meaning is that my said loving wife shall and
may quietly and
36 presently have, hold and enjoy during her natural life such part of my said
messuages, lands
37 and tenements as before marriage I did assure her for her jointure. **Item:** I
give and
38 bequeath unto **my daughter, Dorothy Seyliard**, the sum of two hundred
pounds and fifty pounds
39 of lawful money of England for her portion to be paid unto her at her age of
one
40 and twenty years or day of marriage which of them shall first happen. And
for her yearly
41 maintenance in the meantime, my will is that she shall be allowed twelve
pounds by the
42 year until she shall accomplish her age of sixteen years and from her age of
sixteen
43 years until her portion shall be paid, sixteen pounds by the year. And then
her said

44 yearly maintenance to cease. **Item:** my will and meaning is that my said
son Thomas
45 Seyliard shall be allowed for his maintenance till his age of sixteen years the
yearly
46 sum of fifteen pounds and from his age of sixteen years until his age of one
and twenty
47 years, the yearly sum of twenty pounds. And then his said yearly
maintenance to cease.
48 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto my said son William Seyliard, the sum of
two hundred
49 and fifty pounds of like lawful money of England for his portion to be paid
unto him at his
50 age of one and twenty years and for his yearly maintenance in the
meantime, my will
51 and meaning is that he be allowed ten pounds by the year until his age of
ten years

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52 and from his age of ten years until his age of sixteen years fifteen pounds by
the
53 year and from his age of sixteen years until his said portion shall be paid,
the sum

54 of eighteen pounds by the year and then his said yearly maintenance to
cease. **Item:** I give
55 and bequeath unto my said son John Seyliard, the sum of two hundred and
56 fifty pounds of like lawful money of England to be paid unto him at his age
of one and
57 twenty years and for his yearly maintenance in the meantime, my will and
meaning
58 is that he be allowed six pounds by the year until his age of seven years and
from
59 his age of seven years until his age of 10 years ten pounds by the year and
from
60 his age of ten years until his age of 16 years fifteen pounds by the year and
from
61 his age of sixteen years till his said portion shall be paid, eighteen pounds
by the year
62 and then his said yearly maintenance to cease. **Item:** I give and bequeath
unto my said son Robert
63 Seyliard, the sum of two hundred and fifty pounds of like lawful money of
England to be paid
64 unto him at his age of one and twenty years and for his yearly maintenance
in the mean
65 time, my will and meaning is that he be allowed six pounds by the year
until his age of seven

66 years and from his age of seven years until his age of 10 years ten pounds by
the year
67 and from his age of ten years until his age of 16 years fifteen pounds by the
year
68 and from his age of sixteen years till his said portion shall be paid, eighteen
pounds by the year
69 and then his said yearly maintenance to cease. **Item:** I give and bequeath
unto **my daughter Ann**
70 **Seyliard**, the sum of two hundred and fifty pounds of like lawful money of
England to be paid
71 unto her at her age of one and twenty years or day of marriage which of
them shall first happen.
72 And for her yearly maintenance in the meantime, my will is that she be
allowed seven pounds
73 by the year until she shall accomplish her age of eight years and from her
age of 8 years
74 until she shall accomplish her age of 12 years nine pounds by the year and
from her age of
75 12 years she shall accomplish her age of 16 years twelve pounds by the year
and from
76 her age of sixteen years until her portion shall be paid, sixteen pounds by
the year and then her

77 said yearly maintenance to cease. And my will and meaning is that if any
of my said children
78 shall decease before their said portions shall grow due to them, then his and
her portion which shall so
79 decease shall be paid and equally divided among them that shall survive
and my said son Thomas,
80 payable to them at their several ages of one and twenty years. The residue
of my said goods and
81 chattels, and of the money that shall be raised out of the rents, issues and
profits of my said messuages,
82 lands and tenements before willed to mine executors hereafter named (if
there shall be any remaining)
83 I give and bequeath unto my said son Thomas. And if he decease before his
said age of one and
84 twenty years, then to that child or children which of them shall be mine heir
at the Common Law
85 payable at his or their ages of one and twenty years. But my will and
meaning is that after
86 my debts and legacies paid, my funeral expenses born, my said children's
maintenance
87 allowed, my said houses repaired and the expenses of mine executors
hereafter named laid out

88 in and about the performance of this my will satisfied, there shall not be
remaining in the hands
89 of my said executors so much money as will fully discharge my said
children's portions at such
90 time as my said son Thomas or that child or children which shall be mine
heir at the Common
91 Law shall accomplish his or their ages of one and twenty years, then I will
and devise to
92 mine executors hereafter named my said messuages, lands, tenements and
hereditaments until
93 they shall, out of the rents, issues and profits thereof, have received so much
money as will
94 fully discharge all my said children's portions (they allowing thereout to my
said son Thomas,
95 or to that child or children that shall be mine heir at the Common Law, the
yearly sum
96 of forty pounds for his and their maintenance in the meantime) unless my
said son
97 Thomas, or that child or children which shall be mine heir at the Common
Law, shall put in
98 good security to mine executors hereafter named to their liking for the
paying of so much

99 money to them as then, upon a true account made, shall be unreceived by
them and shall be
100 remaining to make up my said children's portions bequeathed as aforesaid..
Provided that
101 and my will and meaning is that, that whereas my chief estate is in houses
in or near the
102 City of London and near adjoining together and by reason thereof subject to
a great ?? if
103 fire should happen among them, therefore, if before my said executors shall
have fully received

page 3:

97 out of the rents, issues and profits thereof sufficient sum and sums of money
for the discharging
98 of my said children's portions as aforesaid, there shall happen a fire among
my said houses
99 (which god defend) whereby there shall ?? the damage and loss of one
hundred pounds
100 or more, then I give to each of my said younger children for their portions so
much only as
101 mine overseers hereafter named and my said executors, or the greater
number of them, shall

102 in their discretion think fit and so set down under their hands and seals, not
exceeding
103 the said sum of two hundred and fifty pounds a piece payable in such
manner as herein before
104 is limited, my said overseers and executors having respect to the greatness
or littleness of
105 the loss that shall be sustained by such fire as aforesaid. And I further will
and bequeath to
106 **my brother Robert Seyliard**, towards the mending of his yearly maintenance,
a yearly rent
107 charge or annuity of five pounds by the year of lawful money of England for
and during his
108 natural life issuing and going out of all my said messuages lands,
tenements and hereditaments,
109 to be paid at the four most usual feasts in the year, that is to say, the
Nativity of our Lord
110 Christ, the Annunciation of the blessed virgin St. Mary, the Nativity of St.
John the Baptist
111 and of St. Michael the Arch angel, by even and equal portions or within
eight and twenty

112 days after any of the said feasts, at or in the church porch at **Edenbridge**²⁴⁷
in the county of
113 Kent aforesaid. The first payment thereof to begin at the next of the said
feasts which shall
114 happen after my decease. And I will that it shall and may be lawful to and
for my said brother
115 Robert and his assigns to enter and distrain in all and any part of my said
messuages, lands, tenements
116 and hereditaments for the same when and so often as the sum, or any part
thereof, shall be behind
117 and unpaid after any of the said days of payment when the same ought to
be paid. And of this
118 my last will and testament, I make and ordain **my-brother-in-law John**
Seyliard and my
119 **brother-in-law Thomas Seyliard**²⁴⁸, the king's servant, mine executors,
desiring them to take
120 the best course they can for the true performance of this last will and
testament and

247 Did Robert live in Edenbridge?

248 with the name Seyliard, John and Thomas cannot have been the husbands of two of his sisters; nor can they have been his wife's brothers; perhaps they were step-brothers.

121 further requesting them that when²⁴⁹ they, or either of them, shall have in
his or their hands
122 the sum of forty pounds or more, to put out the same upon such security and
upon
123 such rates as mine overseers hereafter named shall consent unto. And
then, if such monies so
124 put out shall not be recovered again, my said executors shall be discharged
thereof upon
125 their accounts. And I desire **my brother-in-law Thomas Seyliard of Brasted,**
Esq. and
126 **my cousin Robert Seyliard of Edenbridge, gentleman,** to be the overseers of
this my last will
127 and testament, desiring them to be aiding and assisting to my said
executors with their best
128 advice for the good of my children. In witness whereof I have to these three
sheets of paper,
129 wherein is contained my last will, subscribed my name and to the last sheet
set mine hand
130 and seal the day and year first above written. William Seyliard. Sealed,
signed and

249 word, which cannot be read, inserted here

- 131 published to be the last will and testament of me, the said William Seyliard
this 24th day of
- 132 October 1632 in the presence of **John Seyliard, Thomas Beecher**, the mark of
John Addams.

Will of Rebecca Sharpe, daughter of Thomas Sharpe of Brabourne

written 18th June 1641; proved by her brother, James Sharpe, 12th July 1641

transcript from probate copy

Sevenoaks is not mentioned in this will but the Index of Wills proved in the PCC gives Brabourne as in the parish of Sevenoaks with a query and Rebecca Sharpe as of the parish of St. Andrews, Holborn, London. Bradbourne is part of Sevenoaks but Brabourne is a village a few miles south west of Ashford and this is probably Rachel Sharpe's home village.

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The eighteenth day of
- 2 June Anno Dm 1641. And in the seventeenth year of the reign of our
Sovereign
- 3 Lord Charles, king of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the
faith, etc.
- 4 I, Rebecca Sharpe, **daughter of Thomas Sharpe, late of Brabourne** in the
county of
- 5 Kent, deceased, being at this time sick and weak in body yet of good and
perfect memory (God
- 6 be thanked for the same) do make and declare this my last will and
testament in form

7 following: **First** and principally I commend my soul into the hands of
Almighty
8 God, my creator, steadfastly believing in, by and through the merits, death
and passion of
9 Jesus Christ, my saviour and redeemer, to have free pardon and forgiveness
of all my sins
10 and to inherit the kingdom of heaven. And I commit my body to the earth to
be buried in
11 decent manner at the discretion of my executor hereafter named. And as
concerning
12 such worldly estate as it hath pleased god to bestow upon me, my will and
mind therein is as
13 followeth: **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my cousins Gilbert and Rebecca**
Meese ten shillings a
14 piece to make them rings. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my brothers John**
and Thomas Sharpe
15 and to **my sister Alice** every of them ten shillings a piece. **Item:** I give to **my**
aunt
16 **Margaret Osbourne** my long damask tablecloth with all my wearing clothes,
linen,
17 woollen, some of which I pray her to bestow to **my cousin Margaret Otway** as
she

18 shall think fit. **Item:** I give to **Mary Bagshawe** in respect of her love and
kindness, forty
19 shillings. **Item:** I give to **my uncle Osbourne** forty shillings. And whereas I
have a trunk

page 2:

20 of linen remaining in the hands of my brother Thomas, I give one half thereof
21 to my said brother Thomas and the other half I give to **my brother James**
Sharpe. And
22 as concerning fifty pounds given to me by my late father and mother and all
other my
23 goods and estate whatsoever, I wholly give unto my brother James Sharpe
whom I
24 make and ordain my full and sole executor of this my last will and testament.
And I revoke
25 all former wills and legacies by me heretofore made or given. In witness
whereof I have
26 hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year first above written. The
mark of the said
27 Rebecca Sharpe. Sealed and delivered by the said Rebecca Sharpe. And by
her declared to

- 28 be her last will and testament in the presence of **Joane Bates, widow**, her
mark, **Jane Morley**,
29 her mark, Mary Bagshawe, **Hugh Osbourne**, S²⁵⁰

250 this could be "Sen." or "Scr." (scriptor)

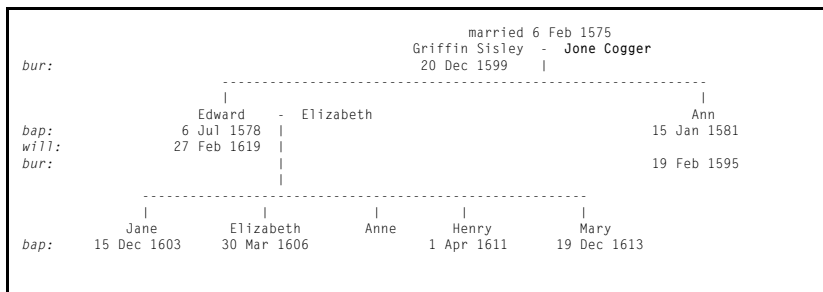
1 The will of Edward Sibbell,
2 gentleman, made the fifth day of March Anno Dominum a thousand five
hundred ninety two
3 et Anno 30th reign Elizabeth. **First:** I give and bequeath to **Dorothy, my**
loving wife,
4 all my goods and cattells as well moveable as unmoveable wheresoever
whom I do constitute and
5 appoint my sole executrix of this my last will. **Item:** I give and bequeath
unto the said Dorothy,
6 my wife, all my lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever in Kent or
elsewhere (except
7 one tenement in Sevenoaks now in the occupation of **William Wood**). To
have and to hold all
8 the said lands, tenements and hereditaments (except before excepted) unto
the said
9 Dorothy and her assigns for term of her natural life. And after her decease, I
give and
10 bequeath all my said lands, tenements and hereditaments (except before
excepted) unto

11 **Mathew Colthurst** and his heirs male of his body lawfully begotten and to be
begotten.
12 And for lack of such issue unto **Andrew Colthurst** and to his heirs for ever.
Item: I give
13 unto the said Dorothy, my wife, the said tenement in Sevenoaks with
th'appurtenances which
14 tenement is called **Grimsoch**. To have and to hold the said tenement with all
buildings,
15 gardens, orchards with all and singular their appurtenances unto the said
Dorothy, her heirs
16 and assigns for ever. By me Edward Sibbell. In the presence of **Thomas**
Wale, Daniell
17 **Skymer, Robert Lovelace**.

The Sisleys of Sevenoaks

Edward Sisley's will (PCC: Parker 90, Prob 11/134) was written on 27th February 1618/9 and proved on 11th October 1619 but his burial has not been found in the parish register. Edward was a wealthy yeoman able to leave his son £200 and £66 13s 4d to each of his four daughters who ranged in age from sixteen to six, a total of £466 13s 4d. He was obviously a man well-respected by his contemporaries with John Spratt, the vicar, appointing him his executor and a number of others giving him responsibilities via their wills - see [Elizabeth Petley](#) for more details.

The testator could have been the son of Griffin Sisley and Jone Cogger who married on 6th February, 1575 with their son Edward being baptised in 1578. The testator's daughter Jane was baptised in December 1603 when Griffin's son would have been twenty-eight, a reasonable age to start a family. At that time he was recorded as "[Edward Sisley of Seal](#)" which is perhaps where they started their married life. Griffin was recorded as a householder when he was buried. No baptism has been found for Ann but Samuel Masters of Seal married Amy/Ann Sisleve, in Seal, on 9th May 1631 when Edward's daughter would have been in her early twenties



In April 1586, William Pococke had recently bought a messuage and land from William Sisley, late of Sevenoaks and Griffin Sisley; William Sisley could have been Griffin's father.

Will of Edward Sisley, yeoman

written 27th February 1618/9
transcript from probate copy

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The seven and twentieth
- 2 day of February Anno domini one thousand six hundred and eighteen, I,
- 3 Edward Sisley of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick in
body

4 but of perfect remembrance (thanks be given to god) do make my last will
and
5 testament in manner and form following: **First:** I commend my soul into
the
6 hands of my heavenly father who gave it me hoping to be made partaker of
the
7 kingdom of heaven by the merits and passion of Jesus Christ, my only
saviour
8 and redeemer and my body to be buried at the discretion of my executor
hereafter
9 named. **Item:** I give to the poor of Sevenoaks aforesaid forty shillings to be
distributed
10 at my burial by the discretion of the churchwardens and overseers for the
poor.
11 **Item:** I give and bequeath to every of **my four daughters, Jane, Elizabeth,**
Anne
12 and **Mary,** one hundred marks²⁵¹ a piece to be paid to every of them at their
13 several days of marriage or at their several ages of one and twenty years
which
14 shall first happen. **Item:** I give unto **my son, Henry Sisley,** two hundred
15 pounds to be paid him at his age of one and twenty years. And if my said

16 son or any of my daughters happen to die before he or they have received
their
17 several portions, my will is that the portion of him, her or any of them so
dying
18 shall be equally divided between my children surviving. Also I give to my
son
19 Henry the lease of certain lands in **Sussex** which I hold of my **Lord Dane** for
all the
20 term of years therein to come. And if he die before the expiration thereof,
then the
21 same to remain amongst my said daughters. All the residue of my goods
and
22 chattels whatsoever unbequeathed, I wholly give and bequeath to
Elizabeth, my loving
23 **wife** whom I nominate and ordain sole executrix of this my last will and
testament.
24 And I appoint overseers thereof my very loving friends **Roger Pulleston,**
gent.
25 **John Bloom, Robert Smith and William Blome,** desiring them to be aiding
to my
26 said wife with the execution of this my will. Provided nevertheless, and my
will and

27 meaning is that, if my said wife shall, before she intermeddle with my
estate or the
28 probate of this my will, enter into sufficient bond with surety or sureties
such as
29 my overseers shall like of for the true payment of my debts and
performance of this
30 my will in every respect. And if she shall refuse so to do, then I make and
ordain
31 executors of this my will my said overseers before named. And then my
will is
32 that my said wife shall have only the lease of the house I dwell in and all
my household stuff
33 and stock of cattell and corn whatsoever upon the said farm. But if my said
wife
34 happen to marry or die before the expiration of the lease of the house and
farm to her
35 bequeathed, then I give the same lease to my son Henry Sisley if he shall
then be
36 living or otherwise among my said daughters. Also I will that my overseers
37 shall have and take into their hands all my said children's portions, they
giving my
38 wife such allowance out of the benefit thereof arising as they shall think fit,
so

39 long as my said wife shall keep and bring up my said children. And the
residue of
40 the profit arising out of my said children's portions, I desire my said
overseers
41 that the same may be employed towards the increase of their portions
respectively.
42 And touching the disposition of my tenements in Sevenoaks aforesaid, I
will that
43 my said wife shall have the same during her life (if she so long remain sole
and
44 unmarried, and after her decease or marriage, which shall first happen) I
give the
45 same to my son Henry Sisley and his heirs for ever. In witness whereof I
46 have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year first above written.
Edward
47 Sisley. Signed, sealed and delivered to be the last will and testament of
the
48 said Edward Sisley in the presence of us **George Giffard, William Broome.**
49 The mark of **William Long.**

Wills of the Smiths of Sevenoaks

Two wills proved at the Deanery of Shoreham have survived for Smiths from Sevenoaks:

	written:	proved:		
Percival Smith	2 Jul 1616	30 Apr 1617	CKS: Prs/w/14/212	S.52
John Smith	16 Jun 1630	5 Jul 1630	CKS: Prs/w/14/250	S.56

The nuncupative will of Richard Smith proved at the PCC, in 1628, has also survived (PCC: Barrington 66) but it has not been investigated. There is nothing to connect Percival, John and Richard together.

The will of Percival Smith was written by William Gibson as was also that of Thomas Wylde; both include the phrase "[crazy in body](#)" (spelled crasy) at the beginning which has not been met elsewhere. The will of John Smith, the elder, was written by William Turnar, vicar of Sevenoaks.

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Percival Smythe of Sevenoaks in the county of
Kent, **yeoman**,
2 crazy and weak in body but yet of good and perfect remembrance, thanks
be given unto almighty
3 god therefore, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in
manner and form
4 following: **First** and principally, I give and bequeath my soul into the
hands of almighty
5 god and my body to the earth from whence it came in an assured hope of a
joyful resur
6 rection unto life everlasting. And for and concerning the disposition of
such ??
7 goods as god of his goodness hath blessed me withall, I do give and
bequeath them
8 in manner and form following: **First**: I give and bequeath unto the poor
9 of Sevenoaks ten shillings to be distributed unto them by mine executor
hereafter
10 named, at the time of my burial. **Item**: I give and bequeath unto **my**
daughter,

11 **Rose Apsley**, forty shillings to be paid unto her within one year next after
my
12 decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my daughter, ?? Vane and ??**²⁵²
13 **her daughter**, five shillings a piece. To be also paid unto them within one
year
14 next after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Richard Johnson**
and
15 **Elizabeth Johnson**, children of **Thomas Johnson**, glazier, deceased, and
unto **Mary**
16 **Hayley**, daughter of **Richard Hayley**, deceased, ten shillings a piece. To be
paid
17 unto every of them at their several ages of eighteen years. **Item:** I give and
bequeath
18 unto **Richard Holmden**, my son-in-law, and unto **Elizabeth**, his wife, the
sum of fifteen
19 pounds of good and lawful money of England. To be paid unto them, or
either of them,
20 within two years next after the decease of me, the said Percival Smythe, at
21 or in my now dwelling house. And if default shall happen to be made of
payment

252 a crease in the will makes these names undecipherable

22 of the said sum of fifteen pounds at the time and place aforesaid, then my
will
23 and mind is that they, the said Richard Holmden and Elizabeth, his wife,
shall have,
24 hold and enjoy, for and during the term of their natural lives, and the
longest
25 liver of them, all that my tenement with th'appurtenances, now in the
tenancy and occupation
26 of **Nicholas Johnson, glazier**, as the same is now severed and divided from
the messuage
27 or house wherein I do now dwell. And all the rest and residue of all my
goods, cattalls, ??
28 chattels and debts whatsoever not before given or bequeathed, my debts
and legacies being
29 paid and funeral charge and expenses discharged, I do give and bequeath
unto ??
30 **William Smythe, my son**, whom I make and ordain the sole and only
executor of this
31 last will and testament. In witness whereof, I the said Percival Smythe,
have
32 hereunto set my hand and seal, the second day of July in the year of the
reign

33 of our sovereign Lord James, by the grace of god king of England, Scotland,
France
34 and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. viz. of England, France and Ireland
the fourteenth
35 and of Scotland the nine and fortieth, 1616²⁵³.
Percival Smith²⁵⁴

Read, sealed, delivered and published
the day and year above said in
the presence of **William Gibson, scr.**
the mark of **A Austen Floate**
Timothy Stone

253 it is unusual for the date to appear, like this, at the end of the will although it also appears, in this position, in the will of John Smith. It is at the beginning (and in abbreviated form) of the will of Thomas Wylde written 9th April 1617 which was also written by William Gibson.

254 could be a signature as could also that of the witness Timothy Stone

June 16th 1630

1 In the name of god Amen. I, John Smith th'elder of
2 the parish of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, **wheelwright**,
3 sick in body but, thanks be given to God, of good and perfect
4 memory, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in
5 manner and form following: that is to say, I do first, and be=
6 fore all things, bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty
7 god, my creator and redeemer, and into the hands of Christ Jesus,
8 my blessed and alone saviour in whom only I trust (through
9 his death and passion) to have forgiveness of sins and life everlas=
10 ting. And for my body, that I commend and bequeath to the earth
11 from whence it came, to be buried in the parish churchyard of
12 Sevenoaks aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my son, John**
13 **Smith**, the full sum of six shillings and eightpence of good and lawful
14 money, together with a broad joined table standing in the parlour
15 with two forms belonging to it, to be delivered unto
16 him by the hands of my executrix hereafter named within one month
17 after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Susan**
18 **Smith, my eldest daughter**, the full sum of ten pounds of good

19 and lawful money of England to be paid unto her, the said Susan, with
20 in one year after my decease by the hands of my executrix hereafter
21 mentioned. **Item:** I give unto **Elizabeth Smith, my daughter**, the
22 full sum of ten pounds of like lawful money to be paid unto her,
23 the said Elizabeth, by the hands of my executrix as aforesaid with
24 in the term of two years next and immediately coming after
25 my decease. **Item:** I give unto **my daughter, Ann Smith, the**
26 **youngest**, the full sum of ten pounds also of like lawful mon
27 ey of England to be paid unto her by the hands of my executrix
28 when she shall accomplish the full age of one and twenty
29 years. **Item:** all the rest of my goods and moveables and chattels
whatsoever
30 not mentioned or bequeathed in this my last will and testament,
31 my debts paid, my legacies fulfilled and my funeral duties dischar
32 ged and my body decently brought to the earth, I wholly give and bequeath
unto **my wife** whom I make
33 and appoint my full and sole executrix of this my last will and testament.
34 In witness whereof I, the said John Smith th'elder, have hereto
35 set and put my hand and seal, the sixteenth day of June A° 1630.
36 and in the sixth year of the reign of our sovereign lord Charles by the grace
37 of god, king of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith.

In the presence and witnessing
of us **William Turnar**

the mark of **J John**

Smith th'elder and

his seal

Michael Beecher

the mark of **James Beecher**

William Beecher

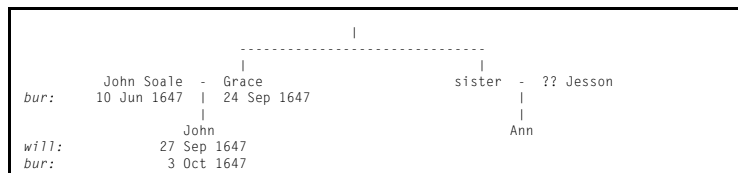
The Soales, innholders of Riverhead

The will of John Soale, innholder, (PCC: **Fines 205; Prob 11/202**) was written on 27th September 1647 and proved only a week later, on 4th October. The only relative John mentioned was his father, also John Soale, who had "[lately purchased](#)" a messuage or tenement in Chipsted which John left to be divided between his two friends. This name is spelled variously as Soale, Seale and Sole.

The will of John Soale, the elder, has survived (PCC: Fines 259); the two John Soales were most likely father and son. Since this second will was recorded in the probate book as Fines 259, compared with Fines 205, it would have been proved later than the son's will even though the son died after his father. It was written in Latin and has not been investigated. However, his executor was to have been his wife, Grace but she died before the will came to be proved so that Anne Jesson, the daughter of Grace's sister, was appointed the administrator of the will. John Jesson, the friend of John the younger, could have been Anne Jesson's father or brother.

With no close relatives to whom to leave his estate, John Soale chose as his heirs and executors two friends, John Jesson mentioned above, who was a mariner living in Redcliffe in Surrey, and Thomas Carter, a tailor from Chevening.

Although there is very little detail, one of his servants was an ostler. The parish records give the dates of the burials of John, the father and his wife Grace and of John Sole, junior, all of which occurred in less than four months:



John junior is described in his will as an innholder, his father similarly in the parish records. The inn occupied by the Soales was called the Bull; it was owned by Thomas Lock of Norfolk but, in 1635, Lock had mortgaged it to George Scott.

Will of John Soales, innholder

written 27th September 1647

transcript from probate copy

- 1 In the name of god Amen.
- 2 I, John Soale of Riverhead within the parish of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, **innholder**,

3 being sick of body but of good and perfect mind and memory do make and
devise my last will
4 and testament in manner and form following: **Imprimis**: I bequeath my soul
into the
5 hands of Almighty God who created the same and my body to the earth to
be decently interred
6 according to the discretion of my executors hereafter named in full
assurance? of a joyful resurrection
7 to life everlasting through the ?? merits of Jesus Christ, my saviour and
redeemer.
8 And touching the disposing of my worldly estate, my intent is as followeth:
Imprimis I will and
9 devise unto **my loving friends John Jesson of Redcliffe** in the county of
Surrey, mariner, and
10 **Thomas Carter of Chevening** in the county of Kent, **taylor**, and their heirs for
ever, all my
11 part and purport of and in one messuage or tenement situated in **Chipsted**
within the said parish
12 of Chevening which was lately purchased by **John Soale, my father**, of the
heirs of **Nathaniel**
13 **Bird** to be equally divided between them. **Item**: I give unto **Usibith, my**
ostler, and Goodwife Kelyer,

14 both servants in the house, twenty shillings a piece of lawful money. The
rest and residue of all and
15 singular my goods, cattell, chattels, debts and utensils whatsoever, my
debts, legacies and funeral
16 expenses first discharged, I wholly give and bequeath unto my said loving
friends John Jesson
17 and Thomas Carter to be equally divided between them, whom I make the
joint executors of this
18 my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my
hand and seal the
19 twenty seventh day of September in the three and twentieth year of his
Majesties reign, king
20 Charles over England, etc. Anno dmd. one thousand six hundred forty
seven. John Sele. Signed
21 sealed and published and delivered as his last will and testament in the
presence of me **Nicholas**
22 **Carter, Anthony Fuller, Chris. Thomas**²⁵⁵

John and Beatrix Spratt

The wills of both John Spratt, vicar of Sevenoaks, and his wife Beatrix have both survived:

	written	proved		
John Spratt	1 Jan 1613/4	5 May 1614	PCC: Lawe 36	S.67
Beatrix Spratt	21 Oct 1615	11 Apr 1616	CKS: Prs/w/14/204	S.70

Neither of their burials was recorded in the parish register and they do not seem to have had any children. The will of Beatrix Spratt was written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618.

John Spratt, vicar

John Spratt was installed as vicar on 21st February 1583/4 with his successor, William Turner, being installed on 28th April 1614²⁵⁶, a week before his will was proved but nearly four months after it was written.

John's will includes some latin phrases at the beginning of his will which, since there are no witnesses, he may have written himself. He left legacies totalling about £110 to a number of relations, about £45 to be paid within six months of his decease and the rest as his nieces and Sara Rosen reached the age of twenty-one:

256 John Rooker: Parish Church of Sevenoaks; Sevenoaks 1910

Table S.2: John Spratt's Monetary Legacies

To :		
poor people of Sevenoaks	£5	within 1 month of John's decease
Robert Spratt, cousin	£5	
Margaret and Anne: daughters of Uncle William children of Jane Spilsted, cousin Agnes Hasell, sister of Jane Spilsted cousin Medkin	£5 each 10s each £3 £4	} within 6 months } of John's } decease }
Elizabeth, sister Debbora, Elizabeth and Marie, her daughters Sara Rosen	40s £15 each £20	} } at age 21 }
Jone Fuller	£20	within 6 months of John's decease

John Spratt's executor and main heir was Edward Sisley whose will has survived (see above). After the death of Beatrix, Edward was to inherit John's:

- messuage in Sevenoaks with its gardens and appurtenances
- tenements in Kemsing and Seal
- an annuity of three pounds a year "arising out of the lands of William Porter in Seal".

John also had money due to him on bonds and bills which Edward Sisley was to receive but he had to deliver at least part of this money to Beatrix. will has survived.

Beatrix Spratt and Sarah Rosen

Beatrix also left money to the Rosen family: 20s each to Stephen, Cicelie and Helen (brother and sisters) and from her will we learn that Sara Rosen was her "late servant" whom Beatrix had "brought up as a child" and, "in regard of her long and dutiful service to me done before (Sara's) marriage" to William Bostock, Beatrix made William her executor. Was Sara sister to the other Rosens and did Beatrix and John bring up the whole family?

Having appointed Sara Rosen's husband her executor, Beatrix appointed Edward Sisley, together with Richard Thornton, weaver, her overseers and supervisors. The Thorntons were another family closely connected, either by marriage or friendship, with John and Beatrix. Francis Thorton was Beatrix's goddaughter and her brother, John, was John's godson; these were presumably Richard's children.

Will of John Spratt

written 1st January 1613/4
transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 The first day of January one thousand, six hundred and
3 thirteen. I, John Spratt, **vicar of Sevenoaks** in the county
4 of Kent, being in perfect mind and memory do ordain and
5 make my last will and testament in manner and form following:
6 **First:** I render up my soul to god which he, of his goodness,
7 gave unto me, being assured of my salvation by Jesus Christ
8 quia in te solo Domine speravi non confundar in eternum, and
9 my body I commit to the earth Donec Veniet Redemptor meus.
10 And as touching such worldly goods as the Lord hath blessed
11 me withall, I dispose them as followeth **Item:** I give to the poor

people of Sevenoaks aforesaid five pounds of current english money to be distributed among them by my executor within one month after my decease. **Item:** I give to **my cousin Robert Spratt** five pounds. **Item:** I give to **Margaret and Anne, my uncle William, his daughters**, unto each of them five pounds of like money to be paid within six months after my decease. **Item:** I give to **the children of my cousin Jane Spilsted**, to each of them ten shillings a piece to be paid as aforesaid. **Item:** I give to my **cousin Agnes Hasell, her sister**, three pounds to be paid as aforesaid. **Item:** I give to **my cousin Medkin** four pounds to be paid as aforesaid. **Item:** I give to **my sister Elizabeth** forty shillings. **Item:** I give to **Debbora, Elizabeth and Marie, her daughters**, to each of them fifteen pounds to be paid at their several ages of one and twenty years and a bond to receive thereon five pounds a piece. **Item:** I give to **Beatrix, my wife**, my household stuff and moveable goods. And after her decease the same to remain to **Sara Rosen and Jone Fuller** equally to be divided between them. **Item:** I will that Beatrix, my wife, shall during her natural life or widowhood enjoy the rents of my houses and annual rents of my annuity or mortgages. **Item:** I give to Sara Rosen twenty pounds to be paid at the one and twenty years of her age. **Item:** I give unto Jone Fuller twenty pounds to be paid her within six months after my decease. **Item:** I give to **John**

35 **Fosbrooke** all my books. **Item:** touching my lands and tenements, I dispose
of them
36 in this manner. **Item:** I give to **Edward Sisley** my messuage in Sevenoaks
37 with the gardens and appurtenances thereto belonging which I purchased
38 of **Edward Watkin** to remain to him, his heirs and assigns, for ever
39 after the decease of Beatrix, my wife. I give to the said Edward
40 Sisley my tenement in **Kemsing** and another tenement in **Seal** and one
41 annuity of three pounds a year arising out of the lands of **William**
42 **Porter in Seal** aforesaid to remain to him, his heirs and assigns,
43 for ever, after the decease of Beatrix, my wife. **Item:** all such sums
44 of money as are due unto me on bonds or bills shall be received by
45 my executor and the ?? thereof he shall deliver to Beatrix, my
46 wife. **Item:** I ordain Edward Sisley, above named, my sole executor
47 of this my last will whom I appoint to pay all the former
48 legacies and to disburse all things concerning my funeral and
49 probate of my testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto
50 set my hand and seal and do declare this my last will the
51 day and year above written. By me John Spratt²⁵⁷.

257 there do not appear to have been any witnesses

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

- 1 **In the name of god Amen**²⁵⁸. The One and twentieth day of October in the
year
2 of our Lord God one thousand, six hundredth and fifteen and in the
thirteenth year of the Reign
3 of our Sovereign Lord James, by the grace of God, king of England, France
and Ireland, defender
4 of the faith, etc. And of Scotland the nine and fortieth. **I, Beatrix Spratt**, of
Sevenoaks
5 in the county of Kent, **widow**, being at the time of making hereof in
reasonable good health, as well of body
6 as of mind, I thank my lord God therefore, notwithstanding aged and
subject to many infirmities and

258 This corner of the will is difficult to read on the film but the "I" looks to be decorated and there is definitely the
Hooper "mark" at the top.

7 thereby put in mind of my last end, knowing most assuredly that I shall
change this life by death but
8 the time thereof being altogether uncertain and willing that the portion of
those little goods which I enjoy
9 here for a season may be quietly enjoyed after my decease by those whom I
have meant the same unto,
10 therefore I do ordain and make this my present testament and last will in
manner and form following:
11 And **First** and principally I give, commend and bequeath my Soul into the
hands of Almighty God who
12 gave it me, trusting that, by the merit, precious death and blood
shedding²⁵⁹ of his dear son Jesus Christ,
13 that the same shall be present pure before the throne of his majesty, and
my body to the earth from
14 whence it came, to be buried in the churchyard of Sevenoaks aforesaid in
sure and certain hope of
15 a joyful resurrection to life eternal. **Item:** I will there shall be given and
bestowed at my burial,
16 among the poor of Sevenoaks, twenty shillings to be distributed by mine
Executor and Overseers

259 "bludshedding"

17 hereafter named, at their discretion. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Stephen**
18 **Rosen** twenty shillings.
19 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Cicelie Rosen, his sister**, other 20s and a pair
20 of Sheets.
21 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Helen Rosen, his sister**, other 20s and a pair
22 of Sheets and a little flockbed
23 withall things thereunto belonging. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Francis**
24 **Thornton, my goddaughter**, a chest
25 and a pair of Sheets. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **John Thornton, her**
26 **brother, my late husband's godson**,
five shillings. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Elizabeth Jennings, my late**
husband's sister, a little flockbed,
a pair of Sheets and a Coverlet. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Henry Sisley,**
son of **Edward Sisley**,
mine Overseer hereafter named, ten shillings.
The²⁶⁰ Residue of all my goods and cattels, debts, bills, bonds, pawnes²⁶¹
and all other my
moveable goods whatsoever, I wholly, fully and with good effect, intent
and purpose, give and bequeath

260 decorated "Th"

261 things deposited as security for payment?

27 to **William Bostock**, now husband unto my late servant, **Sara Rosen**, whom
I brought up of a
28 child in regard of her long and dutiful service to me done before her
marriage. Which William
29 Bostock I make and ordain my whole and sole Executor of this my will, to
see the same proved
30 and my body honestly and decently buried. **And I** desire my honest
neighbours and trusty
31 friends **Edward Sisley**, yeoman and **Richard Thornton**, weaver, to be
Supervisors and
32 Overseers of this my will. To whom I give, as a token of my goodwill, to
either of them
33 20s a piece besides their necessary expenses about this my will to be laid
out. **In witness**
34 whereof to this my last will, I, the said Beatrix Spratt, have set my hand
and seal
35 yeven the day and year first above written.

Nicholas Hooper's
mark
with initials

Read, Sealed and acknowledged
as the true and last will
of the said Beatrix Spratt
in the presence of me, **Nicolas Hooper, sen.**
writer hereof and of
Edward Sislye²⁶² and
John Haynes
the mark of **I H** John
Haynes

the mark of Beatrix
Spratt

Martha Stanford's Bequests

Martha Stanford (will CKS:Prs/w/15/21) wanted to be buried in the church of Thissleworth in Middlesex "as near the place where my mother was buried in the same church as conveniently may be". This must have been a good thirty miles from Sevenoaks; how would the body have been transported? On a horse? In a cart? Because she did not intend to be buried at Sevenoaks, she left her "loving friend Mr. William Turner, vicar of Sevenoaks" twenty shillings.

She had a large number of "cousins" to whom she left bequests (amounts under five pounds were given in shillings):

Mrs Margaret Bromfield, wife of Edward Bromfield, Esq.,	for a gold ring	£ 5
Mr. John Bromfield, son of Edward Bromfield	a small silver cup	
Mrs. Anne Austin, widow		£10
William Austin, son of William Austin, Esquire, deceased		10s
Mrs. Mary Carleton, wife of Anthony Carleton, gent., deceased		£10
Margaret Carleton		£ 2
Margaret Fisher, wife of Thomas Fisher		£25
Elizabeth Fisher, daughter of Margaret Fisher	a ring	
Mary Fisher, daughter of Margaret Fisher	a ring	

Johan Allestree, wife of Richard Allestree	£25
Margaret Whitehead, wife of Thomas Whitehead	£ 5
Martha Whitehead, her goddaughter, daughter of Thomas Whitehead	£ 2
Audrian Whitehead*, son of Thomas Whitehead	£ 1
Anne Whitehead*, daughter of Thomas Whitehead	£ 1
Daniel Newman	£ 2
Anne Bett	£ 2
Mary Coxe, wife of William Coxe	10s
Anthony Coxe*, her godson, son of Mary Coxe	£ 1

Total	£92

* under twenty one when the will was written, i.e. May 1635

When the will was originally written on 18th May 1635, Anthony Carleton was appointed the executor but he died sometime between March and September 1638 and, on 19th September 1638, the will was amended making Carleton's widow, Mary, the executrix. All the changes can be seen on the original will but line 51, regarding his servants, was not changed (presumably an oversight although they would then have been the servants of his widow). As a result of this change, Mary, in addition to the £10 given above, was to receive Martha's "[great gold ring with the death's head upon it](#)" and all the rest of her money, goods, chattels, household stuff and personal estate which would have gone to Anthony if he had lived. The will was eventually proved on 27th April 1640.

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Martha Stanford of Sevenoaks
2 in the county of Kent, **widow**, on the eighteenth day of May Anno diem
1635 And
3 in the eleventh year of the reign of our Sovereign lord Charles, by the grace
4 of God, king of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the
faith,
5 etc. being of good and perfect memory, thanks be given to Almighty god,
make
6 and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following:
7 **First:** as a true ?? of the ??²⁶² body of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
8 I do, with a free heart and willing mind, render and give again into the
9 hands of my lord god and creator, my spirit, nothing doubting but for
10 his infinite mercies set forth in the precious blood of his dearly beloved
11 son Jesus Christ, my Redeemer, he will receive my soul into his glory
12 and place it in the heavenly company of his holy angels. Not for any

13 ??²⁶³ of mine but of his ?? mercy and favour unto me. For my
14 body I refer the same to the earth from whence it came. And that my
15 executrix hereafter named would bury me in the **Church of Thissleworth**
16 in the county of **Midd.** as near the place where my mother was buried
17 in the same church as conveniently may be. And I give to the poor of
18 the parish of Thissleworth aforesaid, to be there distributed amongst them,
the
19 day of my burial, or at some short time after at the discretion of my
20 executrix, the sum of five pounds. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto my
21 **loving cousin Mrs Margaret Bromfield, wife of Edward Bromfield, Esq.,** the
sum of five pounds
22 to buy her a gold ring. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my cousin**
23 **Mr. John Bromfield, son of the said Edward Bromfield, Esquire,** my
24 small silver cup. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my loving cousin, Mrs.**
Anne
25 **Austin, widow,** the sum of ten pounds. **Item:** I give and bequeath
26 unto **my loving cousin and executrix, Mrs. Mary Carleton, wife of Anthony**
Carleton,
27 **gent.,** deceased, the sum of ten pounds. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
my
28 **loving cousin Margaret Fisher, wife of Thomas Fisher,** five and twenty

263 "merit" would be expected here but it looks more like "select"

page 2:

29 pounds to be paid within six months next after my decease if she be then
living. **Item:**
30 I give and bequeath unto **my loving cousin Johan Allestree, wife of**
31 **Richard Allestree**, the sum of five and twenty pounds to be paid unto
32 her within six months next after my decease. **Item:** I give and
33 bequeath unto **my cousin Margaret Whitehead, wife of Thomas**
34 **Whitehead**, the sum of five pounds to be paid her within six months
35 next after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my goddaughter,**
36 **Martha Whitehead, daughter of the said Thomas Whitehead**, the sum of
37 forty shillings to be paid her within half a year next after my decease.
38 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Audrian Whitehead and Anne Whitehead,**
39 **son and daughter of the said Thomas Whitehead**, twenty shillings
40 a piece to be paid unto them at their several ages of one and twenty
41 years or days of their marriages which shall first happen. **Item:** I
42 give and bequeath unto **Daniel Newman, Anne Bett and Margaret**
43 **Carleton, my cousins**, to every of them forty shillings. **Item:** I give
44 and bequeath unto **Mary Coxe, wife of William Coxe**, the sum of ten
45 shillings. And to **her son, Anthony Coxe, my godson**, the sum of twenty
46 shillings to be paid him at his age of one and twenty years. **Item:** I
47 I give and bequeath unto such my maid servant as shall be dwelling
48 with me at the time of my decease the sum of forty shillings to be
49 paid her presently after my decease and also the bed and bedding

50 thereunto appertaining whereon my maid servant usually lyeth.
51 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the servants of my cousin, Mr Anthony
52 Carleton, which shall be dwelling with him at the time of my decease,
53 to every of them ten shillings. **Item:** I give and bequeath to my said
54 **cousin Fisher's two daughters videlt Elizabeth and Mary**, to either
55 of them a ring of gold, one a hoop ring with a death's head
56 within it and the other the picture of death upon it, the eldest to have her
choice. **Item:** I give and
57 bequeath unto **my loving friend Mr. William Turner, vicar of**
58 **Sevenoaks aforesaid**, the sum of twenty shillings because I
59 intend not to be buried at Sevenoaks aforesaid. **Item:** I give

page 3:

60 and bequeath unto **my cousin William Austin, son of William Austin,**
61 **Esquire**, deceased, ten shillings. **Item:** I do make and ordain my
62 **loving cousin Mary Carleton, late wife of Mr. Anthony Carleton** before
named, my sole and
63 only executrix of this my last will and testament and I do
64 renounce and revoke all former wills by me at any time and
65 heretofore made. And I do give and bequeath unto the said
66 Mary Carleton, my said executrix, my great gold ring with the death's
67 head upon it. And all other the money, goods, chattels, household stuff
68 and personal estate whatsoever of me, the said Martha Stanford.

69 And I do earnestly request and desire the said Mary Carleton,
70 my said executrix, to see this my last will and testament in all
71 things performed and me decently buried in the said parish church
72 of Thissleworth as aforesaid. In witness whereof I, the said Martha
73 Stanford, to this my last will (containing two sheets and a half
74 of paper) have put my hand and seal dated the day and year first
75 above written

signed, sealed, published
declared in the presence of

Marther Stanford²⁶⁴

Richard Base
James Austin
Nicholas Spabble?

19th September 1638

?? that Mary, the widow of Anthony Carleton
was named by the said Martha Stanford executrix
and Anne Merriman made Anne Bett²⁶⁵

264 looks like a signature

265 Anne Bett is on line 42 - probably Anne Newman had married after the original will was written; the change can be seen on the original will.

T

Stephen Theobald					T.3
Theobald, Stephen	1631	PCC: St. John	107		
Richard Thomas's Extended Family					T.6
Thomas, Richard	1615	CKS: Prs/w/16/142			T.8
Jylbert, John	1621	PCC: St. John	79	gent.	T.13
Abraham Tomlin and his mother, Agnes Wimble					T.19
Tomlin, Abraham	1648	PCC: Essex	79	millar	T.20
Wimble, Agnes	1637	CKS: Prs/w/17/165		widow	T.22
Robert Tottisherst, gentleman					T.24
Tottisherst, Robert	1512	PCC: Fetiplace	8	.	T.27

The Turners of Sevenoaks				T.33
William Turner, vicar				T.35
Turner, Richard	1634	CKS: Prs/w/16/161		T.37
John Turner of Weald				T.38
Turner, John	1636/7	CKS: Prs/w/16/164		T.39
William Turner, baker				T.42
Turner, William	1638	CKS: Prs/w/16/166	baker	T.44
Children of Francis Turner				T.48
Children of William Turner				T.48
John Turner, citizen and skinner of London				T.50
Turner, John	1644/5	PCC: Rivers	33	T.55
Thomas Turner, Esquire				T.65
Turner, Thomas	1649	PCC: Fairfax	156	T.68

Stephen Theobald

It is likely that Stephen Theobald was a descendant of the John Tebold of Seal who died in 1501 leaving a shop in the market of Sevenoaks. John had a large number of children, many of whom went on to have large families and the name, which in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries was written as Tebold of Tybold, had generally become Theobald by the seventeenth century.

Stephen's will (PCC: St. John 107; Prob 11/160) was; from its shortness, probably written in a hurry when Stephen was on his deathbed particularly since the date given for probate was only two days later.

1 In the name of god Amen. October
2 third, I, Stephen Theobald of Sevenoaks²⁶⁶, make my last will and
testament as follows:
3 **Imprimis:** I give and bequeath to **Mary, my wellbeloved wife**, all my estate
of lands in
4 Seal or elsewhere for and during her natural life. And after her decease to
my daughter,
5 **Kathern Theobald** and to her heirs lawfully begotten for ever. **Item:** my will
is that my
6 daughter Kathern shall have out of my whole estate aforesaid the sum of
two hundred
7 pounds at the age of eighteen years or the day of her marriage, which shall
first happen, to be
8 paid at the discretion of my two feoffees **George Blome and William Blome**
of Sevenoaks out of my whole estate.
9 And I give to them and to my wife full power to sell any parcel of my lands
for this purpose.

266 "Senoke"

10 And I appoint Mary, my wellbeloved wife, the sole executor of this my last
will. In witness
11 whereof I have put my hand to theis putes October third one thousand six
hundred
12 thirty one. Stephen Theobald, his hand. Teste **Robert Brownell**²⁶⁷, **George
Bloome**

²⁶⁷ probably the scriptor

Richard Thomas's Extended Family

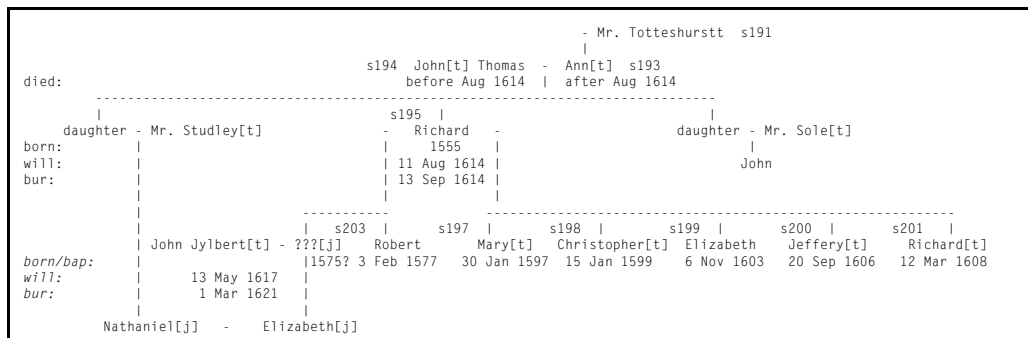
From their wills, John Jylbert, gentleman, was the son-in-law of Richard Thomas so that both are considered here. From them the relationships between the Thomases and Jylberts and also the Studleys, seem very complicated. In 1614, John Jylbert's wife was Richard Thomas's daughter and, by 1617, their daughter was married to Nathaniel Studley. "[Robert, son of Richard Thomas](#)" was baptised on 3rd February 1577. Richard's daughter must have been born before Robert in order to have had a daughter old enough to be married by 1617.

Twenty years after Robert's baptism, Richard Thomas started another family with five children being baptised between 1597 and 1608, four of whom he mentioned in his will, the youngest being only six when his father died. It is thus likely that Richard married twice (see below for a tree of these families).

Richard refers to his "[loving brother-in-law, Mr. Studley](#)" with Nathaniel Studley one of the witnesses to his will. He also mentions another brother-in-law, Mr. Sole

Richard also mentions a grandfather, Mr. Totteshurst, and his mother, Ann, was still alive in 1614. With a daughter born in 1575, Richard must have been born

about 1550 and Ann about 1530; she could have been a granddaughter of the Robert Tottisherst whose will of 1512 has survived. By 1614 when her son Richard died, Ann must have been at least in her early eighties..



- [t] - mentioned in the will of Richard Thomas; John Jylbert was his executor
- [j] - mentioned in the will of John Jylbert; Nathaniel Studley was his executor

In 1617, when John wrote his will, his wife, Alice, was to be allowed to “[peaceably and quietly have, take and carry away all such goods and implements and household stuff as were her own at the time of her enter-marriage and to dispose of them at her own pleasure](#)”. This phraseology is used generally when the testator had married relatively recently so that Richard Thomas’s daughter may have died soon after Richard and John Jylbert could then have married Alice.

In addition to Nathaniel Studely, John mentions another son-in-law, Nicholas Rootes, but does not mention a second daughter. Nicholas could have been Alice's son by a first marriage and therefore John's stepson.

Nathaniel was appointed his father-in-law's executor; he could have been the son of Mr. Studley

Will of Richard Thomas

written 11th August 1614; proved 13th October 1615
transcript from original

The film of this will (CKS: Prs/w/16/142) is very dark at the top and right-hand side and is therefore difficult to read. "[Richard Thomas, householder](#)" was buried 13th September 1614.

1 . .
2 . .
3 in the county of Kent, being sick of body but . .
4 . .
5 to be buried at the discretion of my executors hereafter named. **Item:** . .
6 Sevenoaks 20s to be distributed at my burial. **Item:** I will that my executors
. .

7 convenient time after my death sell so much and such of my goods . .
8 sum meet for the speedy payment and discharge of all such debts as . .
9 debts paid they raise out of my said personal estate, by sale thereof, the
sum . .
10 year unto **my daughter, Mary Thomas**, which I request my executors by the
devise of this my
11 will to dispose of to the best benefit they can and that the whole profit . .
12 wise for as long as may said daughter shall remain under her mother's
guardianship
13 . . to marry during her mother's life, my will is there be ?? paid unto her
14 *(line on the crease unreadable)*
15 and unmarried. And if my said wife shall marry, I will that the . .
16 to my said daughter. And I also will that if my said daughter shall depart
from . .
17 before her marriage, that then she have the one half of the profits of the . .
18 **Item:** I give unto **my loving brother-in-law, Mr. Studley**, 40s to make him a
ring . .
19 ?? And I will that all the residue of my goods, cattle, chattels and
household stuff . .
20 and legacies aforesaid paid and levied, be equally parted and delivered
between my . .
21 **three sons**, part and part alike. And if my wife shall desire to have any of
my household stuff . .

22 will is that she have the same, so ?? only as shall amount to her fourth
part . .
23 three sons. And my will is that my three sons part of my goods so
remaining . .
24 in stock for and towards their education and preferment equally as in the
good discretion of my executors and
25 overseers hereafter named shall seem meet. And I ordain executors of this
my will my son-in-
26 law **Mr John Jylbert** and **my loving cousin Edward Thomas the younger**.
And I give . .
27 40s to make them rings withall. And I do ?? overseers hereof **my loving**
brother-in-law ??
28 **Sole** and **my loving cousin Trusterham Thomas** and I give to either of them
20s. And I . .
29 said brother-in-law Mr. Sole to entertain into his service **my son**
Christopher Thomas²⁶⁸ so soon as he shall . .
30 for the service as he hath afore promised me to do. And touching the
disposition of . .
31 tenements, I, the said Richard Thomas, do make and ordain my last will
and testament as follows: . .

268 When John Soale (or Sole), probably the son of Richard's cousin, wrote his will in 1647, a Christopher Thomas was one of the witnesses (see *soasev.will*)

32 give unto **my loving mother Ann Thomas** one annuity of three pounds
during her life, to be paid . .
33 quarterly by equal portions out of all my lands and tenements in
Chevening and Sevenoaks in the . .
34 out of only my three sons lands (to them by this my will given) 20s yearly.
And I will that for none
35 payment thereof she shall distrain respectively upon the premises charged
therewith, the first payment
36 to begin the first quarterday of the 4 most usual feasts of payment in the
year next after my decease.
37 And I give and devise to my loving wife the one moiety of all my lands and
tenements during . .
38 committing no strip nor waste thereupon nor upon any part thereof. And
upon condition that . .
39 and leave of her jointure made to her before ?? enter marriage of two
tenements in **Chipsted**. And . .
40 the moiety thereof as of my other lands. **Item:** I give and devise unto
Christopher, my eldest son,
41 and his heirs, all my lands and tenements which I purchased of **Robert**
Wybourne (except the **Smythes Forge**
42 the three parcels of land called **East Ewes als. Twes** and the **Swyre** holden
of the . .)

43 **Item:** I give unto **Jeffrey, my second son**, and his heirs the said Smythes
Forge and the . . .
44 land before excepted. And the two tenements in Chipsted with their
appurtenances before mentioned to be
45 paid in jointure to my said wife which were **my grandfather's Mr.**
Totteshurst. Item: I give unto **Richard**,
46 **my third son**, and his heirs, all those lands with their appurtenances which
descended or . . .
47 after the death of **John Thomas, my father**. And all that croft of land which
I purchased of . . .
48 lying at **Bessels in Chevening**. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my
hand and seal the
49 day and year first above written.
Read, signed, sealed, delivered
and published the 11th Richard Thomas
day of August Ao dm
1614 in the presence of
Ralph Rand and Nathaniel Studley²⁶⁹
Will Richardson and Richard ??

1 In the name of god Amen. The
2 thirteenth day of May Ao 1617, I, John Jylbert of Sevenoaks in the county
3 of Kent, gent., being in good health and perfect memory, thanks be given to
God
4 therefore, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner
and
5 form following: **First** and before all things I will and bequeath my soul unto
6 Almighty God, my heavenly father who gave it me. And to Jesus Christ,
his
7 only son, my saviour and redeemer, by whose merits and precious blood
shedding
8 I hope to be saved and have eternal life. And by no other means or ways.
Secondly
9 I will my body to the earth from whence it came in an assured hope of a
joyful
10 resurrection unto eternal life. **Item:** I give unto the poor of the parish of
Sevenoaks
11 forty shillings to be distributed amongst them by my executor hereafter
named

12 in the day of my burial. And also twenty shillings to the poor of the parish
of
13 **Chevening** to be distributed amongst them by my executor within twenty
14 days next after my decease. **Item:** my mind and will is that **Alice Jylbert,**
my
15 **loving wife**, if she shall happen to survive me, shall and may peaceably and
16 quietly have, take and carry away all such goods and implements and
household
17 stuff as were her own at the time of her entermarriage and to dispose of
them
18 at her own pleasure. **Item:** I give unto the said Alice, my wife, a gilt salt
with a
19 cover, one dozen of silver spoons with square knobs at the end and all
other my
20 silver spoons (saving my thirteen apostle spoons) with one great beer bowl
21 of silver and one little drinking pot of silver. **Item:** I give unto the said
Alice, my
22 wife, the one half of all my bedsteads, beds, bedding and furniture to them.
And
23 the one half of all my linen, brass and pewter. And the rest and residue of
all
24 my goods, plate, corn and cattalls, I do give and bequeath unto **Nathaniel**
Studley,

25 my son-in-law, whom I do make and ordain full and sole executor of this
my last
26 will and testament. And whereas I stand bound to pay five hundred
pounds where
27 my said wife shall appoint within six months next after my decease, if my
said
28 son Studley shall not pay the sum within the time limited or otherwise take
29 order for the payment thereof, having reasonable warning, then I do, by
virtue of
30 this my will, give full power and authority to the **right Wor. Sir Arthur
Harris,**

page 2:

31 **knight**, and **Nicholas Roots**, my son-in-law, of **Maryfield** in the county of
Sussex, gent.
32 to sell the farm wherein **Richard Lawrence** now dwelleth called **Randalls**
lying in the
33 parish of **Sundridge** and so much of my other lands which I did buy of
William Meysen, Esq.
34 lying in the said parish of Sundridge as shall raise and make up the said
sum of five
35 hundred pounds to the use of my said wife and her assigns. And further
my will and mind

36 is that my said wife shall have and enjoy the lands called **Locks Bottom in**
37 **Sevenoaks** which
38 I lately purchased of **John Masters, mercer**, during such time as she shall
39 dwell in Sevenoaks,
40 paying no rent for the same and committing no waste. **Item:** I give and
41 bequeath unto **Anthony**
42 **Gregory**, gent., for term of his natural life, one annuity of twenty shillings to
43 be
44 yearly issuing and going out of the lands which I did buy of William
45 Meysen before
46 named, payable and to be paid yearly unto the said Anthony Gregory and
his assigns at
the feast of St. Michael Th'archangel. And my will is that for non payment
of the said
annuity by the space of fourteen days next after the feast day aforesaid, it
shall and
may be lawful for the said Anthony Gregory to distreign upon the said
lands
purchased of the said William Meysen. And for and concerning the
disposition of all my lands
and tenements in Sundridge aforesaid with their appurtenances, the said
sum of five hundred

47 pounds being satisfied to my said wife or her assigns according to the true
intent of this my
48 will, I give and bequeath the same unto my said son-in-law Nathaniel and
my
49 **daughter, Elizabeth**, his wife, and to the heirs of the said Nathaniel for
ever. And I
50 give and devise my lands and tenements which my said wife holdeth for
term of her life after the
51 decease of my said wife and all other my lands and tenements whatsoever
with their appurtenances
52 in the said county of Kent unto my said son Nathaniel Studley and
Elizabeth, his
53 wife, and to the heirs of their two bodies lawfully begotten. And for default
of such is
54 to the right heirs of me, the said John Jylbert, for ever. In witness whereof
I, the said
55 John Jylbert, have unto this my last will and testament (revoking all former
wills by
56 me made) set my hand and seal the seven and twentieth of February in the
year of
57 our lord god one thousand, six hundred and twenty. Read, signed, sealed
and delivered

58 in the presence of **William Turner, Raphe Roots**. Declared the second time
as the act and deed
59 of Mr. John Jylbert with his own hand as before in the presence of William
Turner,
60 Raphe Roots, **Roger Gybbins**.

Abraham Tomlin and his mother, Agnes Wimble

The will of Abraham Tomlin, miller, was written on 4th February 1639/40; no burial was recorded in Sevenoaks but it was not until eight years later that the will was proved.

Agnes Wimble, widow, whose will of 1637 has survived, had four children, William, Leonard, Margaret and Abraham Tomlin, presumably from an earlier marriage. Just before she died she divided her goods between them hoping "[that her will would be sufficient having so divided the goods with her own hands, her children would agree lovingly and friendly about them](#)".

There were Tomlyns in Seal and, on 28th January 1594, William Tomlyn married Agnes Masters who had been baptised on 30th January 1567. Three children were baptised in Seal, William, Robert and Leonard but Robert died as an infant. No burial was recorded in Seal for Agnes's husband but the family could have moved, perhaps to Sevenoaks, before completing their family. Since Abraham mentions brothers William and Leonard and a sister Margaret, it would seem that he was the son of Agnes Wimble, widow, who was thus sixty-four when she died. Her will is included here..

Abraham, like his mother, has been included in the Seal database and they have been indexed under “Tomlyn”. See also [Tomlyn in Families & Transcripts](#). The will of William Wimble written in March 1629 and proved 1630 has survived. It is possible that William was Agnes’s second husband - see [Wimble](#).

Will of Abraham Tomlin, miller

written 4th February 1639/40; proved 10th May 1648

transcript from probate copy

- 1 In the name of god Amen.
- 2 I, Abraham Tomlin of Sevenoaks, **miller**, being sick
- 3 in body but of sound and perfect memory (thanks be given to Almighty
- 4 God) do
- 5 make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form
- 6 following:
- 7 viz. **First:** I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my maker,
- 8 hoping
- 9 assuredly for pardon and remission of all my sins by the merits and
- 10 satisfaction of Jesus
- 11 Christ, my redeemer. And my body to be buried at the discretion of mine
- 12 executrix hereafter
- 13 named. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my brother William Tomlin**, twelve
- 14 pence of

9 lawful english money. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my brother Leonard Tomlin**
10 twelve pence of like lawful english money. The residue of all my goods,
cattell,
11 and chattels, my debts paid and funeral expenses discharged, I give and
bequeath
12 unto **my sister Margaret Tomlin** whom I do hereby make full and sole
executrix of
13 this my last will and testament, utterly revoking and renouncing all former
wills
14 and testaments whatsoever by me heretofore made. In witness whereof
15 I have hereunto set my hand and seal the fourth day of February in the
fifteenth
16 year of the reign of our sovereign Lord Charles, by the grace of God king of
17 England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. Anno
domum one
18 thousand six hundred thirty nine. Abraham Tomlin, his mark. Sealed,
signed
19 and declared in the presence of **William Moore, Samuel Mastar**

1 The words ?? **widow**, Agnes Wimble spoke in her sickness
2 and a little before her death concerning the disposition
3 of all her goods and chattels in the hearing of **Alice**
4 **Master, widow, and Margaret Tomlin**, earnestly
5 desiring the said Alice Masters to take special notice
6 what her will was and the best care she could
7 for the performance thereof.

8 **First** she said her will was that **her son William Tomlin**
9 should have a charger, a platter and one pair of sheets which
10 also she showed and laid together with her own hands in
11 the presence of the persons above named.

12 Then she said her will was that **her son Leonard Tomlin**
13 should have two pewter platters which she also took
14 and set together as before.

15 Then she said again that **her daughter Margaret Tomlin**
16 should have three pairs of sheets, a fine tablecloth,

17 a dozen of napkins, three pewter platters and a charger,
18 showing and laying the same together and also
19 twenty nobles in money to be paid unto her by her
20 **son Abraham Tomlin** within one year next after her
21 decease.

22 Lastly she said that her will and full intent was that her
23 son, Abraham Tomlin should have all the rest of her goods
24 chattels, moveable and whatsoever else was hers in
25 regard she owed him six pounds and that he was to be
26 at a great deal of charge about her; and added that
27 she did hope that her will would be sufficient having
28 so divided the goods with her own hands, her children
29 would agree lovingly and friendly about them

These words were spoken and the goods divided
and put in several places by the said Agnes
Wimble the last day of January 1636
signum

Alice **A** Masters, wid.

Robert Tottisherst, gentleman

Robert's will (**PCC: Fetiplace 8; Prob 11/17**), written on 12th December 1512, shows that he lived in a luxurious house. In addition to a large number of items from the house, his wife, Alice, was to have all his land in Chevening and Otford during the rest of her life. Robert had two sons, Robert and Richard (who was his executor) and two daughters. The daughters were left £20 each for their marriages but if this was not paid Robert's feoffees were to sell a piece of land in Sevenoaks and two shops in the market place of Sevenoaks and all his lands in Meopham which he expected to provide the required £40.

The household items which Alice was to inherit:

all his rings and one flat piece of silver
one goblet of silver parcel gilt, the best maser of parcel gilt with its cover

the best featherbed and mattress, the third featherbed and
mattress
the best counterpane, one pair of fustian²⁷⁰ blankets and another
blanket

3 pairs of the best new sheets, 3 pairs of the older sheets
4 of the best bolsters, 4 of the best pillows
4 of the best tablecloths, 4 of the best towels
one dozen of the best napkins, the green banker

3 carpet griffhens, 3 other griffhens
one garnish of the best pewter vessel
one dozen of the best candlesticks
4 of the best brass pots except the greatest brass

270 a coarse, twilled cotton often incorporating other materials

the greatest brewing cauldron with the broken bowl
the best pan and the third pan
a spit with a pair of coberds and another spit with a coberd²⁷¹
thereto adjoining, one little bird spit
one pair of andirons and one pair of tongs, one fireback
one water chafer of laten standing in the hall chimney
one three footed chafer

2 quart ale pots of pewter, 2 quart wine pots of pewter
2 pint pewter pots, 2 pint pewter pots for wine
2 half pint pewter pots for wine

2 ship chests standing in the parlour, one little coffer
2 keelers²⁷², one baking tub

20 mother sheep.

Leaving his wife a dozen of the best candlesticks implies there were more than a dozen of "the best" and others inferior ones. In addition she was to have twenty

271 cobirons were irons supporting a spit but the word here is definitely "coberds"

272 a shallow tub used for cooking

"mother sheep" and twenty loads of wood each year for which she had to pay for the felling and carriage. Some of Robert's wealth must have come from his sheep since he left four men (perhaps his shepherds) one mother sheep each.

The will of Thomas Totterherst, gentleman of Chevening, proved in 1574 has survived (PCC: Martyn 22) but it has not been investigated.

Will of Robert Tottisherst, gentleman

written 12th December 1512
transcript from probate copy

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The 12th day of December in the year of our lord
god 1512, I, Robert
- 2 Tottisherst, **gentleman**, sick in body and whole in mind make this my last
will and testament in manner and form
- 3 following: **First:** I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, to our lady, his
mother, and to all the holy company
- 4 of heaven, my body to be buried in Saint Peter's chancel within the parish
church of Saint Nicholas in Sevenoaks.
- 5 Also I bequeath to the high altar there for my tithes negligently forgotten
6s 8d. And to the reparations of

6 the said church of Saint Nicholas in Sevenoaks £3 6s 8d. And at my
burying to be done for me 3
7 diriges and masses and 3 other works charitable at the discretion of mine
executor 40s. And at my month's
8 mind to be done for me 3 diriges and masses and other works charitable at
the discretion of mine executor
9 £3 6s 8d. Also I will yearly one obit to be kept for my soul and my friends'
souls at the discretion of
10 mine executor. Also I will that immediately after my decease, a priest to
sing for my soul and my friends' souls
11 and all christian souls one whole year. And that mine executor do pay, or
cause to be paid, to the said priest
12 for his stipend and wages £6 13s 4d. Also I will that mine executor shall
have and enjoy all my lands
13 and tenements, rents and ?? the which I have within the shire of Kent
immediately after my decease to and
14 for the performance of this my testament and last will except all the lands
the which I have given unto
15 **Alice, my wife**, in jointure. Also I will that **Robert, my son**, shall have all
the lands and tenements during
16 his life natural the which that Alice, my wife, hath to her jointure in the
town and parish of Sevenoaks

17 aforesaid immediately after the decease of the said Alice. Also I will that
Richard, my son, hath to him and to his
18 heirs a parcel of land called **Hill Fields**. And for that I will that Alice, my
wife, have to her during her life
19 natural the tenement that **Richard Hadley** dwelleth in with a barn, two
fields and one mill house being set
20 and lying in the town and parish of Sevenoaks aforesaid. Also I will that
Alice, my wife, have all my lands, tenements
21 rents and ?? lying and being in the towns and parishes of **Chevening and**
Otford during her life natural. Also
22 I will that Richard, my son, shall have to him and to his heirs forever, all my
lands, tenements, leases, pastures, meadows
23 woods, rents, ?? and ?? being set and lying within the shire of Kent. Also
I will that Richard, my son,
24 pay, or cause to be paid, to **Joane and Margaret, my daughters**, to their
marriages £20. And for default of
25 payment of the said twenty pounds, then I will that **Thomas Grygby** and
John Tebold, my feoffees, or any of them, shall sell one
26 piece of land called **Cowseven** lying and being in the parish of Sevenoaks
aforesaid and 2 shops being and standing
27 in the market place in Sevenoaks and all my lands in **Meopham**. And the
money thereof coming to the sum above named

28 to be paid to the said Joane and Margaret. Also I bequeath to Alice, my
wife, all her wearing gear with all her gerdeff and
29 all my rings and one flat piece of silver, one goblet of silver parcel gilt, the
best maser parcel gilt with the cover to the
30 same, the best featherbed and the third featherbed, the best mattress and
the third mattress, the best counterpane²⁷³ with one
31 pair of fustian blankets, the third blanket. 3 pairs of the best new sheets, 3
pairs of the older sheets, 4 of the best
32 bolsters, 4 of the best pillows with the best 4 of the best tablecloths, 4 of
the best towels, one dozen of the best
33 napkins, the green blanket, 3 carpet griffhens, 3 other griffhens, one
garnish of the best pewter vessel, one dozen of
34 the best candlesticks, 4 of the best brass pots except the greatest brass, the
greatest brewing cauldron with the
35 broken bowl, the best pan and the third pan, the second ??²⁷⁴ spit with a
pair of coberds sometime Master
36 **Edmond Lychefield's**, one spit with a coberd thereto adjoining, one little
bird spit, one pair of andirons and one pair

273 "counterpoynt" but presumably what is now a counterpane

274 "sgnare"

37 of tongs, one fireback, one water chafer of laten standing in the hall
chimney, one three footed chafer, 2 quart ale pots
38 of pewter, 2 quart wine pots of pewter, 2 pint pewter pots, 2 pint pewter
pots for wine, 2 half pint pewter
39 pots for wine, 2 ship chests standing in the parlour, one little coffer, one ??
²⁷⁵, 2 keelers, one baking tub, 20
40 mother sheep²⁷⁶. Also I bequeath to the said Alice, my wife, yearly 20 loads
of wood to be taken and cut down within
41 my lands called **Wyllinghurst**²⁷⁷ or in any other lands thereto adjoining so
that the said Alice pay for the felling and
42 the carriage of the foresaid wood. Also I bequeath unto **Robert Small, the
elder**, one mother sheep. And to **John Small, his**
43 **son** one mother sheep. Also I bequeath to **Robert Small, the younger**, one
mother sheep. Also I bequeath to **Robert Hunt the**
44 **younger**, one mother sheep. Also I bequeath to every one of my
godchildren 4d. Also the residue of my goods unbequeathed

275 "messhe fate"

276 "moder" used here and sometimes instead of "mother" in the next few lines

277 Gordon Ward identified Willinghurst, 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 Place (Ward, p.247)

45 I bequeath unto Richard, my son, whom I ordain and make mine executor
of this my last will and testament, them to
46 dispose for the health of my soul and the best preferment of the same after
the best discretion of the same Richard,
47 mine executor. Also I will that Thomas Grigby be the overseer of this my
testament and last will. And he to have
48 for his labour 3s 4d. Yeven the day and year above named in the presence
of **Master Edward Repe, vicar** of the
49 parish church of Saint Nicholas of Sevenoaks aforesaid, **Edward Ashe,**
gentleman, Thomas Hall, chaplain²⁷⁸, Robert
50 **Hunt, the elder, Robert Small, th'elder and James Sysley, parish clerk** of
Sevenoaks aforesaid.

278 chaplain of Saint Mary's Chantry (Rooker; p.99)

The Turners of Sevenoaks

Five Turner wills have survived from Sevenoaks but there is no obvious connection between the various Turners.

	written:	proved:		
Richard Turner	21 Jun 1634	5 Jul 1634	haberdasher	T.37
John Turner	9 May 1636	30 Jan 1636/7	husbandman	T.39
William Turner	24 Aug 1638	10 Oct 1638	baker	T.44
John Turner	28 Mar 1639	5 Feb 1644/5	citizen & skinner of London	T.55
Thomas Turner	19 Oct 1640	30 Nov 1649	Esq.	T.68

The last two wills were written a long time before they were proved. "[Mr. John Turner, senior](#)" was buried on 7th September 1643 and this could have been the John whose will of 1639 has survived since it was not proved until the beginning of 1645.

Thomas's introduction, whilst noting that he was "[of good and reasonable health of body](#)" continues "[watching mine own infirmities and acknowledging the day of my pilgrimage](#)". Since his will was not proved for another nine years, he seems to have continued watching for some time.

Earlier than the William who died in 1638, a William Turner was vicar of Sevenoaks (see next page). There are also a number of Turners mentioned in the parish records, some of whom can be assembled into small families.

In the last quarter of the sixteenth century and the first quarter of the seventeenth:

John Turner	married	Alice Hod, widow	25 Oct 1574
John Turner	buried		29 Mar 1583
John Turner	buried		13 Jun 1592

Mathew Turner (s29)	married	Ann Wickenden (s30)	24 Oct 1591
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no children were recorded but Ann, wife of Mathew, was buried on 24th August 1622 when they would have been married for twenty-nine years.

On 1st May 1605, Edward, base son of **Margery Turner** was baptised and on 18th December 1606 Margery Turner married **Edward Dewey**.

Between 1610 and 1624, three Turner women married:

Elizabeth Turner	married	Tie Lambert	17 Dec 1610
Ann Turner	married	David Eggles	10 Sep 1621
Dorothy Turner	married	Thomas Godwyn	7 Oct 1624

On 17th January 1616, Thomas (s28), son of Stephen (s26) and Winfrith (s17) Turner was baptised but Winifrith was buried on 15th March 1618

William Turner, vicar

William Turner (or Turnar, as he spelled his name) was installed as vicar in 1614; like most vicars he wrote the wills of some of his parishioners with that of Richard Besbeech (1633) being the last one known to have been written by him. On 13th February 1633/4, Joan, the wife of William Turner, vicar, was buried. According to Rooker (1910) and the parish records, the next vicar, Nevill Heath, was admitted on 29th April 1644.

There are, however, some complications:

- On 18th December 1633, John Turner, “son of Mr. John Turner, minister” was baptised. Elizabeth, daughter of John Turner deceased, was buried on 20th August 1639. Was she the daughter of “Mr. John Turner, minister” who had died between December 1633 and August 1639 or was there yet another John Turner in Sevenoaks?
- In his will of 1639, John Turner, citizen and skinner of London, mentions Dr. Gibbons, parson of Sevenoaks; Gibbons was the rector, a separate post from that of vicar.
- At the March 1642 Assizes, the yeoman James Hunt was indicted for interrupting William Turner, curate of Sevenoaks, during divine service²⁷⁹ ; was “curate” a mistake for “vicar” or was there another William Turner who was the curate in 1642?

The William Turner whose will of 1638 has survived was a baker, not the vicar.

There are no references to the Richard Turner whose short nuncupative will written 21st June 1634 has survived; not even his burial was recorded

1 **Mem. Jeremy Smyth, Nevill Kitchin and Nicholas Smyth**
2 do testify that Richard Turner, late of Sevenoaks in the county of
3 Kent, **haberdasher**, ?? ?? on the one and twentieth day of
4 June 1634 willed nuncupative in these words or to that
5 effect **First:** giving my lands unto **my brother** he paying
6 my debts and I give **my sister** thirty pounds and to my
7 **uncle Richard** five pounds and to **Nicholas Smyth** three
8 pounds and to **his son, my godson**, four pounds and I give **Nevill**
9 **Kitchin** six pounds, five pounds whereof he owes me and to
10 **the woman - ?? Tomling** who now looks to me forty shillings and to
11 ?? he made and constituted **his brother John** his sole executor
12 the poor twenty shillings. Witness ?? the 27th June 1634
 Jeremy Smith Nicholas Smith

Nevill Kitchill²⁸⁰

John Turner of Weald

"John of Weald" was buried 15th May 1636 just six days after the will of a John Turner, husbandman, was written; although the will does not mention the Weald, the testator and the man buried were surely the same person. The preamble includes phrases not found in any other of the wills investigated. John had a son, also John, under twenty-one in 1636, and a daughter Mary who had married Edward Fletcher on 5th November 1633. Although John did not appoint an executor, after his decease Edward Fletcher was to "discharge all his funeral expenses" and Edward was left all John's unbequeathed "goods and chattels and estate" most unusually "towards my maintenance while I live". This seems to imply that this part of the will was to come into effect directly. The land John mentions was in East Grinstead about twelve miles south-west of Sevenoaks. This was left eventually to his son, but, until John junior was twenty-one, Edward Fletcher and Mary were to have the land paying £4 a year to John's wife Agnes and £3 a year to John, junior.

1 In the name of god Amen. The ninth day of May 1636 in the twelfth year of
the reign of our sov
2 ereign lord king Charles that now is, I, John Turner, of the parish of
Sevenoaks in the county
3 of Kent, **husbandman**, being of good and perfect remembrance, thanks be
given to god, do constitute
4 and ordain this last will and testament, in writing as followeth, that is to say,
Imprimis: with a
5 willing and free heart, I send and give again into the hands of my lord god
and creator, my soul
6 and spirit which he, of his fatherly goodness, gave unto me when he first
fashioned me in
7 my mother's womb, nothing doubting but for his infinite mercy set forth in
the blood of
8 beloved son, Jesus Christ, my only saviour and redeemer, he will receive my
soul
9 into his glory. And as concerning my body, with a free will and willing
heart, I give it

10 ever unto the earth from whence it came. And when it shall please god to
take me out of this
11 present life, my body to be christianly buried in the parish churchyard of
Sevenoaks.
12 **Item:** I give unto **my son-in-law, Edward Fletcher**, and unto **my daughter,**
Mary, his wife, out of that house and
13 land called by the name of **Love line** situated and being in **East Grinstead** in
the county of
14 **Sussex**, all the rent thereof until **my son, John Turner**, shall accomplish to
the age
15 of twenty and one years and yielding and paying yearly, out of the said rent,
four pounds
16 unto **my wife Agnes** and unto my said son John Turner £3 more yearly dur
17 ing the time of the accomplishing of his age. And if for default of lawful
issue
18 of my son John, that then I will and devise that my said daughter Mary, now
the wife
19 of Edward Fletcher and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, shall have for
ever all that messuage
20 or tenement and land called Love line. And further I will and devise that if
my son John
21 Turner do decease before he come to full age, that then my said daughter,
Mary,

22 and his²⁸¹ heirs of his body lawfully begotten shall have and enjoy for ever all
the
23 said tenement and land thereunto belonging.
24 **Item:** I give unto my said son-in-law Edward Fletcher and unto his wife
Mary, three
25 milch kine²⁸² and two young bullocks and one mare and five sheep and three
lambs
26 with all my other goods and chattels and estate towards my maintenance
while
27 I live. And after my decease, my said son-in-law to discharge all my
28 funeral expenses. In witness whereof, to this my last will and testament, I
29 have subscribed my name with my seal the day and year first above written
30 in the presence of
William Wall **John Wood**²⁸³

281 "his" here and on line 19 above

282 "kenene"; why specify these animals separately if Edward was to have everything not previously bequeathed?
Was there something special about them or did John start to list his animals, etc. and then realise there was no
need to continue?

283 the names of both witnesses look like signatures and the "John" here is the same as the "John" by the testator's
mark. The "J" of John where it occurs within the will is different but not the rest of the name and, since other
words such as "parish" and the capital letter "C" are the same as in "parish clerk", it looks as if John Wood was the
writer of this will. He wrote "be" and "me" with double "e" and some of his other spelling (such as "dafter" for
daughter) is unusual.

William Turner, baker

William was designated "**baker**" when he was buried and the following details have been obtained from the parish records. The William Turner who married Hellen Michell on 31st January 1620/1 is likely to have been the baker since his son Michael (spelled Mihill and Michell in the will) was given his mother's maiden name. All the children shown below were recorded as the children of "**William the baker**". Hellen, wife of William, was buried in 1629 so that, since he had a wife when he wrote his will, he married again. A William Turner married on 16th October 1632 which is reasonable given the baptism of Marie in 1633 and William left his sister Katten Amherst (sister-in-law) ten shillings.

Except for Michael and Martha, mentioned in his will, all William's children died young, two of them in January 1631 when one of his servants, Barbara Bonny, was also buried.

Although Michael was only sixteen, William made him joint executor with his wife (whose name he did not give) who was to "enjoy my house where my son John Masters now dwelleth" paying yearly unto "my son, Henry the sum of forty shillings" if Henry refused to "dwell with my wife and do her service". If he did live with her then she was to "provide all needful things for him" instead of paying him the forty shillings.

Where did John Masters and William's son Henry "fit in"? If Katten was his wife's sister, this was Thomasin's first marriage so that it is unlikely John was a stepson and Henry was too old to have been Thomasin's son. Was William's marriage to Hellen his second marriage? He could have had a son Henry and a daughter who married John Masters by his first wife. To fit this proposition, the marriage of John Masters to Bridget Turner on 8th May 1637 was recorded in the parish register; this was just over a year before William, who would have thus married three times, wrote his will.

Sometime between 1616 and 1624, William Turner, baker, was given as having a place at the Clerks' Table in the Hall at Knole²⁸⁴. This could have been the testator although Bridget must have been born by 1618 or earlier so that, if she was his daughter, he would have been married by that time and would have been about thirty in 1620. Even if Michael was his first child, he was married well before 1624. could have been considerably older.

William's mark on his will appears as "M" but, in 1624, William Turner, baker, witnessed the will of William Lawrence making the same mark as on his own will but the other way up so that it was, correctly, a "W". Perhaps when he made his mark on his own will, the paper was handed to him the wrong way up.

Will of William Turner, baker

written 24th August 1638

transcript from original

- 1 In the name of god Amen. I, William Turner of Sevenoaks in the county of
- 2 Kent, being sick of body but of perfect sense and understanding for which I
give
- 3 god praise, make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner

284 Sackville-West/Clifford; The Diary of Anne Clifford, pp. lvii-lxi

4 and form following: **First** and above all, I bequeath my soul unto god who
5 gave it me and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Sevenoaks
6 at the discretion of **my loving wife and my dear son Michael**²⁸⁵ whom
7 I make mine executors of this my last will. **Item:** I give and bequeath
8 to the poor people of the parish of Sevenoaks twenty shillings to be given
them
9 at my burial in bread. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto my son Michael
10 that house which I purchased of **Richard Rise** to come to his hands when he
11 cometh to the full age of two and twenty years and then he shall pay
12 to my wife during her natural life one third part of the yearly rent.
13 **Item:** I will that my wife shall enjoy my house where **my son John Masters**
14 now dwelleth, in during her natural life, paying yearly unto **my son**
15 **Henry** the sum of forty shillings during his natural life to be paid to him,
16 the said Henry, at four terms of the year that is to say ten shillings at
17 Christmas, ten shillings at Th'annunciation of our Lady St. Mary, ten
18 shillings at midsummer and ten shillings at Michaelmas day. If my
19 son Henry shall refuse to dwell with my wife and do her service then the
20 provision of forty shillings to be paid him as before said but if he will
21 live with her then she shall provide all needful things for him and she shall

22 not pay him the said forty shillings by the year which shall issue²⁸⁶ out
23 of the house where John Masters dwelleth. But if the payment of the said
24 forty shillings be behind and unpaid after the several day the space
25 of one half year and forty days, it being lawfully demanded, that then I will
that he, my son Henry,
26 shall enter on the said house and freely enjoy for his inheritance
27 without any trouble or molestation. But if he receive provision of my wife
28 as aforesaid or the yearly annuity²⁸⁷ of forty shillings, then it is my
29 will that my wife shall enjoy the said house as aforesaid and after
30 her decease, I will and bequeath the said house unto **my daughter**²⁸⁸
31 **Martha** and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten and for lack
32 of such heirs to my son Michael and the heirs of his body
33 lawfully begotten and for lack of such heirs to my son Henry
34 and his heirs for ever. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my sister**
35 **Katteen Amhurst** ten shillings. Also I give unto **my loving friend**
36 **Thomas Poore** twenty shillings. **Item:** I will that my household stuff,
37 goods and chattels shall be equally divided betwixt my wife and my son
38 Michael and my wife to enjoy her part of those goods and household stuff

286 spelled "Ishow" as it was on line 17 of John's will

287 "Enowity"

288 "daughter" here but "dafter" on line 40

39 during her natural life and, after her decease, all those goods to come to
40 my daughter Martha. **Item:** I institute my loving friends Thomas Poore and
41 **Richard Cronke** to be overseers of this my will for which pain taken I
42 give Richard Cronke ten shillings and for the conformation and true
43 acknowledgement of this my last will and testament I put my hand and
44 seal the four and twentieth day of August in the year of our lord Christ
45 1638 in the presence of

Rich. Wykes
Tho: Poore

William Turner **M** his mark

Children of Francis Turner

There was a Francis Turner in Sevenoaks having children at the same time as William, the baker:

mar:		26 Jan 1623		12 Feb 1626	
	s16		s15	s18	
	Elizabeth Humfrey	-	Francis	-	Ann Fawnt
bur:	7 Aug 1623			-----	
		s17		s19	s20
		Francis		Francis	Richard
bap:		24 Jun 1623		24 Jun 1627	9 Nov 1628
bur:		5 Jul 1623		2 Jul 1627	

Children of William Turner

On 6th December 1640, another William Turner married Francis, the widow of **John Mantle**, tailor (whose will has survived); according to the baptism of his twin sons, William was of Riverhead. Francis's son, John, by her first husband had en baptised in March 1640, nearly six months after the burial of her first

husband. In his will, John Mantle mentions children but without specifying them by name. It is thus possible that William Turner took on the responsibility for a number of children when he married Francis. He and Francis had four children baptised in Sevenoaks but two of these died, one aged two, the other only a week after being baptised:

The eldest recorded son of William, the baker, was baptised “Michell”, his mother’s maiden name, in 1622. William and his wife Hellen could have had an older son, baptised William, perhaps in the parish from which Hellen came. If this was so, he could just have been old enough to be the William who married at the end of 1640.

mar:			6 Dec 1640			
	John Mantle	-	Francis Mantle, widow s32	-	s31 William	
will:	3 Oct 1639					
bur:	4 Oct 1639					

	children?	John	s33		s34	
			William		Richard	
bap:			16 Nov 1641		16 Nov 1641	
1646					21 Oct 1644	
bur:	Mar 1640		30 Dec 1643		29 Oct 1644	
						s35 s36
						John Ann
						16 Aug

John Turner, citizen and skinner of London

John Turner, skinner, was a citizen of London but, at the time of writing his will, he lived in Sevenoaks. He cannot be connected with any of the other Turners of Sevenoaks and looks to have come from a wealthy family.

Although written at the end of March 1639, the will was not proved until February 1645; it is therefore likely that he was the John Turner (recorded as Mr. John, senior) buried in September 1643. But, since no son is mentioned, who was John junior? No witnesses are given to the will; it just appears to be signed by John Turner who perhaps wrote it himself (it is not known if the original has survived). The executors John specified were his wife Elizabeth and his cousin, John Turner, clerk, of Burwash in Sussex; both were appointed when probate was obtained and thus both were alive in 1645.

John does not appear to have had any children but other Turners mentioned in his will are:

his brothers:

- Benjamin Turner, of Bristol, physician
- William Turner, doctor of physic, deceased, and William's son, John Turner of London, merchant
- Edward Turner, merchant

his sisters:

- Lady Margaret Charway
- Mary Curton and her three daughters.

and:

- William Turner of Lincolns Inn, gent.

John had a number of books, both sacred and profane. To Mr. Besse, schoolmaster, of Sevenoaks, he gave a number of sacred books including one about Martin Luther and Dr. Gibbons, parson of Sevenoaks was to have his choice from among his other divinity books. The rest of his books he gave to his executor, John Turner, clerk, except for those of which the clerk already had copies which were to be offered to Dr. Gibbons or Mr. Besse.

But John Turner did not just read books; in addition he had made "[notes and writings of divinity](#)" which he gave to Mr. Besse hoping he might "[find some useful words of persuasion to the glory of god and good of his church](#)". John also asked

Mr. Besse to impart to Dr. Gibbons his "meditations and notes of divinity by me gathered and left in writing to make use of them to god's glory wherein he shall see fit and convenient".

His executor was also to have two pictures, one of St. Paul and the other of his brother, Edward.

John Turner, the testator, had been appointed executor to Mr. Thomas Wheeler of Londondray (nothing to say where Londondray was) and had put out £128 6s 4d from the estate "as by the bonds appear". This seems to have been money kept by John Turner, but put out at a profit, in case anyone to whom Thomas Wheeler did "by the last day of November . . . 1648, sue for and recover the same by law, upon any bond or speciality by whom the said Thomas Wheeler, draper, to them made". If no such bonds or speciality were produced and no suit "commence against my executors" then John's executors were to pay to Thomas Wheeler of Sevenoaks, draper (presumably the heir), not only the original sum "but also such use and consideration as they shall have received for the same after the time of my decease" as long as the recipient gave his executors or assigns, acquittance what they received.

John Turner also had in his keeping a bedstead, etc. left by the draper to Thomas Wheeler, tailor, and this was also to be given to him by John's executors. "And also a trunk whereupon is set these letters T.W. with such linen as my loving wife

knoweth we have agreed to be given and were put into the said trunk not setting down the particulars because I am assured she will not deceive him".

John Turner, clerk, was left the lease of the parsonage tithes of Leigh Hollanden but it is difficult to interpret the uses to which these were to be put. It appears that if Thomas Wheeler, tailor, was living when the testator died, they were to go to him "and his wife which he shall marry and the children which he shall have of hereafter my said decease". But, if the tailor had already died, then the tithes were to go to John's wife during her life and then to John Turner, clerk.

John Turner's Bonds

The next part of the will is also complicated being concerned with a five bonds which John Turner had from Richard Pelsett of Seal, yeoman, and his sons, Richard and James (#178²⁸⁹, #3845 and #3158, respectively)²⁹⁰.

289 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

290 Richard Pelsett's will was written on 18th January 1643 and in it he left the "message or tenement commonly called Bright . . . late purchased of John Turner, gent."

Four of these seem to be due to be paid within a year after his wife's death but other details are given for three of the bonds, each for £200:

£200	£103 6s 8d	at six months
	£106 13s 4d	at a year

To: Benjamin Turner to and for his own use and profit and, after his decease:
£100 his son John Turner
£100 equally to be divided between Benjamin's daughter and other son

£200 made to William Turner of Lincolns Inn, gent.
for payment of £110 at nine months.

£200 made to John Turner, brother of William,
for payment of £103 6s 8d at six months.
if John Turner died before he had received the money, it was to go to Lady Margaret Charway, the testator's sister.

If all of Benjamin's three children died before the decease of Elizabeth, John's wife the arrangements for the £200 are very complicated:

£100 equally divided among the children of John Turner, clerk.
£50 to the three daughters of his sister Mary Curton
£25 to the testator's goddaughter, the daughter of Henry Dixon of Tonbridge
£25 to the children of William Gaylor of Dartford, butcher, deceased, and William Ashdown of Leigh, tanner, deceased, who were all nieces and nephews of William Dixon of Cowden, clerk, deceased.

Given the conditions, it was most unlikely that these children received the £25 but John Turner, in addition, gave to "the decayed and poor issue or children of the said William Gaylor of Dartford in Kent who married the sister of my old friend Mr. William Dixon, clerk, aforesaid the sum of five pounds which, I will as speedily as may be, shall by my executors be given according to their several wants."

Will of John Turner, citizen and skinner of London

written 28th March 1639
transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 The eight and twentieth day of March Anno dm 1638, I, John
3 Turner, **citizen and skinner of London** and now resident in Sevenoaks
4 in the county of Kent, being in perfect and good remembrance, thanks be

5 to god, therefore do make and ordain this my last will and testament in
6 in manner and form following: And **First** disposing my body to the earth and
my
7 soul to god who grant it me, hoping to be saved by my lord and saviour
8 Jesus Christ, I dispose of my worldly effects in manner following. And **First:**
9 I give unto the parish where I shall happen to decease and be buried the
10 sum of thirty shillings to be distributed according to the decision of my
11 executors hereafter named at such time as they shall think fit. Moreover I
12 give unto the woman servant that shall be dwelling with me at the time of
my
13 decease ten shillings. **Item:** I give unto the **four daughters of my sister Mary**
14 **Curton, deceased**, the sum of three pounds a piece to be paid unto them,
namely
15 **Margaret, Mary, Sarah and Elizabeth**, within one year after my decease.
And
16 whereas I stand indebted and executor to the estate of **Mr. Thomas Wheeler**
of
17 **Londondray** in the sum of £128 6s 4d which money I have put out to divers
18 as by the bonds appear, by this my last will and testament, I order and
appoint
19 that my executors hereafter named shall call in the said moneys or
otherwise take
20 new bonds for the same as they shall think fit, the said bonds to be made to

21 them, their executors and administrators in trust to and for the uses
hereafter
22 mentioned, viz. to and for the use of such person and persons which, after
my decease,
23 shall, by the last day of November which shall be in the year of our lord
1648,
24 sue for and recover the same by law, upon any bond or speciality by whom
the said Thomas Wheeler, **draper**, to them made for the payment of any sum
25 or sums of money or performance of any covenant or agreement to be made
by

page 2:

26 him, the said Thomas Wheeler draper, deceased. Then I will if no such
bonds
27 or speciality shall be produced and no suit commence against my executors
or any
28 of them their executors or administrators, then I will my executors, or the
survivor of
29 them, their or either their executors or administrators, shall pay unto the
said

30 **Thomas Wheeler**²⁹¹ of Sevenoaks aforesaid, tailor, if he shall be then living,
not
31 only the aforesaid sum but also such use and consideration as they shall
have
32 received for the same after the time of my decease so as the said Thomas
Wheeler
33 do seal and deliver unto them, their executors or assigns, a good and
sufficient
34 acquittance for all such sums of money, goods and chattels as were
bequeathed
35 and given or otherwise intended to be bequeathed and given unto him, the
said Thomas
36 Wheeler, tailor, if he shall be living, the bedstead which was the bedstead
37 of him the said Thomas Wheeler, draper, with a featherbed, bolster, pillows,
rugs,
38 blankets and other furniture to the same. And also a trunk whereupon is set
these
39 letters T.W. with such linen as my loving wife knoweth we have agreed to
be

291 The heir of the Mr. Thomas Wheeler of Londondray, deceased for whom the testator was the executor - see line 44 and the end of the will. Was Londondray in Sevenoaks?

40 given and were put into the said trunk not setting down the particulars
because I
41 am assured she will not deceive him. **Item:** I give unto **my cousin, John
Turner,**
42 of **Burwash in Sussex, clerk,** the lease of the parsonage tithes of **Leigh
43 Hollanden in the parish of Leigh and Tonbridge** or one of them, to the uses
44 hereafter mentioned. Namely, to **my loving wife Elizabeth** after to the use of
the said Thomas
45 Wheeler, tailor, if he shall be living at the time of my decease and his wife
which
46 he shall marry and the children which he shall have of hereafter my said
decease.
47 And if he happen to be dead at the time of my decease, then I give the said
tithes
48 to my said loving wife given during her life and to my said cousin John
Turner,
49 clerk. **Item:** I give unto my cousin, John Turner, clerk, of Burwash in
50 Sussex, the bond of two hundred pounds wherein **Richard Pelsett of Seal** in
51 in the county of Kent, yeoman, and **Richard and James Pelsett, his sons,**
stand
52 bound to pay unto me £106 13s 4d as by the said bond appeareth. And
53 whereas there are four other bonds wherein the said Richard Pelsett of Seal
54 and Richard Pelsett and James, his sons, stand bound within one year to

pay the same after my wife's decease, to me the said John Turner, **Benjamin Turner, of Bristol, physician, William Turner of Lincolns Inn, gent. and John Turner of London, merchant, son of my brother, William Turner, doctor of physic, deceased,** two of which bonds £200 a piece were made to be paid in manner following, that is one hundred and three pounds six shillings and eight pence at six months and one hundred and six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence at a year which I have given to the said Benjamin Turner to and for his own use and profit during his life and after his decease £100 thereof to the use of his son John Turner, my godson, and the other £100 thereof equally to be divided and paid to **Arthur Turner, brother to the said John,** and to their sister. And also one bond of £200 made to William Turner of Lincolns Inn, gent. for payment of £110 at nine months. And also one other bond of £200 to John Turner, brother to the said William, for payment of £103 six shillings and 8d at six months. And if the said John Turner, brother of the said William, shall happen to die before he shall have received the same then I give the said £100 and the interest and consideration of the same to the **Lady Margaret Charway, my sister.** All which four bonds by this my last will and testament I order and appoint that **my cousin John Turner** aforesaid, clerk,

73 shall, after my decease, have the keeping of them and shall receive the said

page 3:

74 money for them and for th'uses in reversion in those present set down and
75 declared. And first for the money given to my brother, Benjamin Turner, to
th'use
76 and uses aforesaid, my will is that if any his three children aforesaid shall
happen
77 to die before they shall have received their said legacies, then the survivors
shall
78 have the same equally divided between them. And if they happen all to die
79 before the decease of Elizabeth, my wife, then £100 thereof shall be equally
80 divided among the children of my cousin John Turner, clerk. The other £50
81 among those daughters of my deceased sister Mary Curton, namely
Margaret, Mary and
82 Sarah, or their children, and the other £50 I will shall be paid in manner
83 following: that is to say to ²⁹² **Dixon, daughter of Mr. Henry Dixon of**
84 **Tonbridge**, ??, my goddaughter, the sum of £25 and the other £25 to the

292 space left for name, presumably copied as in the original

85 issue or children of **William Gaylor of Dartford**²⁹³, **butcher**, deceased, who
married
86 the sister of **Mr. William Dixon of Cowden, clerk**, deceased, and to the
children
87 and issue of **William Ashdown of Leigh, tanner**, deceased, and brother to the
88 said William Dixon, clerk. Moreover, I give unto the decayed and poor issue
89 or children of the said William Gaylor of Dartford in Kent who married the
90 sister of my old friend Mr. William Dixon, clerk, aforesaid, the sum of five
91 pounds which, I will as speedily as may be, shall by my executors be given
92 according to their several wants. And for that all the said moneys are to be
93 paid by the said Richard Pelsett and his sons within one year after the
94 decease of my said wife and happily he, the said Richard Pelsett or his sons,
95 may be desirous to prolong the said payments, my will is that my executors
96 and John Turner shall not prolong the said bonds, but if he do, he shall
prolong
97 them but for one year more after my said wife's decease and then to receive
the
98 said money and pay the same as in this my will is expressed. Moreover, I
give
99 unto my cousin, John Turner, my two pictures, the one of St. Paul, the other
of

293 written "Darford"

100 my brother, Edward Turner, merchant. And to **Mr. Besse, schoolmaster**, of
101 Sevenoaks, I give Mr. Feps common place²⁹⁴ Martin Luther upon the
Galathians
102 and Attensott ?? the sacraments with all my notes and writings of
103 divinity where I hope he may find some useful words of persuasion to the
glory
104 of god and good of his church. Moreover, I give **Mr. Dr. Gibbons, parson**
105 of Sevenoaks, my other divinity books which he shall make choice of those
106 except which I have given unto Mr. Besse, and will that the said Mr.
107 Besse shall impart unto him my said meditations and notes of divinity
108 by me gathered and left in writing to make use of them to god's glory
109 wherein he shall see fit and convenient. The rest of my books which
concern
110 humane literature, I give unto my cousin John Turner, clerk, such only
111 excepted which he, the said my cousin John Turner hath and which if either
112 the said Mr. Gibbon or Mr. Besse shall be desirous to have, I will they
113 shall be delivered unto them by my executors hereafter named. And
concerning
114 my household utensils and implements of household, I dispose thereof as
followeth:
115 I will my wife shall have and enjoy the same during her life such only as

116 she shall be willing to spare and impart unto my said cousin, John Turner,
117 clerk. Whereof I will after my inventory made, a note shall be taken in
118 writing and then I will that they had such which my wife shall have in her
119 possession shall be divided into five parts whereof two parts shall be to
th'use

120 of my cousin, John Turner, clerk, th'other three parts to th'use of my wife
121 and to whom that she will give them. And if my wife shall survive me (my
122 cousin, John Turner, clerk, living) then I will my loving wife and my

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123 cousin, John Turner, clerk, shall be my executors. But if it shall happen my
124 wife shall decease before and this shall remain my last will, then I will my
125 cousin, John Turner, aforesaid clerk, and **Thomas Wheeler, tailor, my
kinsman,**

126 shall be my executors and shall have all the said moveables and household
stuff between

127 them divided, namely three parts thereof to my cousin, John Turner, clerk,
and

128 two parts thereof to the said Thomas Wheeler, tailor. Overseers of this
129 my last will I make the said Mr. Dr. Gibbons, parson of Sevenoaks, and
130 Mr. Besse, schoolmaster, aforesaid, whom I desire would be assistant to
131 my executors to see this my will performed. John Turner.

No witnesses are given.

Thomas Turner, Esq. of Sevenoaks

The relationships and bequests in Thomas's will are complex. He does not appear to have had any children so his nieces, nephews and cousins were his main beneficiaries. In addition to a messuage and land in Sevenoaks, Thomas owned land and "[Lock House](#)" in Burstow in Surrey, about eight miles south of Redhill. The annual "[rents, issues and profits](#)" of Thomas's "[messuage, lands, tenements, hereditaments and premises](#)" in Sevenoaks came to at least £50 and were to be used to pay annuities and various sums of money. Over the years, a number of different people were to be paid at the rate of £40 per year, with two payments, each of £20 paid at the two feast days: "[the Annunciation of the blessed virgin Saint Mary and Saint Michael the Archangel](#)". The recipients were:

year 1	his brother-in-law Daniell Bassane, Esq.	£ 40
years 2,3,4	Jane Bassane, Daniell's eldest daughter	£100
years 4,5,6	Elizabeth Bassane, Daniell's second daughter	£100
years 7,8,9	Sarah Bassane, Daniell's youngest daughter	£100

The payments to each of Thomas's nieces was to be paid in five instalments over a period of two and a half years. In addition to these payments, Thomas's Sevenoaks messuage, etc. also had to pay an annuity of £6 a year to his sister

Anne and one of £4 to his cousin John Turner, one of the sons of his uncle Thomas. The property itself was left to his nephew, John, son of his brother John who was to be the executor of the will.

Thomas's property in Burstow was to go to his his nephew Edward, one of the sons of his brother George of Lingfield but only after the death of Thomas's wife. There were a number of other monetary legacies which were to be paid, by his executor, within one year after Thomas's decease "[out of certain sums of money owing unto me by my nephew George Turner, eldest son of my said brother George Turner, deceased](#)". This debt must have totalled over £300 since the legacies were:

cousin Thomas Turner, clerk, son of uncle Thomas	£ 30.
neice Ann Hoath, wife of Thomas Hoath, gent	£100.
Daniell Bassane	£ 60
John Fremling of Lempsing/Kemsing and his wife Anne	£ 10. each
John Fremling's four children	£ 10. each
servant Anne Carrell	£ 30.
late servant, Joane Davies	£ 5.
late servant, John Harman	£ 20.

	£305.

household effects, particularly since there would have been the funeral and proving of the will to be arranged. The date of Thomas's burial is not known but, until 30th November 1640 when the will was proved, John, the executor, would not have had the authority to organise the division of Thomas's household goods.

Will of Thomas Turner, Esq. of Sevenoaks

written 19th October 1640
transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The nineteenth
2 day of October Anno dm. one thousand six hundred forty and in the tenth
year
3 of the reign of our sovereign Lord Charles, by the grace of God of England,
Scotland,
4 France and Ireland king, defender of the faith, etc. I, Thomas Turner of
5 Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, **Esquire**, being of good and reasonable
health of body
6 and of good and perfect memory, thanks and praise be given unto Almighty
God,
7 well watching mine own infirmities and acknowledging the day of my
pilgrimage
8 ?? ?? do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner

9 and form following, that is to say, **First:** I give and bequeath my soul into
the hands
10 of god, my creator, hoping to be redeemed by the merits of the death and
passion of
11 Jesus Christ, mine alone saviour and redeemer. And my body, I commit to
the earth to be
12 buried at the discretion of mine executor hereafter named. And I give and
bequeath unto
13 the poor of the parish where my body shall be interred the sum of forty
shillings to be
14 paid unto them at the day of my burial. And touching and concerning my
temporal
15 estate which it hath pleased god to bestow upon me, I give and bequeath in
manner and
16 form following, that is to say, **First:** I give and bequeath unto **my**
wellbeloved brother
17 **in-law, Daniell Bassane, Esq.** the sum or annuity of forty pounds to be paid
unto him out
18 of the rents, issues and profits of all that my messuage, lands, tenements,
hereditaments
19 and premises situated and being in Sevenoaks aforesaid at the first day of
the

20 annunciation of the blessed virgin Saint Mary and Saint Michael the
Archangel
21 which of them shall first happen next after my decease. **Item:** after the
payment of the said
22 forty pounds made unto the said Daniell Bassane as aforesaid, I give and
bequeath unto
23 **my loving niece Jane Bassane, eldest daughter** of the said Daniell Bassane,
the sum or
24 annuity of one hundred pounds to be paid unto her, the said Jane, by forty
pounds by the
25 year²⁹⁶ out of the rents, issues and profits of my said messuage and lands in
Sevenoaks
26 aforesaid at the said feast days of the annunciation of the blessed virgin
Saint Mary and
27 Saint Michael the Archangel, by even and equal portions. **Item:** After the
payment
28 of the said one hundred pounds made unto the said Jane Bassane as
aforesaid, I give

296 a note in the margin indicates that the phrase "forty pounds by the year" was inserted in the original here and interlined above the lines 31 and 37. In this will the term "annuity" seems to be used to cover payments of £40 a year to different people; presumably each niece was to receive her £100 over a period of two and a half years, that is five payments, each of £20 starting after their father had received his legacy.

29 and bequeath unto **my loving niece, Elizabeth Bassane, second daughter** of
the said
30 Daniell Bassane, the sum or annuity of one hundred pounds to be paid unto
her, the said
31 Elizabeth, by forty pounds by the year, out of the rents, issues and profits of
my said
32 messuage and lands in Sevenoaks aforesaid at the said feast days of the
annunciation of the
33 blessed virgin Saint Mary and Saint Michael the Archangel, by even and
equal portions.
34 **Item:** After the payment of the said one hundred pounds made unto the said
Elizabeth Bassane
35 as aforesaid, I give and bequeath unto **my loving niece, Sarah Bassane,**
youngest
36 **daughter** of the said Daniell Bassane, the sum or annuity of one hundred
pounds to
37 be paid unto her, the said Sarah, by forty pounds by the year, out of the
rents, issues and
38 profits of my said messuage and lands in Sevenoaks aforesaid at the said
feast days
39 of the annunciation of the blessed virgin Saint Mary and Saint Michael the
40 Archangel, by even and equal portions. And if it shall happen the said
several sums

41 or annuities of forty pounds, one hundred pounds, one hundred pounds and
one
42 hundred pounds severally and respectively given and devised unto the said
Daniell
43 Bassane, Jane, Elizabeth and Sarah Bassane, to be behind and unpaid by
the space of
44 one and twenty days next after any of the said feast days of payment in
which the
45 same ought to be paid as aforesaid, that then and from thence forth it shall
and may be
46 lawful to and for the said Daniell Bassane, Jane Bassane, Elizabeth Bassane
and
47 Sarah Bassane severally and respectively to enter into and distrain in and
upon
48 the said messuage, lands and premises and the distress and distresses there
taken to lead,
49 drive, carry away, impound, detain and keep until the said several and
particular
50 legacies, and every part and parcel thereof several devised unto them, the
said
51 Daniell Bassane, Jane, Elizabeth and Sarah Bassane, shall be fully satisfied
and

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52 paid. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my loving sister, Anne Forster, widow,**
one annuity
53 or yearly rent charge of six pounds per annum during her natural life. **Item:**
I give and
54 bequeath unto **my cousin John Turner, one of the sons of Thomas Turner,**
gent., my
55 **uncle,** deceased, one annuity or yearly rent charge of four pounds per
annum during his
56 natural life to be severally and respectively paid unto them, the said Anne
Forster
57 and John Turner out of my said messuage and lands in Sevenoaks aforesaid
at the
58 feast days of the annunciation of the blessed virgin Saint Mary and Saint
Michael
59 the Archangel, which of them shall first happen next after my decease with
clause of
60 distress for non payment thereof. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my loving**
nephew
61 **John Turner, eldest son of my brother John Turner of Bletchingly**²⁹⁶ in the
county

296 3 miles east of Redhill, about thirteen miles west of Sevenoaks

62 of Surrey, **Esq.** all that my said messuage, lands, tenements, hereditaments
and premises
63 lying and being in Sevenoaks aforesaid in the said county of Kent. To have
and to
64 hold the said messuage, lands and premises with the appurtenances unto
the said John
65 Turner and to the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten. And for default
of such issue,
66 then to the use and behoof of **Thomas Turner, youngest son of my said
brother John**
67 **Turner** and to the heirs and assigns of the said Thomas Turner for ever.
Item:
68 I give and bequeath unto **my loving nephew Edward Turner, one of the sons
of my**
69 **brother George Turner**, late of **Lingfield**²⁹⁷ in the said county of Surrey, gent.
70 deceased, all that my messuage and tenement and certain lands thereunto
belonging,
71 commonly called or known by the name of **Lock House** lying and being in
Burstow²⁹⁸ in the

297 six miles south east of Redhill

298 about six miles south of Redhill

72 said county of Surrey and now, or late, in the occupation of one **Charles**
73 **Lawrence**. To
74 have and to hold the said messuage and lands after the death of **my**
75 **wellbeloved wife**,
76 **Timothy Turner**, unto the said Edward Turner, his heirs and assigns, for
77 ever. **Item**:
78 I give and bequeath unto **my cousin Thomas Turner, clerk**, one of the sons
79 of my
80 said uncle Thomas Turner, thirty pounds. **Item**: I give and bequeath unto
81 **my loving**
82 **niece, Ann Hoath, wife of Thomas Hoath, gent.**, one hundred pounds. **Item**:
83 I give and
84 bequeath unto my said brother Daniell Bassane threescore pounds. **Item**: I
85 give and
86 bequeath unto **John Fremling of Lemping?**²⁹⁹ in the said county of Kent,
87 yeoman, and
88 unto Anne, his wife, ten pounds a piece. **Item**: I give and bequeath unto
89 the **four children**
90 of the said John Fremling, that is to say, **Anne, James, John and Sarah**, ten
91 pounds

299 Although, at least in the probate copy, the name of this parish starts with the same letter as Lingfield (i.e. "L"), John Fremlyn of Kemsing (k473) had a wife Ann and various children see [More Families & Transcripts](#)

82 a piece. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Anne Carrell, my servant**, thirty
pounds. **Item:**
83 I give and bequeath unto my late servant **Joane Davies** five pounds. **Item:** I
give and
84 bequeath unto my late servant **John Harman** twenty pounds. All and
singular which
85 said several and particular legacies and bequests my mind and meaning is
shall be
86 severally and respectively paid unto them by mine executor within one year
next after
87 my decease out of certain sums of money owing unto me by **my nephew**
George
88 **Turner, eldest son of my said brother George Turner**, deceased. **Item:** I give
and
89 bequeath unto my said nephew John Turner, eldest son of my said brother
John
90 Turner, one great brass cauldron, one iron bottle, one iron spit and three iron
91 dripping pans. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto my said nephews Edward
Turner
92 and Thomas Turner, my two best bedsteads and beds with the coverlids³⁰⁰
and

300 definitely "coverlids" not "coverlets", at least in the probate copy

93 blankets thereunto belonging and also the moiety or one half part of all my
linen
94 with convenient boxes and chests to put the same linen into. The other
moiety or half
95 part of all my linen with the residue of all other my moveables, goods within
doors,
96 that is to say, my plate, household stuff and all other mine utensils
whatsoever, I give and
97 bequeath unto my said wife Timothy. And my further will and meaning is
that the said
98 several and particular parcels of goods devised unto my said wife and my
said
99 nephews, Edward Turner and Thomas Turner, shall be severally and
respectively
100 delivered unto them by mine executor within four days next after my
decease. **Item:** I
101 do hereby constitute, appoint and ordain my said nephew John Turner,
eldest son
102 of my said brother John Turner, to be sole executor of this my last will and
testament.
103 And I do intreat and appoint my said brother Daniell Bassane and my
nephew

page 3:

104 **John Layford, gent.** to be overseers of this my last will and testament. And I
do give unto the
105 said Daniell Bassane and John Layford forty shillings a piece to either of
them a ring.
106 In witness whereof I have subscribed my name unto every sheet of paper
being four in
107 number and fixed together with one label the day and year above written
Thomas Turner.
108 subscribed, sealed and published in the presence of **Phillip ??, Henry**
Nicholls,
109 **Nicholas Crooke.**

V

Robert and Alice Vane

Vane, Robert (Riverhead in)	1616	CKS: Prs/w/17/75	yeoman	V.1 V.4
Vane, Alice	1629	CKS: Prs/w/17/80	widow	V.11

Vaphopkyn, David	1474	PCC: Wattys 15	<i>written in latin</i>	
Varncham, John	1586	PCC: Windsor 65	<i>not investigated</i>	

Robert and Alice Vane

Two wills have survived for Vanes of Sevenoaks (there are no other Vane wills in the area):

	written	proved	
Robert Vane	26 Jul 1615	11 Apr 1616	CKS: Prs/w/17/75
Alice Vane	20 Jul 1627	23 Sep 1629	CKS: Prs/w/17/80

Since Robert left his wife, Alice, "[all those moveables, bedding and householdstuff . . . standing within the chamber wherein now I lie](#)" and then listed all the items, we know what was in the room:

- a joined standing bedstead, one featherbed, one feather bolster, one pillow, one flock bed lying under the featherbed, one mat, one blue covering and one pair of blankets
- three chests containing linen and woollen.

He also left her a black cow, a brass pan and a little, square, joined table.

The chests in the chamber contained two gowns which, instead of going to his wife, were left one to one of his daughters (a cloth gown of silk russet colour) and one to one of his granddaughters (a black stuff gown).

Robert had two married daughters, Ann Smale with six children and Elizabeth Rumney with two. His son, Edward, and his son-in-law, John Smale, were his executors but the will is unusual in that Edward's daughter, Emma, was to inherit a house which Robert owned in Sevenoaks Town paying £10 to each of Ann Smale's four sons and £2 to each of her two daughters.

Although Robert's wife was called Alice, there is nothing to connect the Alice Vane whose will was written in 1627 with Robert. Alice's main legatees were John and Elizabeth Travilion, the children of John Travilion who could have been her son by a first marriage. If Alice, the testator, was Robert's wife, the children

mentioned in Robert's will were probably by a first wife since Alice does not mention either Robert's children or grandchildren:

[illegible]

301 "s" indicates a reference in the Sevenoaks database

This will was written by William Turner (or Turnar), the vicar of Sevenoaks.

July 26th A^o 1615

1 In the name of god Amen. The six and twentieth day of July in the year of
2 our Lord god 1615. In the thirtieth year of the reign of our Sovereign
3 Lord James, by the grace of god, king of England, France and Ireland, de=
4 fender of the faith, etc. and of Scotland the nine and fortieth, I, Robert
5 Vane of Riverhead³⁰¹ in the parish of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent,
yeoman,
6 sick in body but (thanks be to god) of good and perfect memory, do make
and
7 ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following: That
8 is to say, **First:** I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty god, my
9 creator, in whom and by whom, through the merits and death of Jesus
10 Christ, my redeemer only, I trust to be saved and to have eternal life. And
11 for my body, that I bequeath to the earth from whence it came, to be

301 "Rithead"

12 buried in the parish churchyard of Sevenoaks aforesaid. **Item:** I give and
be=
13 queath unto **Alice Vane, my wife**, all those moveables, bedding and house=
14 holdstuff hereafter particularly named, now being and standing within the
15 chamber wherein now I lie, that is to say: 1 joined standing bedstead, one
fe=
16 atherbed, one feather bolster, one pillow, one flock bed lying un=
17 der the featherbed, one mat, one blue covering and one pair of blankets,
18 three chests standing in the said chamber withall the linen and woollen
whatso=
19 ever in them being (except only two gowns hereafter mentioned). **Item:** I
20 give also unto the said Alice, my wife, one cow being of a black colour, 1
21 brass pan with one little square joined table. All those parcels and part=
22 iculars mentioned, I will be peaceably and quietly delivered unto her the
said
23 Alice, my wife, within one week next after my decease by the hands of my
24 executors. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **An Smale, my daughter, the wife**
of
25 **John Smale of Shoreham, yeoman**, one cloth gown of silk russet colour to be
26 delivered to her, the said An, by the hands of my executors within one
month
27 next after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Emma Vane, the**
daugh=

28 **ter of Edward Vane, my son**, all that my house and tenement now situ
29 ated and being in the **Town of Sevenoaks** wherein now **Edmond Porter**
dwel=
30 leth, to her and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten, for ever. Upon
31 condition that she, the said Emma Vane, at her age of one and twenty years,
32 or within one year next and immediately coming after the day and time of
her mar=
33 riage, which shall first happen, shall well and truly pay, or cause to be paid
by the
34 husband of her, the said Emma, their heirs, executors, ad=
35 ministrators or assigns, to the **sons of John Smale** of Shoreham aforesaid,
36 namely **Robert Smale, William Smale, Edward Smale and John Smale**, their
37 heirs, executors or assigns, the full sum of forty pounds of good and lawful
38 money of England in manner and form following: that is to say, To Robert
Smale
39 ten pounds, to William Smale ten pounds, to Edward Smale ten pounds
40 and to John Smale other ten pounds by even and equal portions at the day
41 and time before specified, according to the true intent and meaning of this
my
42 last will and testament. And whereas I do appoint Edward Vane, my
43 son to have the full use, possession and occupying of the foresaid house or
te=
44 nement until his daughter, Emma Vane, come to the age of one and twenty

45 years or be married as before, I will therefore, and my meaning is, that he
46 the said Edward Vane, my son, shall pay unto John Smale, th'elder, of
Shore=
47 ham, his heirs, executors and assigns, the full sum of ten pounds of good,
48 lawful money of England for the which I, the foresaid Robert Vane stand
bond
49 to him, the said John Smale, his heirs, executors or assigns on one bond of
50 twenty pounds for the payment of the said ten pounds at the day and
51 time therein expressed and mentioned. **Item:** I will and my intent and
meaning is that
52 she, the foresaid Emma Vane, shall pay or cause to be paid by the hand of
she,
53 her heirs, executors or assigns (at the day and time hereafter expressed) to
the
54 **two daughters of John Smale, aforesaid, namely An Smale and Catherine
Smale,**
55 their heirs, executors or assigns, the full sum of forty shillings a piece of
good
56 and lawful money of England at the day and time of their several marriages,
if they
57 so long live. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Elizabeth Rumney, my
daughter,**

58 **the wife of Henry Rumney of Maplescombe** the full sum of twenty shillings
of
59 good and lawful money of England to be well and truly paid unto her, the
said Eli=
60 zabeth, or her assigns, by the hands of my executors within one year next
after my
61 decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **John Rumney, the son of the said
Henry
Rumney**, the full sum of ten shillings of like lawful money of England to be
62 paid to him, the said John or his assigns, by the hands of my executors
63 within one half
64 year after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Mary Rumney, the
daughter of
the said Henry Rumney**, my gown to be delivered to her, the said Mary
65 by the hands of my executors within one month next after my decease.
66 **Item:** I give
67 and bequeath to **George White and Clemence White, the son and daughter
of George
White** (sometimes of **Rounden in the county of Sussex, yeoman**), deceased,
68 for a remem=
69 brance, the sum of five shillings a piece, to be paid to them, the said George
and Catherine,

70 or their assigns by the hands of my executors within one half year after my
decease. **Item:**

71 I give and bequeath to **Francis White, the daughter of the foresaid George**
White,

72 deceased, the full sum of ten shillings to be paid to her, or her assigns, by
the hands

73 of my executors within one half year next after my decease. **Item:** I give to
the

74 poor of the parish of Sevenoaks the full sum of thirteen shillings four pence
75 to be distributed amongst them by the discretion of my executors upon the
day of my

76 burial. **Item:** all my debts I freely give to Alice, my wife, to be left to her
77 sole and discretion. **Item:** I will and appoint **Mr. Turnar, now vicar of**
Sevenoaks,

78 (if it please god) to preach at my burial and for his pains bequeath ??
79 unto him six shillings eight pence to be paid him by the hands of my
executors upon

80 the day of my burial. **Item:** all the rest of my goods and chattels whatsoever
not

81 mentioned or bequeathed in this my present will, my funeral duties
discharged,

82 my debts paid and my body decently brought to the earth, I give and
bequeath to **Ed**

83 **ward Vane, my son.** And I make Edward Vane, my son and John Smale, my
 84 son-in-law, my full and sole executors of this my last will and testament and
 unto
 85 them I give the full sum of six shillings eight pence a piece for their pains.
 86 And for my overseers of this my last will and testament, I appoint Mr.
 Turnar,
 87 vicar and **Mr John Warcopp** of the said parish, **gent.** And to each of them I
 give and
 88 bequeath the full sum of six shillings and eight pence a piece for their pains.
 89 In witness whereof I have put to my hand and seal the day and year first
 within written
 In the presence and witnessing
 of us **William Turnar** The mark and seal
John Warcopp³⁰²
John Chapman
Robert Roanole of Robert Vane

302 The will of Robert Warcopp, gent. of Riverhead written in 1625 has survived

Alice Vane, widow, was buried on 17th July 1629, practically two years after writing her will (20th July 1627); it was proved on 23rd September 1629 which fits in with the date of her burial.

1 In the name of god Amen. Anno 1627. In the third year of the
2 reign of our Sovereign Lord Charles by the grace of God
3 king of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of
4 the faith, etc. I, Alice Vane of Sevenoaks in the
5 county of Kent, **widow**, being sick and weak in body but of
6 perfect remembrance (thanks be given to god) do make this
7 my last will and testament in manner and form following:
8 **Imprimis** I commend my soul into the hands of the Almighty
9 and my body to the earth, etc. and as for such moveable goods and
10 moneys as I am at present possessed withall, I do order and
11 dispose in manner and form following:
12 **Imprimis** by this my last will I do order, ordain and appoint
13 **my cousin John Stileman of Otford** in the county of Kent,
14 yeoman, my sole executor and **my cousin Mathew Masters of Westerham** of
the

15 aforesaid county, **chandler**, my overseer.

16 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **John Travilion, son of John**
17 **Travilion** and to **Elizabeth Travilion, daughter** to the aforesaid
18 John Travilion, all my moveables whatsoever with their,
19 and only of their, appurtenances, which are in this my house situated
20 and being in Sevenoaks aforesaid. Which goods, my will is shall
21 be performed and kept in the hands of my
22 aforesaid executor until such time as the aforesaid John
23 Travilion and Elizabeth accomplish and be of the age
24 and ages hereafter expressed.

25 The true intent of this my will and testament is that all the
26 moveables and goods shall be divided between the aforesaid
27 two children, John and Elizabeth, by equal portions, that
28 is to say, when the said John shall accomplish and be of
29 the full age of twenty and seven³⁰³ years and the said
30 Elizabeth shall accomplish her full age of one and twenty
31 years, then my will is that they shall be equally possessed
32 of all my goods, until which time of their accomplishing their
33 said ages, my will is that they shall be kept in the hands
34 of my aforesaid executor to the purpose of the aforesaid
35 John and Elizabeth.

36 **Item:** I give unto the aforesaid John Travilion, in money,
37 the sum of twenty pounds of good English money to
38 be paid him at his aforesaid age of twenty and seven
39 years by my aforesaid executor.

40 **Item:** I give unto the aforesaid Elizabeth Travilion, in
41 good English money, the sum of twenty pounds to be
42 paid her at her full age of one and twenty years by my
43 executor, John Stileman, aforesaid.

44 **Item:** I give unto John Travilion, the elder, and father to the
45 aforesaid John Travilion, the younger, the sum of ten shillings
46 to be paid him a month after my decease, upon his demand,
47 by my executor aforesaid.

48 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the poor of the parish of
49 Sevenoaks the sum of ten shillings to be disposed of at
50 the discretion of the aforesaid John Stileman and
51 Mathew Masters, my overseer.

52 **Item:** the true intent and meaning of this my will is that,
53 if it shall happen that the aforesaid John Travilion shall
54 die before he shall attain his age of seven and twenty
55 years, that then my aforesaid goods and money, being in all
56 forty pounds, shall be paid to Elizabeth Travilion and if it
56 happen the said Elizabeth shall die before she shall accomplish
57 her said age of one and twenty years, that then my will is that

58 John Travilion, the younger, shall fully be possessed of all the goods and
59 moneys which before was to be divided by equal portions. And
60 further, my will is that if it shall happen that the aforesaid
61 John Travilion, the younger, and Elizabeth shall both die before they
62 shall attain their aforesaid ages, then that all those
63 goods and moneys shall be divided between the aforesaid
64 John Stileman, my executor, and Mathew Masters,
65 my overseer, by even and equal portions. In witness whereof
66 I, the said Alice Vane, have hereunto set my hand and seal dated
67 this 20th day of July Anno dm 1627.

In the presence of us³⁰⁴

68 **Item:** my further intent and meaning is that if John Travilion,
69 the elder, father of the aforesaid John and Elizabeth, shall
70 die before the said children shall attain their full ages
71 aforesaid, that then the said John Stileman, my executor,
72 and Mathew Masters, my overseer, between them both
73 shall and keep the aforesaid John and Elizabeth,
74 or see them carefully placed in hand St. Bernices until
75 such time as they shall attain and be of the full ages

76 aforesaid. In witness whereof I, the said Alice
77 Vane, have hereunto set my hand and seal.

In the presence of us
John Brattsell
305

Alice **X** Vane
her mark

305 stylised initials which could be "JB"; John Brattsell could have written the will

W

John Walter, yeoman

Walter, John

1631

CKS: Prs/w/17/153

W.4

W.6

Robert Warcop, gentleman of Riverhead

Warcop, Robert (Riverhead in)

1625

PCC: Clarke 30

W.9

W.11

Will of Richard Webbe

1606

PCC: Stafforde 39

W.16

The Weery Family

Weery, Elizabeth

1616/7

CKS: Prs/w/17/114

W.19

W.22

Weery, George

1628

CKS: Prs/w/17/142

W.26

The Whites of Sevenoaks

The Family of William White

W.32

W.33

The Family of Eme White, widow

W.34

White, Eme

1618/9

CKS: Prs/w/17/127

W.36

The Wills Family of Sevenoaks and Chiddingstone			W.46
Wills, Walther	1617	CKS: Prs/w/17/119	W.48
Wills, George (Chiddingstone)	1623	CKS: Prs/w/17/129	W.50

The Wimbles of Sevenoaks W.55

Wimble, Agnes 1637 CKS: Prs/w/17/165
see [Abraham Tomlin](#)

Wimble, William (al. Hall) 1630 CKS: Prs/w/17/151 W.56

Winter, Edmund 1626/7 CKS: Prs/w/17/138 *not found*

The Wood Families of Sevenoaks W.57

John Wood, sadler W.59

John Wood, shearman W.60

John Wood, barber W.60

The currier, barber and hempdresser W.61

Two brewers and a mercer W.62

Another brewer W.63

The parish clerk W.64

The Wright Family from Riverhead					W.65
Wright, William (Riverhead in)	1619	PCC: Parker	14		W.70
Wright, Joane	1624	PCC: Byrde	89		W.79
Thomas Wylde					W.84
Wylde, Thomas (al.Hinge)	1617	CKS: Prs/w/17/117			W.86

John Walter, yeoman

John Walter, yeoman, was buried on 7th April 1631. He owned land in Sevenoaks and Farnborough and part of a mortgage of other land in Sevenoaks which together was sufficient to provide a total of £240 for his daughters at various times after his death. He was thus a prosperous man. He had a wife living at the time the will was written and three daughters, two of whom were under twenty-three.

His will (**CKS: Prs/w/17/153**), written on 29th August 1630 and proved in April 1631, is the only one to have survived for a Walter of Sevenoaks. It looks as if it was written by a professional except for the very idiosyncratic spelling and it this, rather than deciphering the handwriting, which makes the will so difficult to read. The name "John Walter" at the end looks as if it was written by the writer of the will possibly Henry Croncke, one of the witnesses who may have been able to write well but whose spelling was unorthodox. Another reason for thinking the will was written by a non-professional is the ambiguity of some of the bequests.

The legacies to his daughters were: To **Audrey, his youngest daughter:**

- his "[dwelling house with the little house](#)" and all its outhouses and land
- a table and frame with two joined forms in the hall
- one table and trestle, one form and shelves

but she was to pay £80 to Elizabeth, his middle daughter, four years after his wife's decease. Later in the will, John's wife, as his executor, was given the house for her natural life so that Audrey and Elizabeth might have had to wait a considerable time for their inheritances.

To **Ann, his eldest daughter**: land and woodland in Farnborough and £120 to be paid within six months of her marriage by his executor. Thus, perhaps reasonably, Ann would probably have received her inheritance much sooner than her younger sisters.

To **Elizabeth, his middle daughter**,

- John's part of a mortgage in Sevenoaks of house and land called **Little Whites** alias **Walthamhouse**
- £40 when she was twenty-three to be paid by his executor.

Ann Walter, widow, died sometime before June 1634 since then a Grant of Administration for her estate was granted to her daughter, Hester Streete. Ann and Agnes are often used interchangeably but John did not mention a daughter Hester.

1 In the name of god Amen. This is the last
2 will and testament of me, John Walter, in the
3 parish of Sevenoaks³⁰⁶ in the county of Kent, this 29th
4 of August 1630. **First:** I give and bequeath
5 my soul to God, my strength and my redeemer. And my
6 body to be buried in decent manner. **Item:** I give unto
7 **Audrey, my youngest daughter**³⁰⁷ and to her heirs for ever, my dwelling
house with the
8 little house joining thereunto with the outhouses and one
9 with all the outhouses and land there unto
10 belonging with one table and frame with two joined
11 forms in the ??³⁰⁸ in the hall, one table and

306 "Senoke"

307 "dafter"

308 "chareller"

12 trestle, one form, with all ??³⁰⁹ clothes and shelves
13 paying four score pounds of lawful current english
14 money four years after my wife's decease unto
15 **Elizabeth, my middle daughter.** **Item:** I give unto
16 **Ann, my eldest daughter,** and unto her heirs for ever, the land and woodland
17 lying at **Corkshot Hill in Farnborough**³¹⁰ and
18 six score pounds of currant english money to be
19 paid within six months of her marriage unto my daughter Ann
20 by my executor.
21 **Item:** I give unto Elizabeth, my middle daughter, and to her heirs for ever,
my
22 part in one mortgage in Sevenoaks of house and land
23 called **Little Whites** alias **Walthamhouse** and forty pounds
24 to be paid when she shall be twenty and three years
25 old by my executor. **Item:** I make and **Agnes, my**
26 **wife** my whole executor of all my goods, cattell and
27 chattels with my dwelling house and lands there
28 unto belonging during her natural life and no
29 longer, reserving all timber and true trees, standing, growing

309 "chayented"

310 "Farnborowe"; about eight miles north west of Sevenoaks

30 and being on the ??³¹¹ with all woods and under
31 woods standing, growing and being on ??
32 All ways and ?? at seasonable times
33 ?? further for reparations and fire wood
34 to be ?? ?? with out making
35 any waste.
36 **Item:** I give unto the poor of the parish of
37 Sevenoaks thirty shillings to be paid by
38 my executor to be given at the discretion of
39 the churchwardens.
40 **Item:** I make and ordain **John Come** and
41 **William Medhurst** my overseers unto this my
42 last will where unto I set my hand and
43 seal the day and year first written.
44 **Item:** I give unto them for their pains
45 five shillings a piece.

John Walters

Henry Cronke

The mark of **John Roweef**

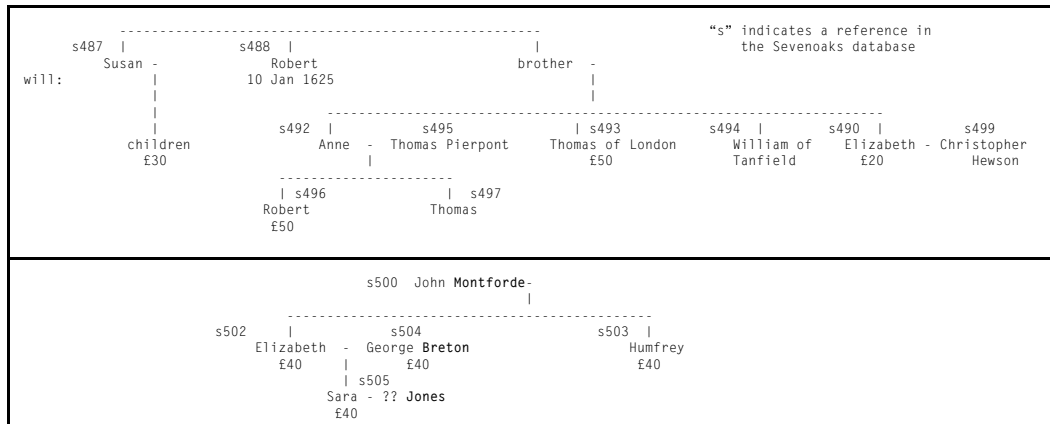
311 "premises"; the same word on the next line

Robert Warcopp, gentleman of Riverhead

Robert Warcopp's will (PCC: Clarke 30, Prob 11/145) was written on 10th January 1624/5 and proved on 4th March 1625. It has a latin heading instead of the usual "In the name of god Amen" and the preamble includes some unusual additional phrases. It is the only Warcopp will to have survived for the Sevenoaks area.

Robert had neither wife nor children when he wrote his will and so left legacies to a large number of relatives. He had already made his "dutiful niece Anne Warcopp" and her husband Thomas Pierpont his main heirs having "made over unto them" by a deed his house, its contents and the land belonging to it plus £200.

In the tree below his Warcopp niece and nephews are taken to be the children of one brother; his niece Elizabeth could have been either one of his sister Susan's children or, as shown, the daughter of his brother. The legacies given to his relatives are also shown in the tree.



His "[most faithful kindred](#)" Elizabeth Breton and Humfrey Monteforde were the children of John Montforde, deceased, whom Robert described as his "[near kinsman and most constant friend](#)" and, because of the love he had had for their late father, they and Elizabeth's husband and daughter were each left £40.

Elizabeth's husband was George Breton, another of Robert's faithful friends whom he appointed his executor. Was he the George Breton of Cliffords Inn whom William Wright of Riverhead made one of his overseers in 1617? He also mentions a Robert Worcop, gent with land in Riverhead who could have been this testator..

Will of Robert Warcopp, gentleman of Riverhead

written 10th January 1625; written on 10th January 1624/5; proved on 4th March 1625

transcript from probate copy

The left hand side of the film is faint and therefore the beginning of the lines are difficult to read.

- 1 Anvisium meum sit a Jehovah quisent
- 2 ?? terram. The tenth day of January in the year of our redeemer Jesus
Christ 1624
- 3 and in the two and twentieth year of the reign of our now sovereign lord
king James, by the grace
- 4 of God king of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith,
etc. I, Robert Warcopp
- 5 of Rethered in the parish of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, **gent.**, being of
perfect mind and memory,
- 6 (thanks be to god for the same) do make and ordain this my last will and
present testament in
- 7 manner following. **First** and before all worldly things I most humbly give
and commend my soul into
- 8 the ?? hands of the almighty and only omnipotent God, assuredly trusting
to be saved by the

9 ?? merits and passion of my alone and all sufficient saviour Jesus Christ.
And my body I commit
10 to the earth to be buried in Christian burial when it shall please the only
powerful god to take me
11 ?? this wretched world. And touching and disposing of my worldly estate
wherewith it hath
12 pleased god to bless me, I have already given this my dwelling house and
the land thereto belonging
13 to **my dutiful niece Anne Warcopp** now the wife of **Thomas Pierpont**³¹² and
to the said Thomas
14 ?? heirs for ever and also my household stuff with most of my plate as
appears by a deed
15 made over unto them both together with two hundred pounds of lawful
english money. Now I do
16 ?? unto **my nephew Thomas Warcopp of London** fifty pounds of like current
money. **Item:**
17 ?? that **my nephew William Warcopp of Tanfield** giving a general release
unto my executor
18 ?? have my silver basin and ewer. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my sister
Susan and her children**

312 William Floate of Sevenoaks appointed Mr. Thomas Pierpoint overseer of his will in 1640

19 thirty pounds. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my niece Elizabeth Hewson,**
20 **the wife of Christopher Hewson,**
21 twenty pounds. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my godson Robert Pierpont,**
the son of the said Thomas
22 Pierpoint and Anne, the sum of fifty pounds to be paid over to his father by
him to be kept to
23 ?? until he shall accomplish the age of one and twenty years and if he
depart this life before he
24 ?? that age, then my will is that the said fifty pounds shall come and be
given to **his brother**
25 **Thomas Pierpoint.** I do further will and bequeath to **my most faithful**
kindred Elizabeth Montforde, now the
26 **wife of George Breton,** forty pounds and to the said George Breton, my most
faithful friend,
27 an other forty pounds. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my cousin Humfrey**
Montforde forty pounds.
28 to **my cousin Sara Jones,** the daughter of the said Elizabeth Breton other
forty pounds for
29 ?? entire love of **my near kinsman and most constant friend John**
Moutforde late father
of the said Elizabeth and Humfrey at whose hands I found more faithful
kindnesses than of all the

30 rest of my kindred. **Item:** I give to **my nephew Pierpont** a mourning cloak
and to his wife a
31 mourning gown and the like to my cousin George Breton and his wife. **Item:**
I give to my servant
32 ?? **Owtram** forty shillings and to my servant **Joyce Locke** thirty shillings.
Item: I give to the
33 poor **widow Locke** twenty shillings. **Item:** I give to **Robert Reynolds of**
Rethered, to Allen³¹³
34 ?? ??, to the **goodwife Byott, to the widow Aldrith, to the widow Wood,**
35 and to the **widow Dunmowle**, to every of them ten shillings a piece. **Item:** I
give to the poor
36 of the Town of Sevenoaks twenty shillings and to the poor dwelling in the
almshouses there
37 ten shillings to be equally divided amongst them. And now to conclude I do
lastly nominate and
38 constitute my said faithful ally and kinsman George Breton the absolute and
sole executor of this my
39 last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand
and seal the day and year first

313 "the wife of Robert Allen out of the almshouse, of the Plague" was buried in 1625 as was also Robert himself
(Ward, p.133)

40 above written. Robert Warcopp. Sealed and declared by the said Robert
Warcopp to be his last will
41 and testament in the presence of us **William Methwold, Thomas Pierpont,**
Stephen Theobald.

This will (PCC: Stafforde 39) was probably written by John Spratt, vicar of Sevenoaks from 1584 to 1616. Richard Webbe, householder, was buried on 21st May and the will was proved the next day, the 22nd May. He mentions some of his wood working tools: levels and planes are usual carpenter's tools, a "holdfast" could be a type of vice, a "crowe of iron" an iron crow bar and "thock pins" a variation on "thole pin" or "thowel pin" - a peg.

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Richard Webbe
2 of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, carpenter, on the twelfth day of May
3 one thousand six hundred and six, being sick in body but of good and
perfect memory,
4 thanks be unto god, do ordain and make this my last will and testament in
manner
5 and form following: **First:** I commit my soul into the hands of my Lord god
and redeemer
6 and my body to the earth whereas it was made. **Item:** all my moveable
goods and chattels I
7 give unto **Clemence, my wife**, on condition she bring up one **Marie Welch**
until she be able

8 to earn her own living. **Item:** I make and ordain Clemence, my said wife,
sole executrix
9 of this my last will and testament. And I ordain **Paul Wood** and **John**
Wyborne
10 supervisors of this my last will and testament and they to be allowed by my
executrix what
11 soever charges they are put unto concerning this business. In witness
whereof I publish
12 this my last will in the presence of those undermentioned and have set my
hand and seal
13 the day and year above written. **Postscript** I give unto **William Foster** all my
box of tools
14 I did use to work with myself and a level. **Item:** I give unto **Evans Wynne** all
the box
15 of tools he worketh withall usually and a level³¹⁴. **Item:** I give **Ralph Brize** all
my thock
16 pins and a holdfast. **Item:** I give unto Paul Wood a crowe of iron and what
planes
17 he shall think well of. After the decease of my wife, all my goods then
remaining shall

314 presumably Evans Wynne worked for Webbe with tools provided by Webbe.

18 remain to the said Marie Welch. Signum Richard Webbe. Witnesses hereof
John
19 **Spratt, Edward Lawrence, Edward Vane. Jeffrey Tancline** hath a bill of
mine
20 three pounds twelve shillings, **John Trewell** six shillings six pence.

The Weery Family

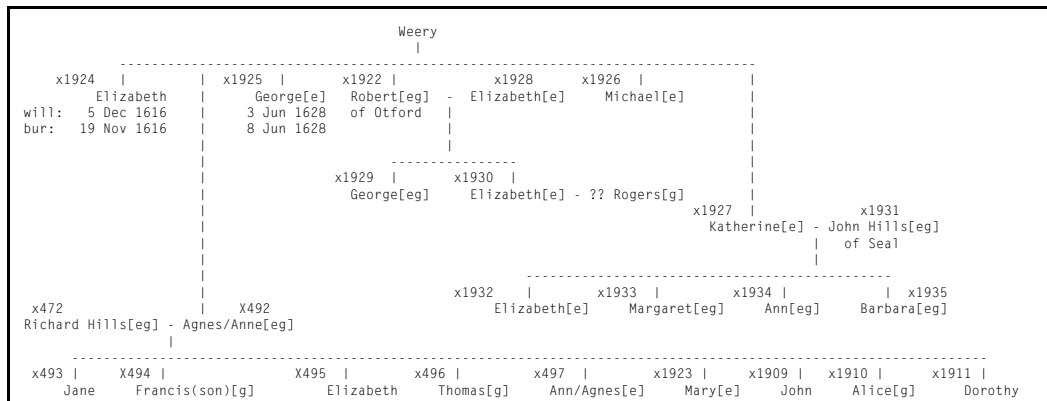
The wills of Elizabeth and her brother George Weery have survived with no others of this name in the area:

	dated	buried	proved	
Elizabeth Weery	5 Dec 1616	19 Nov 1616	21 Jan 1616/7	W.22
George Weery	3 Jun 1628	8 Jun 1628	8 Jul 1628	W.26

Elizabeth's nuncupative will was written by William Turner, the vicar of Sevenoaks. She mentions two other brothers, Robert and Michael, and Elizabeth, wife of Robert was one of the witnesses to her will with Robert's children sharing her "[money, apparel, pewter, linen or whatsoever not bequeathed](#)" with the children of Richard Hills whose wife, Agnes, was another of the witnesses. From the will of Richard Hills, written in February 1639, we know that Robert Weery was the brother of Richard's wife, Anne/Agnes so that Agnes was another sister and Richard Hills's children were Elizabeth's nieces and nephews

In addition, Elizabeth left 6s 8d to her goddaughter, Elizabeth, the daughter of John Hills and to each of John's other three daughters, a pair of sheets and a pillow slip. George does not mention Elizabeth Hills but particularly describes the other three daughters of "[John Hills of Seal](#)" as "[by his wife Katherine](#)". John Hills

married Katherine Weery in Shoreham on 9th January 1598 and their daughters Agnes and Barbara were baptised in July 1601 and April 1604, also in Shoreham. Katherine Weery could have been another of the testators' sisters. In the tree below, [e] indicates a person mentioned by Elizabeth, [g] someone mentioned by George.



Since Richard Hills is described as “of Sevenoaks” in his will, this and details of his family and included in [section H of Sevenoaks wills](#). There were a number of John Hills in Seal (see [Families & Transcripts](#)) but it is not possible to identify Katherine’s husband. Since both the Weerys and the Hills come from a number of parishes they are all included in the “x” database.

Elizabeth, who had 11s 4d in her purse "[at her departure](#)", bequeathed a relatively large number of individual items of clothing and these, together with a summary of her other bequests, are given in the Table below:

George Weery, nephew	£10
Ann Hills, neice	£10
Elizabeth Weery, neice	her best gown and her best hat, her best band and her purse
Elizabeth, Robert's wife	her best apron being of russet taffeta.
Agnes, sister (wife of Richard Hills)	another apron next unto her best being of mingled stuff, a medley petticoat and her band next to the best.
George, Michael and Robert, brothers	a pair of gloves each to be worn at her burial.
Elizabeth Hills, goddaughter	6s 8d
Ann Aldwitch, widow	11s 4d which " she had in her purse at her departure "
Mary, daughter of Richard Hills	her striked stuff petticoat

Margaret, Ann and Barbara, daughters of John Hills	a pair of sheets each
Richard Hills	a plain boarded chest.
the children of Robert Weery and Richard Hills	the rest of her money, apparel, pewter, linen or whatsoever not bequeathed or mentioned

George left his best hat and best stuff suit to Francis, son of Richard Hills whilst John Hills was to receive his old suit and cloak and old hat.

Will of Elizabeth Weery, singlewoman

nuncupative will written 5th December 1616 having been spoken 26th November
transcript from original

December 5 A° 1616

- 1 The bequest and gift of Elizabeth Weerie, **singlewoman**,
- 2 delivered by word of mouth the 26th day of November 1616
- 3 about 6 of the clock in the morning the same day before
- 4 her decease being then of good and perfect memory, In the

5 presence and witnessing of **Elizabeth, the wife of Robert**
6 **Weery, Annis, the wife of Richard Hills, and Amy, the**
7 **wife of Richard Croutchley, and Agnes Robynson, servant**
8 with the said Robert Weerie, as followeth, viz:
9 **Imprimis** the said witnesses affirm that the said Elizabeth Weery,
10 singlewoman, did give and bequeath (after the bequest of her soul
11 into the hands of God and her body to the earth to be buried in
12 decent manner) unto two of her godchildren, viz. unto **George**
13 **Weery, the son of Robert Weery, and unto An Hills, the daughter**
14 **of Richard Hills,** both of the parish of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent,
15 the sum of ten pounds a piece to be delivered unto them at
16 the discretion of the said Robert Weery and Richard Hills.
17 **Item:** the said witnesses affirm that the foresaid Elizabeth Weerie
18 did give and bequeath unto **Elizabeth Weerie,** the daughter of Robert
19 Weery, her best gown and her best hat, her best band and her
20 purse
21 **Item:** the foresaid witnesses affirm that the foresaid Elizabeth Weerie, de=
22 ceased, gave unto **Elizabeth, the wife of Robert Weery,** her best
23 apron being of russet taffeta.
24 **Item:** to **Agnes, the wife of Richard Hills,** the foresaid Elizabeth
25 gave another apron, next unto her best being of mingled
26 stuff, a medley petticoat and her band next to the best.
27 **Item:** the foresaid Elizabeth, deceased, gave to **George Weery** and

Michael Weery, brothers to the said Elizabeth, as also to Robert Weery, her brother, each of them a pair of gloves to be worn at her burial.

Item: the said Elizabeth deceased gave to **Elizabeth Hills, her goddaughter, the daughter of John Hills**, the sum of 6s 8d and unto **An Aldwitch, widow**, the sum of 11s 4d which she had in her purse at her departure.

Item: her striked stuff petticoat the said Elizabeth Weery deceased gave to **Mary, the daughter of Richard Hills**.

Item: to the **daughters of John Hills, namely Margaret, An and Barbara**, the said Elizabeth gave a pair of sheets and each of them a ??cote³¹⁵

Item: the foresaid Elizabeth Weery, deceased, gave to Richard Hills a plain boarded chest.

Item: the rest of her money, apparel, pewter, linen or whatso= ever not bequeathed or mentioned by the forenamed Elizabeth Weery deceased, the forenamed witnesses affirm that she gave to be equally divided amongst the children of Robert Weery and Richard Hills.

315 a pillow coat (pillowslip)?

The hands of the witnesses before mentioned, viz:

Elizabeth Weery

The mark of **Agnes Hills**

The mark of **Amy Croutchley**

The mark of **Agnes Robinson**

Those witnesses before named delivered the words of the gifts and bequests before mentioned as also subscribed their names and several marks, the day and year first within written, in the presence of

William Turner, vicar of Sevenoaks

John Master, the elder

Michael Thomson

The mark of **Robert Topsett**

1 In the name of god Amen. The third day of June in the year of our lord god
1628:
2 and in the fourth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord Charles, by the
grace
3 of god, of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, King, defender of the faith,
4 I, George Weery of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, **shoemaker**, sick in body
5 but, thanks be given to Almighty god, of good and perfect mind and
memory, do make
6 and ordain this my last will and testament in manner following, That is
7 to say, I do first and above all things bequeath my soul into the hands of
Almighty
8 god, my creator and redeemer, and into the hands of Christ Jesus, his
blessed son
9 god equal to the father and my merciful saviour and redeemer, reposing and
trusting
10 wholly in his merits and death whereby I hope to have eternal life. And my
11 body to the earth from whence it came, to be buried in decent manner
12 in the parish churchyard of Sevenoaks aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath
unto

13 **Richard Hills and his wife** of Sevenoaks aforesaid twenty shillings. **Item:** I
14 give unto **my goddaughter, Alice Hills, daughter of the said Richard Hills,**
twenty
15 shillings. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Frances Hills, son of the said**
Richard
16 **Hills, my best hat and my best stuff suit.** **Item:** I give unto **John Hills of Seal,**
17 in the said county, my old suit and cloak and old hat. **Item:** I give unto
18 **Elizabeth Rogers, daughter of my brother Robert Weery of Otford, in the said**
county
19 husbandman, twenty shillings. **Item:** I give unto **Margaret Hills, daughter**
of John Hills
20 of Seal aforesaid, twenty shillings. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto my **Aunt**
21 **Alderidge, of ?oathered³¹⁶** in the parish of Sevenoaks aforesaid, ten shillings.
22 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Ann Hills and Barbara Hills,** daughters of
the said
23 John Hills, ten shillings a piece to be paid unto them within one whole year
after
24 my decease. **Item:** I give and devise unto **my loving brother Robert Weery of**
25 Otford aforesaid, husbandman, all that my messuage or tenement in
Sevenoaks aforesaid

26 commonly called or known by the name of the **White Lion** together with one
barn
27 and all the yards, gardens and backside thereunto belonging. And all the
outhouses,
28 edifices and buildings thereunto belonging withall and singular their and
every of their
29 appurtenances now in the occupation of **Thomas Rumney** of Sevenoaks
aforesaid, tailor,
30 to have and to hold the said messuage called the White Lion, barn, yards,
gardens,
31 backside and premises aforesaid, withall and singular their appurtenances,
unto my said brother
32 Robert Weery, and his assigns, for term of his natural life. And after his
decease
33 **Item:** I give and devise all the said messuage or tenement called by the
name of the
34 White Lion, together with the barn, yards, gardens and backside thereunto
belonging,
35 withall and singular their and every of their appurtenances, unto **my**
godson, George Weery,
36 son of my said brother Robert Weery, to have and to hold the said messuage
37 called the White Lion, barn and premises aforesaid, withall and singular
their appurtenances

38 unto my said godson, George Weery, his heirs and assigns, forever. **Item:** I
give
39 and bequeath unto the **three daughters of the said John Hills** of Seal
aforesaid,
40 ??³¹⁷ by his **wife Katherine**, that is to say, **Margaret Hills, Ann Hills** and
41 **Barbara Hills**, six pounds, thirteen shillings and fourpence a piece to be
42 paid unto them within one whole year after the decease of **Rachel Rumney**,
now wife of
43 **Thomas Rumney** of Sevenoaks aforesaid, tailor³¹⁸. And whereas I have given
unto my said
44 brother Robert Weery the said messuage called the White Lion, barn and
premises
45 aforesaid with th'appurtenances thereunto belonging for term of his natural
life, my will
46 and meaning is upon this condition that my said brother Robert Weery shall
pay, or cause
47 to be paid unto the said Margaret Hills, Ann Hills and Barbara Hills, the
three

317 corner of page missing

318 the three daughters of John Hills had already been left 20s, 10s and 10s respectively to be paid within a year of George's decease (see lines 19, 22 and 23). What was the significance of the death of Rachel Rumney?

48 daughters of the said John Hills, the said sum of six pounds, thirteen
shillings
49 and four pence a piece in manner and form aforesaid. And if either of them
do
50 decease before her or their portion or portions be due, that then the portion
or portions of
51 them or any of them so deceasing shalbe equally paid to the survivor or
survivors of them. **Item:** I will
52 and bequeath unto **Thomas Hills, son of Richard Hills of Sevenoaks**
aforesaid, twenty
53 shillings. **Item:** I give unto **Elizabeth Bordsworth**, my maid, the sum of
twenty
54 shillings when she shall accomplish her full age of eighteen years. **Item:**
55 all the rest of my goods, chattels, lands, tenements, moveables, household
stuff and goods,
56 whatsoever, I give and bequeath unto my said loving brother Robert Weery
of
57 Otford aforesaid, husbandman, as also to pay my debts, legacies and to see
me decently
58 buried and funeral discharged, whom I make my full and sole executor of
59 this my last will and testament. And I will and desire my loving friend,
60 **Thomas Wickenden** of Sevenoaks aforesaid, mercer, to be my overseer of
this my last

61 will and testament and for his pains therein I give him ten shillings. In
62 witness whereof to both these sheets of paper containing my last will and
63 testament, I have set my hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Read, signed, sealed and delivered
and published as the last will and
testament of George Weery
in the presence of

Richard Besbeeck
Thomas Strikenden

The mark of George Weery

The mark of **M** George
Nimble als Hall

The Whites of Sevenoaks

Two White families are known, one the children and grandchildren of the widow Eme White whose will has survived and the other headed by William White which is known from entries in the parish registers. Four men described as householders were buried between 1605 and 1609; Thomas and Robert are taken as Eme's sons and they are shown in the tree below. Richard, buried on 18th March 1607/8 and William buried on 22nd July 1613 could have been related to Eme's family but there is no evidence for this. There are other single references to White in the parish register but this must have been a fairly common name.

The Family of William White

married 7 Feb 1560													
s369	William	-	Ann Tydman	s370									

s371		s372		s373		s374		s375		s376		s377	
John		Margery		Agnes		Jone		William		Elizabeth		Ann	
bap:	13 Sep 1562	22 Jun 1565	11 Jul 1568	18 Mar 1571	12 Apr 1573	22 Jan 1576	14 Aug 1580						

A John White married **Margaret Bird** on 23rd June 1595 but William's son would have been 32 at that time - a second marriage?

An Elizabeth White married **John Bare** on 1st May 1603 when William's daughter would have been 27.

Two Ann Whites married in 1613: **John Sherlock** married one on 6th July and **Thomas Clement** the other on 15th August. William's daughter would have been 33 in 1613.

The Family of Eme White. widow

Eme Whites's will (CKS: Prs/w/17/127) was written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne.. Although it was written on 10th June 1616, Eme did not die until January 1618/9; she was buried on 12th with her will being proved on 19th January. Eme White ordained that her goods, etc. should be divided between her three grandsons, Henry, Thomas and William, with Henry, the eldest, only eighteen in 1616.

In addition, Eme left one messuage or tenement to Henry and another (the one in which she was living) to be divided between Thomas and William. She had purchased both of these "[lately](#)", presumably after she was widowed. Nothing is known of her husband but, since she left Henry a smith's bellows and an anvil, he could have been a blacksmith - from Eme's will, a prosperous one.

A Thomas White married Ann Draper on 10th September 1596 with a son, Henry, baptised on 20th June 1597; this Thomas could have been Eme's son. **John Hall**, servant of Thomas White, was buried on 11th September 1599. Ann Draper's husband was probably born about 1570 and, if he was Eme's son, Eme would have been in her early seventies when she died.

An Eme Philip married Robert White on 30th September 1604 and Eme White married Moyses Masters on 16th September 1611, Robert having been buried in 1609.

Will of Eme White, widow

written 10th June 1616; proved 19th January 1618/9

transcript from original

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

- 1 **In the name of god Amen**³¹⁹. The tenth day of the month of June in the year
of
2 our lord God one thousand, six hundredth and sixteen and in the fourteenth
year of the reign of
3 our Sovereign Lord James, by the grace of God, king of England, France and
Ireland, defender of the
4 faith, etc. And of Scotland the nine and fortieth. **I, Eme White**, of
Sevenoaks in the county

319 decorated "I"; mark "attached" to "h" of "the"

5 of Kent, **widow**, being at the time of making hereof in reasonable good
health of body and of good and
6 perfect mind and remembrance, thanks therefore be given to Almighty God,
notwithstanding aged and thereby
7 put in mind of my last end, and knowing that I shall assuredly change this
life and the time thereof most
8 uncertain and willing that those small and transitory goods and
possessions, which God hath made me
9 Steward of in this world, might be quietly enjoyed after my decease by those
whom I have meant the
10 same unto. Therefore I do ordain and make this my present last will and
testament in manner and
11 form following: And **First** and principally I give, commend and bequeath my
Soul into the
12 hands of Almighty God, trusting by an assured faith which I have in the
merit, precious death and
13 blood shedding³²⁰ of his dear and only son, my saviour Jesus Christ that the
same shall be presented
14 pure and without spot before the throne of his majesty. And my body to the
Earth from

320 "bludshedding"

15 whence it came, to be buried in decent and Christian Sepulchre in sure and
certain hope of a joyful
16 resurrection to life Eternal. **Item:** I will twenty shillings of lawful money to
be given and
17 distributed at my burial among such poor of the parish of Sevenoaks
aforesaid as mine executors and
18 Overseers hereafter named shall think ?? **Item:** I give and bequeath to
my
19 **daughter-in-law Eme, now wife of Moyses Masters and late wife of Robert
White, my son, deceased,**
20 the sum of forty shillings of lawful money to be paid to her within one year
next after
21 my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Thomas White, my Godson, son
of Thomas**
22 **White, my son deceased,** my best bedstead besides such portion of my
goods as shall fall
23 in shift to him after my decease by virtue of this my will. **Item:** I give and
bequeath to
24 **Henry White, son of my said son Thomas White,** a pair of Smith's bellows
and an
25 anvil of Steel, over and above his portion of goods which shall fall in shift to
him by virtue of
26 this my will.

27 **The**³²¹ **residue** of all my goods and Cattells, debts, bonds, bills, credits and
Chattels and
28 all other my moveable goods whatsoever I fully wholly and with good intent
and purpose
29 give and bequeath to my three grandchildren, Henry White, **William White**
and
30 Thomas White, which Henry, William and Thomas White, my grandchildren,
I make
31 and ordain my whole and sole executors of this my will. Notwithstanding
because that William
32 and Thomas White, two of my said executors are underage, I will that my
said grandson Henry
33 White, my other executor, shall prove this my will to the use and behoof of
himself and his other two
34 brothers. The charge whereof, and of my burial, and all my debts and
legacies, as also all
35 other charge necessarily going out of this my will, I will shall be born
equally by my said three
36 grandchildren and executors aforesaid out of my goods aforesaid. And I
desire my Three

321 small version of Nicholas Hooper "mark" in the margin hanging vertically from the crossbar of the "T"

37 Overseers hereafter named in this my will to make an equal division of all
my said
38 goods, debts, bonds, bills and all other my said goods (except those afore
particularly given) within
39 convenient time after my decease, in three equal parts, and every of my said
executors to enjoy one
40 equal third part according to the true meaning of this my will. And I charge
my said three
41 executors that they agree together like brothers, and be tractable to such
rule and good devise as by my
42 said Overseers, or two of them, shall be set down for them and every of them
to fulfil and follow.

43 **To which** effect I heartily desire **my very good friends and neighbours, John**
Blome of Sevenoaks,
44 **mercier, John Charman of Otford, yeoman, and John Hartropp of Chevening,**
yeoman, to be supervisors
45 and Overseers of this my will, heartily praying them to take some pains in
the shifting and
46 dividing of my goods aforesaid and in the helping of my said grandson,
Henry White, in the
47 probation of this my will and in setting down some good course whereby the
said William and Thomas

48 may have the profit of their portions towards their maintenance until their
several age of One
49 and twenty years. At which age I will the said William and Thomas shall
receive their portions
50 and not before. And I will that if either of my said two sons³²² William and
Thomas happen to decease
51 before the said age, that the portion of him deceased shall remain to the
Overseers³²³. To which
52 my said Overseers I give ten shillings a piece besides their necessary charge
about this
53 my will to be laid out.

54 **This is the last** will of me, the said Eme White, made and declared the day
and
55 year first above written concerning the order and disposition of my two
messuages or tenements
56 with their appurtenances, situated in the Town of Sevenoaks aforesaid.
Item: I give and bequeath

322 "sons" here although it should be "grandsons"

323 "of the other two" was inserted somewhere in this line; here seems the most likely place but it doesn't make complete sense wherever it is put

57 to Henry White, aforesaid, my Grandson, all that my messuage or tenement
wherein one **Timothy**
58 **Stone, blacksmith**, now dwelleth with the kitchen, garden and
appurtenances thereunto belonging, lately
59 purchased of **William Plumley**, yet living, together situated, lying and being
in the Town of Sevenoaks
60 aforesaid. To have and to hold the same, withall and singular
th'appurtenances, to him the said Henry
61 White, and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten or to be begotten,
forever. **Item:** I will
62 and bequeath to the said William White and Thomas White, his brothers, my
Grandsons, all that
63 my other messuage or tenement wherein I, the said Eme, now dwell, and in
part whereof one **Walter**
64 **Edmond als. Edmede, tailor** now dwelleth with the housing, garden and
Orchard all other
65 appurtenances thereto belonging, together situated, lying and being in the
Town of Sevenoaks aforesaid.
66 And which I late purchased of **John Masters** yet living. To have and to hold
the same messuage or
67 Tenement last mentioned, withall and singular th'appurtenances, unto the
said William White and

68 Thomas White. And to the heirs of their two bodies lawfully begotten or to
be begotten,
69 equally between the for ever. And I will that the said messuage and
premises to the said
70 William and Thomas willed shall be equally divided and shifted by two
honest neighbours when the
71 said Thomas shall have attained his age of one and twenty years and then
he, the said Thomas, to choose
72 which part he will. And in the mean season, they two to enjoy the Revenues
of the same messuage and
73 premises equally between them. **And I** further will and provide that if the
said William or Thomas
74 White, or either of them, or the heirs of either of them, or any other for them,
shall, at any time, hereafter
75 (by means of any form entail or any otherwise howsoever) make any entry,
sue, claim or trouble the said
76 Henry White, their brother, or his heirs, for or touching the title or quiet
holding and enjoying of
77 the said messuage and premises to him herein bequeathed. And then, and
at all time after, this my
78 gift of my messuage and premises, to the said William and Thomas willed,
shalbe utterly void and

79 of non effect to all constructions and purposes whatsoever. And then I will
all the said message
80 and premises to the said William and Thomas willed, shall remain to the
said Henry White and his heirs.
81 To which Henry I then give the same and his heirs for ever (any thing herein
before mentioned to the
82 contrary in any wise notwithstanding). To the quieting of all which, I will
that all my said Grandsons
83 shall (at the age of One and twenty years of the said Thomas) release to
each other the premise to them
84 willed according to plain dealing and the true meaning of this my will. **In**
witness whereof I,
85 the said Eme White, to this my last will and testament, containing four
sheets of Paper have
86 to every sheet set my hand, and to this last fourth and last sheet have set my
hand and put to my seal
87 And I do hereby revoke and make void all other wills by me formerly made
and do pronounce and
88 declare this to be my true and last will yeven the day and year first above
written

Nicholas Hooper's
mark
with initials

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

the mark of Eme
324
White

The Wills Family of Sevenoaks and Chiddingstone

The wills of father, Walther Wills (or Wells) of Sevenoaks, and son, George Wills of Chiddingstone have survived:

	written:	proved:		
Walther Wills	1 Feb 1609/10	12 May 1617	CKS: Prs/w/17/119	W.48
George Wills	1 Jul 1622	24 Apr 1623	CKS: Prs/w/17/129	W.50

Walther's will was written on 1st February 1609/10 and there is a note on it to say that Walther Wills (or Wells) was buried two months later, on 30th March 1610 but it was not proved for another seven years. What has survived is not the actual will but a "copy of that remembrance which Mr. Spratt, sometimes vicar of Sevenoaks kept as a draft of the last will and testament of Walther Wills". This copy was made by William Turnar who succeeded John Spratt in the spring of 1614.

After copying John Spratt's note William Turnar and another witness (John Hopkins?) each added a note to say that the above was a true copy of the remembrance 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'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".

George's will is unusual in its description of the Holy Trinity: "god, the father, who made me, and to his son Christ Jesus who redeemed me and to the holy ghost who hath sanctified me, being three distinct persons and but one god in whom and through whom I have and hope to have full pardon and forgiveness of all my sins and everlasting life after death". His body is not mentioned.

George seems to have been a widower but his mother was still living and he had three children all under twenty-four. He made his "brethren" Richard and Samuel Brooke his executors but there is no indication as to how they were related to him - perhaps his wife's brothers.

	s909	Walther	-	Julian/Gillian	s910	"s" indicates a reference in the Sevenoaks database
<i>will:</i>		1 Feb 1610				
<i>bur:</i>		30 Mar 1610		> July 1622		
<i>proved:</i>		12 May 1617				
<hr/>						
	s911			s912		
	Christopher			Walther		
	<hr/>					
				s913		
				George	-	
				of Chiddingstone		
<i>will:</i>				1 Jul 1622		
<i>proved:</i>				24 Apr 1624		
<hr/>						
	s915			s916		s917
	Richard			Marie		Elizabeth

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Walther Wills of Sevenoaks
2 in the county of Kent, do, on the first day of February
3 1609, make my last will and testament in manner and form following:

4 **First:** I give to **my son Christopher**, and to his heirs, my house
5 called **Mildreds** and the land thereunto adjoining, requiring
6 him to pay unto **his brother, Walther Wills**, £10 of good
7 money within one year after my decease.

8 **Item:** I give unto the said Christopher all my moveable goods
9 with condition that **Julian, my wife**, shall have the use of
10 them during her natural life and the use of the chamber next
11 the stairs³²⁵ and fire for her use.

12 **Item:** I give to **my son, George**, my tenement and land lying
13 in **Chiddingstone** to him and his heirs.

14 **Item:** I give to **my son, Thomas**, the little house and garden
15 adjoining, wherein **Will. Hartram** did dwell, and to his heirs.

16 This note of the foresaid gifts and legacies I kept for mine

325 "stares"

17 own memory but whether the said Julian, his wife, were
18 executrix or the said Christopher his son executor, I do
19 not remember because I made no note of it.

me **John Spratt**

The said Walther Wills was buried the 30 day of March 1610

That this is a true note and copy of that remembrance
which Mr. Spratt, sometimes vicar of Sevenoaks kept as a
draft of the last will and testament of Walter Wills
which cannot be proved that ever the said Wills made, we have
subscribed our names for the further testifying of the
truth of this copy.

William Turnar, vicar of Sevenoaks

I ?? 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.

John ?? (Hopkins?)

1 In the name of god Amen. The first day of July Anno dom. 1622. And in the
year
2 of the reign of our Sovereign lord James, by the grace of God king of
England, Scotland,
3 France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. that is to say, of England,
France
4 and Ireland the twentieth and of Scotland the five and fifty. I, George Wells
5 of Chiddingstone in the county of Kent, **husbandman**, calling to mind that
nothing is more
6 certain than death and nothing more uncertain the hour thereof, do
therefore make
7 and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following:
That is
8 say, I commend my soul unto god, the father, who made me, and to his son
Christ Jesus who
9 redeemed me and to the holy ghost who hath sanctified me, being three
distinct persons and

10 but one god in whom and through whom I have and hope to have full
pardon and
11 forgiveness of all my sins and everlasting life after death. And for the
ordering and
12 disposing of all lands and goods, I give them in manner and form following:
Impris: my
13 mind and will is and I give unto my loving **brethren Richard Brooke and
Samuel Brooke**
14 of **Brasted** in the county of Kent, **yeomen**, all that my tenement called **Danes**
with barns,
15 orchard, gardens, ?? and all other the appurtenances, for and until **Richard
Wells, my son**,
16 shall accomplish and come unto the full age³²⁶ of twenty and four years to be
let and set?
17 for the best advantage of rent and profit and that the said Richard and
Samuel shall
18 pay, or cause to be paid, unto **Gillian Wills, my natural and loving mother**,
all such sum and sums of money as
19 the said messuage or tenement shalbe let and set for at and above the
yearly rent of forty

326 "adge" throughout

20 shillings and to be paid at the several day and days of payment as she shall
compound with
21 any hereof and sufficient tenancies for the same. And else I will that all the
rest of the
22 rent, the reparations and chief rent to the lord or lords of the fee or fees, first
paid, shall be paid
23 unto **my loving daughters, Marie and Elizabeth**, by even and equal portions
and if
24 one of them do die before that Richard, my son, shall accomplish the age of
twenty
25 and four years, then she which shall survive and out live shall have and ??
the whole
26 and for any goods, my debts and legacies and funeral first paid and
discharged, I will shall be
27 equally divided and shifted in and amongst my children, Richard, Marie and
Elizabeth,
28 by even and equal portions at the good advise and counsel of my loving
brethren afore
29 named, Richard Brooke and Samuel Brooke. And if Richard, my son, shall
refuse to
30 stand and abide this my will but move suit in law, then I do give the moiety
and one

31 half of the said messuage or tenement unto my said loving brethren and to
their heirs and assigns to be sold at
32 most advantage for and towards the performance of my said mother and
daughters' portions
33 and the other moiety I leave unto my loving son Richard Wells but if he
stand and
34 abide this my will then, when he shall accomplish the age of 24 years, he
35 shall enter into and upon all the whole messuage or tenement and it to
remain and be
36 to him and his heirs forever. **Item:** I give unto Richard Brooke and Samuel
Brooke
37 five shillings a piece as and above their charges in execution of this my last
38 will in token and remembrance of my love and ?? kindness, which said
Richard and Samuel I nominate
39 and appoint sole executors of this my will, In witness whereof I have here
unto put
40 my hand and seal the day and year above written, here by disannulling and
making
41 void all former wills.

George Wells, his mark

Sealed and ?? in the presence of

Thomas Brett³²⁷

memorandum: that those words (their
heirs and assigns for ever) were
entered³²⁸ by me before the in sealing

William **M** Hollombie his mark

327 possibly the writer of the will

328 on line 31

The Wimbles of Sevenoaks

Two wills have survived, both proved in the Deanery of Shoreham; although there are Wimbles recorded in the parish registers, none of the entries can be associated with William or Agnes and there is no obvious connection between William and Agnes.

	written:	proved:		
William Wimbell	14 Mar 1628/9	20 Dec 1630	CKS: Prs/w/17/151	W.56
Agnes Wimble	31 Jan 1636/7	30 Apr 1630	CKS: Prs/w/17/165	see Tomlin

Although William'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 and the wife of John French.

It is possible that Agnes was the wife of the William whose will has survived. The children she mentions are those from her first marriage whilst the daughters William mentions could be from his first marriage.

the 14 of March 1628

- 1 In the name of god Amen. I, William Wimbell, alias Hall, of Sevenoaks in
the county
2 of Kent, **labourer**, ?? by words give and bequeath unto **John French his**
grandson ??
3 and unto **Henry Spences's two children** being both my sons-in-law, all my
4 goods, beds and pewter? and 9 sheets with featherbed and two blankets
and two pillows with
5 other goods and in the presence of divers witnesses did say that his sons-in-
law
6 ?? ?? should not have any thing to do with his goods nor any ??
7 ?? and further said that his son-in-law, John French should not have to
8 meddle with his goods but he ?? ?? Wimbell and **George Wimbell** to be
9 overseers for the children till they came to be 21 years of age
10 and for the goods to be ?? for the children.

the mark of **John Roord**
the mark of ?? **Wood**
John Wood, parish clerk

The Wood Families of Sevenoaks

Woods were recorded in the parish register from 1565 until 1649 with this study ending at 1650. Probably because there were so many of them, they are differentiated by their trade. Thus the following heads of household can be identified but the relationships given below have been built up solely from the entries in the parish register:

James Wood	s300	householder	buried 17 Sep 1584	
John Wood	s296	sadler	children 1565 - 1590	W.59
John Wood	s298	shearman	children 1571 - 1589	W.60

The John Wood, householder, buried 13 Jun 1612 could have been s296 or s298

John Wood	s297	barber	children 1570 - 1577; buried 1619	W.60
John Wood	s303	currier	child 1604	W.61
John Wood	s304	hempdresser	children 1605 - 1613	W.61
John Wood	s367	barber	children 1609 - 1612	W.61
John Wood	s299	brewer	child 1586; buried 1588	W.62

The father of the child baptised in 1586 would have been born before the parish registers started, so that the John Wood, brewer, buried in 1588 could have been his father, that is the child's grandfather.

William Wood	s365	victualler	buried 29 Oct 1616	
George Wood	s301	brewer/victualler	children 1589, 1604	W.62

wife of brewer buried 1603 wife of victualler buried 1607

George Wood	s302	mercier	child 1593 buried 1612	W.62
John Wood	s305	brewer	children 1619 - 1627	W.63

wife buried 1630

Thomas Wood		householder	buried 11 Jun 1630	
John Wood	s308	parish clerk	children 1629 - 1642; buried 1647	W.64

John Wood, sadler:

One John Wood, sadler, could have married three times and been the father of all the children shown below; alternatively there could have been two, or even three, sadlers of the same name working in Sevenoaks in the 1560s-1570s. A "[John Wood, sadler](#)," was buried 22nd December 1632 but this is too late for him to have been s296.

[illegible]

The youngest son, Moyses, could have been the servant to whom Richard Besbeech left two ewe sheep in 1633.

John Wood, *shearman*

s298 <i>shearman</i> John -				

s324	s325	s326	s327	s328
Edward	Michael	Jesper	Sarah	Thomas
bap: 16 Sep 1571	24 Mar 1574	31 Aug 1578	29 Dec 1581	15 Mar 1589
bur:				11 Jun 1630

The Thomas Wood, householder, buried in June 1630 could have been the son of the *shearman*.

John Wood, *barber*:

s297 <i>barber</i> John -		
bur: 2 Nov 1619		

s320	s321	s322
Jone	Elizabeth	John
bap: 18 Jun 1570	24 Jan 1573	19 Feb 1577
bur: 12 Sep 1593	22 Jan 1598	

Although, 23 and 25 years old when they were buried, Jone and Elizabeth were both described as the daughters of "[John Wood, barber](#)".

The currier, barber and hempdresser

The barber's son, s322, could have been one of the following three John Woods:

s303 currier		John - s364 William 25 Nov 1604	bur:		s367 barber		John - Dorothy s366 15 Mar 1615
bap:			s344 Anna 24 Mar 1609		s345 John 29 Sep 1610		s346 Frisworth 27 Dec 1612

s304 hemdresser		John - 			
s338 George 11 Aug 1605 7 Feb 1607		s339 Dorothy 1 Feb 1607	s340 Elizabeth 24 Mar 1610	s341 Silvester 7 Apr 1611	s342 George 30 Jan 1613
bap:					
bur:					

Two brewers and a mercer:

	brewer			s301 brewer			s302 mercer	
	s299 John -		s331 Urselin -	George -	Joan s333		George -	
bur:	4 Dec 1588		20 Jan 1603		2 Jan		7 May 1612	
	s330		1607					s336
								Ann
Margaret			s332		s334			12 Aug 1593
bap:	20 Mar		Michael	George				
1586			20 July 1589	15 April 1604				
bur:	12 Mar							
1649								

Margaret Wood who was buried in 1649 could have been the Margaret baptised in 1586 but, other than the name, there is nothing to connect the two entries.

Joan (s333) was described as the wife of "George Wood, victualler"; the two children were both the sons of "George Wood, brewer". One man could have been both a brewer and a victualler or, alternatively, Joan was not the mother of s334

Another *brewer*:

	s305 brewer John - Alice s343				
<i>bur:</i>	28 Feb 1630				

	s247	s348	s349	s350	s351
	Elizabeth	Hannah	Elizabeth	Jane	Alice
<i>bap:</i>	14 Feb 1619	8 Apr 1621	7 Jul 1622	30 May 1624	16 Sep 1627

Elizabeth (s353), daughter of "John Wood, lately from Bermuda" (s306), was baptised on 2 May 1624. Apphiah (s355), daughter of John Wood, brewer (s307), was baptised on 23 Sep 1639 and buried on 27 Oct 1639.

The parish clerk:

	s308 parish clerk John -					
bur:	27 Oct 1647					

	s357	s358	s359	s360	s361	s362
	Thomasin	George	William	Rachel	Robert	Alice
bap:	22 Nov 1629	6 Feb 1631	25 Oct 1633	4 Jun 1637	27 Jan 1639	20 Mar 1642
bur:	2 Feb 1630			15 Jul 1637		

Humfrey Trayne, parish clerk, was buried on 6th August 1626; John Wood could have been his successor

The Wright Family from Riverhead

Two Wright wills have survived, those of William, gentleman, and his widow, Johane:

	written	proved	
William Wright	20 Feb 1616/7	10 Feb 1618/9	W.70
Johane Wright	23 Dec 1623		W.79

William and Johane had two daughters, Johane and Mary, neither of whom was eighteen when their father wrote his will at the beginning of 1617. Mary, daughter of William Wright, was baptised in Sevenoaks on 7th March 1608/9. William owned land in Riverhead and Sevenoaks and leases of other land in various parts of the country. The land and leases were to be divided between them:

To his daughter Johane:

- in Riverhead:
 - his mansion house, etc.
 - three little tenements adjoining with a meadow
 - five acres of land called Silvesters and Baylers field
 - another parcel of land called Upper Orchard

- a lease for thirty years of land in Riverhead held from the Earl of Dorset
- a lease or grant in reversion for thirty-one years "[under the great seal of England](#)" of the old domains of the Manor of Muchelney³²⁹ in Somerset

To his daughter Mary:

- three tenements:
 - the house and land in Riverhead
 - a house with a backside and little parcel of land in Riverhead
 - a tenement with four acres of land next unto a place called **Hitching hatchgate**³³⁰ in Sevenoaks
- his reversions for thirty-one years specified in the same grant as the Manor of Muchelney:
 - of six tenements with the land belonging to them in and near to Glastonbury in Somerset
 - of one gavel³³¹ of land of 180 acres called Bedwarcorn, next to a town called the Balla Cornmemoneth in North Wales

329 about ten miles east of Taunton

330 there is a road called Hitchenhatch Lane near Sevenoaks railway station

331 gavel was tribute or rent; 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.

In addition to the land, Johane and Mary were each to have £100. They were to inherit when they came to the age of eighteen or when they married, whichever happened first. Until that time, William's wife, Johane, who was his executrix, was to have all the profits, etc. towards the maintenance and bringing up of the daughters. . If, however, Johane thought it "fit and convenient for the good of my said daughters" that the lease in reversion should be sold while the daughters were under age or unmarried, William's overseers were to sell it "to the best price and value". The money received was then to be put out by the overseers "with consent of my executrix to the most profit and advantage for my said daughter or daughters". William also charged his daughters "upon my blessing, that they marry not without the consent and good liking of their mother and advice of my overseers".

William's overseers were all people of note:

- Mathias Caldicot, gent.,
- Edward Legge, gentleman, steward of household to the right honourable, the Earl of Dorset
- George Breton of Cliffords Inn, gentleman,
- Mr. Peter Shipman, citizen and haberdasher of London and William's brother-in-law (the brother of Johane, William's wife).

William was still alive at the end of 1618 and, by this time, Johane had plans to marry. The memorandum of 12th December 1618 reads as if it was written by

Peter Shipman who records William as saying that "he had altered many things in his will but he would enjoin his son-in-law upon the making over those things that he had intended to his daughter Mary to pay unto the said Mary the sum of five hundred pounds beside certain houses and ground lying in Sevenoaks parish contained in his will which he had given to be paid at her years of eighteen or day of marriage and the residue of his estate he gave to his wife". The probate copy of the will presumably records the will after the alterations were made (it is not known if the original, which would show the alterations, has survived).

William's daughter Johane married William Rolfe of London, in Sevenoaks, on 7th January 1618/9, seven days before "Mr. William Wright of Retherhed" was buried. She must have been considerably older than Mary who was only nine when her father died.

By the end of 1623 when her mother wrote her will, Johane and William Rolfe were living in Temple Bar in Fleet Street in London. Mary, who was her mother's heir and executrix, would still have been only fourteen; she was left:

- £400 due to her mother "by divers bonds from divers men"; this money was to remain in the hands of Johane's overseers (William Rolfe, Johane's brother Peter Shipman and George Britain - or Breton, another of William's overseers) until Mary was eighteen with "the use thereof" paid to her half-yearly until she was eighteen years or she married.

- all Johane's "plate whatsoever, moveables and household stuff"; so much as was "necessary for the furnishing of five chambers" was to be reserved for Mary and the rest sold, the proceeds being added to the £400 for her "further use, behoof and profit".
- all the rest of Johane's goods, chattels, moveables and household stuff not bequeathed

If Mary died before she was eighteen, half of the £400 was to go to another of Johane's brother, William Shipman, but the other half Mary could bequeath "at her discretion at the time of her death or departure out of this life".

No burial was recorded for Johane. She wished "to be laid by the body of my husband in the parish church of Sevenoaks."

Holographum William Wright 20 February 1616

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 I, William Wright of **Rethered**³³² within the parish of Sevenoaks in the
county
3 of Kent, **gentleman**, being sick in body but well in mind and of good and
perfect
4 memory, thanks be to the Lord, therefore do make and ordain this my
5 present testament containing herein my last will in manner and form
6 following: **First:** I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty
7 God, my maker, hoping to be saved by the merits and passion of Jesus
8 Christ, my redeemer. And my body to be buried at the discretion of my
9 executrix hereafter named. And as touching the disposal of all my
10 temporal goods the which it hath pleased God to bestow on me in this
11 world. **First:** I will and bequeath to **my daughter Johane Wright** my
mansion

or now dwelling house in Rethered aforesaid withall edifices, yards,
close, garden, orchard and appurtenances thereunto belonging, 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 Worcop, gentleman**³³³, in Rethered
aforesaid called or known by the name of the **upper orchard**. To have
and to hold the said mansion house, lands, tenements and other the
premises before devised to my said daughter Johane, her heirs and
assigns,
forever. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my daughter Mary Wright** 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 in Rethered aforesaid. And my house wherein one **Henry**
Woodden now dwelleth together with the backside and one little parcel

333 this could have been the Robert Warcopp whose will of 1625 has been transcribed; Robert does not say where in Sevenoaks his dwelling house was.

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 Halder, daughter of the said Robert Leigh** and also
one other tenement with four acres of land thereunto belonging
next unto a place called **Hitching Hatchgate** within the parish
of Sevenoaks aforesaid the which I lately purchased and
bought of the said Robert Leigh and Ruth Halder, his daughter,
the same tenement and land now in the tenure or occupancy of one
Richard Vaus of Sevenoaks, joiner, or of his assigns. To have and
to hold all and singular the said premises to my said daughter
Mary as aforesaid devised to her, the said Mary, her heirs and assigns
forever. And my will and mind is that both my said daughters shall
enter on these lands and tenements formerly bequeathed unto them either
at their day of marriage or when they shall severally accomplish the
age of eighteen years wether of them shall first come or happen to be.
And if it shall fortune that either of them shall decease before she be
married
or shall come to the full age of eighteen years, then my will is that the
survivor of them shall have and enjoy the other sister's part. But if
it shall happen that both my said daughters shall decease before they

page 2:

be married or accomplish the age of eighteen years, then my mind

49 and will is that my executrix hereafter named shall have all those lands
50 and tenements to my said daughters bequeathed during her natural
51 life and after her decease to remain and come to the right heirs of me,
52 the said William Wright, forever. **Item:** I give and bequeath to my
daughter
53 Johane Wright all that my lease from the **right honourable Cicely, late**
54 **Countess dowager of Dorset, deceased,** and the **right honourable Richard,**
55 now **Earl of Dorset,** of certain lands and tenements in Rethered aforesaid
56 for thirty years to come at Michaelmas next, to enter thereon either
57 at the day of her marriage or at her age of eighteen years whether
58 of them shall first come or happen to be. And if it shall happen my
59 daughter Johane to decease before she be married or shall come to the full
60 age of eighteen years, then my will is that my daughter Mary shall
61 have the same, to enter thereon either at her day of marriage or when
62 she shall accomplish the age of eighteen years whether of them shall
63 first come or happen to be. And if it shall fortune that my daughter
64 Mary shall likewise decease before she be married or shall come to the
65 full age of eighteen years, then my will and mind is that my executrix,
66 hereafter named, shall have the same lease to her own proper use and
behooft.
67 And my will and mind further is that my executrix shall have and take
68 all the benefit and profits as well of this lease as of all the lands and
69 tenements formerly bequeathed to my two daughters towards the

70 maintenance and bringing up of them till such time as either of them
71 shalbe married or that they shall severally accomplish the age of eighteen
72 years. And at either of those two times, they to enter upon all as is
73 aforesaid and not before. **Item:** I give more to my daughter Johane Wright
74 one hundred pounds to be paid by my executrix at the day of her
75 marriage or at the age of eighteen years which of them shall first
76 be and happen. **Item:** I give to my daughter Mary Wright one hundred
77 pounds to be paid by my executrix at the day of her marriage or at
78 the age of eighteen years which of them shall first be and happen.
79 Provided, and my will is, that if my said daughters, Johane and Mary,
80 or either of them, shall decease before she or they shall come to be married
81 or shall accomplish the age of eighteen years, that then the hundred
82 pounds
83 so to either of them bequeathed, shall be saved and remain to my
84 executrix
85 to dispose thereof at her own will and pleasure. **Item:** I will and bequeath
86 to my daughter Johane Wright my lease or grant in reversion for one
87 and thirty years under the great seal of England of the old domains
88 of the **Manor of Muchelney** in the county of **Somerset** now in the
89 possession or tenure of one **Sir Robert Phellepps, knight**, or of his assigns.
90 **Item:** I will and bequeath to my daughter Mary Wright my reversion for
one and thirty years of six several tenements with divers parcels of
land to them belonging in and next to **Glastonbury** in the said county

91 of Somerset contained and specified in the foresaid grant under the
92 great seal of England. And also I give and bequeath to my daughter
93 Mary my reversion for one and thirty years of one gavell of land
94 containing nine score acres called or known by the name of
95 **Bedwarcorn** and next to a town called the **Balla Commemoneth**
95 in **Northwales** part also of the grant or letters patent before mentioned.
96 And my will is that if either my daughter Johane or my daughter Mary
97 shall decease before she be married or shall come to the full age of
eighteen
98 years, that then the survivor of them two shall have and enjoy the

page 3:

99 other sisters part. But if it shall happen that both my daughter Johane
100 and my daughter Mary shall decease before they be married or shall ac=
101 complish the age of eighteen years, then my will is that my executrix
102 shall have all this aforesaid grant or lease in reversion and whatsoever
103 is contained therein formerly devised to my two daughters to her own
proper
104 use and behoof. Provided, and my will and mind further is, that if my
105 executrix hereafter named shall hold it fit and convenient for the good
106 of my said daughters that this foresaid grant or lease in reversion
107 shall be sold before my said daughters, or either of them, shall be married
108 or shall attain to the age of eighteen years, that then my overseers here=

109 after named shall have the sale thereof and the same to be sold by them to
110 the best price and value. And the money that shall be made thereof, or of
that
111 daughter's part so to be alienated and sold, to be put out by my overseers
with
112 consent of my executrix to the most profit and advantage for my said
113 daughter or daughters until they or she shall come to the age of eighteen
114 years or shall fortune to be married which of them shall first happen.
115 And if either of them shall die before then, the other that shall survive
116 to have her sister's part. And if both of them shall die before then, my
117 executrix to have and enjoy both their parts withall advantages and
118 profits that shall arise and come thereof for the time being. And
whensoever
119 it shall please god that my said daughters, or either of them, shall marry
120 then my will is, and I do hereby charge them upon my blessing, that they
121 marry not without the consent and good liking of their mother and advice
122 of my overseers. And my will likewise is that what charge my overseers
123 shall be at either in ?? at any time about the sale of these things
124 aforesaid (if it so happen the same to be at any time sold as aforesaid) or
125 in their meetings at any time upon reasonable occasion and for the good
126 of my said daughters or daughter whose part shall be so aliened or sold
127 by them, the same to be deducted and allowed out of the money to be
made

128 thereof and my overseers, from time to time, to be accomptant³³⁴ to my
executrix
129 therefore. The residue of all my goods and chattels unbequeathed, my
130 legacies and debts paid and my funeral expenses discharged, I give
131 unto **Johane, my wife**, whom I make my sole executrix of this my last
132 will and testament. And I do desire my good and loving friends **Mathias**
133 **Caldicot, gent., Edward Legge, gentleman, steward of household to the**
right
134 **honourable, the Earl of Dorset, George Breton of Cliffords Inn, gentleman,**
135 **and my brother-in-law, Mr. Peter Shipman, citizen and haberdasher of**
London,
136 to be overseers of this my last will and testament and I give unto either of
them,
137 for their pains, thirty shillings to put in a ring, the same to be paid
138 by my executrix within one half year next after my decease. And in
witness
139 that this is my last will and testament of me the foresaid William Wright, I
have
140 written the same with mine own hand and have hereunto subscribed my
name

334 accountable

141 and set my seal, the twentieth day of February 1616. And in the
fourteenth
142 year of the reign of our sovereign Lord James, by the grace of god king
143 of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. And of Scotland
144 the fiftieth. William Wright.
145 **Memorandum** that the twelfth of December 1618 William Wright
146 said that, upon the marriage intended of his daughter Johane, he had
altered
147 many things in his will but he would enjoin his son-in-law upon the
making
148 over those things that he had intended to his daughter Mary to pay
149 unto the said Mary the sum of five hundred pounds beside certain houses
150 and ground lying in Sevenoaks parish contained in his will which he had

page 4:

151 given to be paid at her years of eighteen or day of marriage and the
152 residue of his estate he gave to his wife. **Peter Shipman**

1 In the name of god Amen. The 23rd day of
2 December in the year of our lord god 1623, I, Johane Wright of Sevenoaks
in the
3 in the county of Kent, **widow**, sick and weak in body but, thanks be given
to god,
4 of good and perfect memory, do make and deliver this my last will and
testament in form and
5 manner following: That is to say I do first and above all things bequeath
my soul into the
6 hands of Almighty god in his son Christ Jesus, my only saviour and
redeemer in whom,
7 alone by his death and passion, I trust and assure myself to be saved and
to have everlasting
8 life; and as for my body, I will and willingly yield and bequeath that to the
earth from
9 whence it was taken, to be buried and to be laid by the body of my
husband in the
10 parish church of Sevenoaks aforesaid by the appointment of my overseers
here

11 under named. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto to **my daughter Mary**
12 **Wright** the full sum of
13 four hundred pounds now or hereafter due unto me by divers bonds from
14 divers
15 men specified in the said bonds now remaining and being in the hands of
16 **my son-in-**
17 **law, Mr. William Rolfe**, dwelling within **Temple Bar in Fleet Street in**
18 **London** to be given
19 unto her by the appointment of my overseers hereunder mentioned
20 together with
the use or loan thereof half yearly for her maintenance at her age of
eighteen years
or day of marriage which shall first happen. Nevertheless my intent and
meaning is
that the said full sum of four hundred pounds shall still be and remain in
the
hands of my son-in-law William Rolfe, **my brother Mr. Peter Shipman** and
Mr. George
Britain³³⁵ until the time before immediately mentioned and the use thereof
to be paid

335 presumably the George Breton who was one of William's overseers

21 her every half year presently after my decease till her age of eighteen years
or day
22 or her marriage as is formerly set down. **Item:** I do also give and bequeath
unto my said
23 daughter Mary Wright all my plate whatsoever, moveables and household
stuff now
24 standing and being within my house at Rethered wherein I live after my
decease. And the
25 said goods, moveables and household stuff (excepting and reserving so
much as shalbe
26 necessary for the furnishing of five chambers for my said daughter Mary, I
will
27 to be sold and the money thereof to be added to the former sum four
hundred pounds
28 for the further use, behoof and profit of my daughter Mary and that by the
discretion
29 and appointment of my overseers to be employed to her use in the ?? ?? if
30 it shall please god that my daughter Mary die or depart this life before she
come
31 to the age of eighteen or be married, that then my will is that two hundred
pounds
32 shall be and remain to **my brother William Shipman** out of the said four
hundred pounds

33 and to the children of my said brother after his decease for ever. And the
other two
34 hundred pounds I will shall be and wholly remain to be disposed of by my
said daugh
35 ter Mary, at her discretion at the time of her death or departure out of this
life. And
36 I give to the poor of the parish of Sevenoaks the full sum of forty shillings
to
37 be distributed unto them by the appointment of my overseers at the day of
my burial.
38 **Item:** all the rest of my goods, chattels, moveables and household stuff not
bequeathed
39 or mentioned in this my present last will and testament, I wholly give ?? to
my
40 said daughter Mary (my debts being paid, my body decently brought to the
earth
41 and my funeral duties discharged) whom I make my full and sole executrix
of this
42 my last will and testament. And I do make and appoint for the overseers
of
43 this my will my son-in-law Mr. William Rolfe, my brother Peter Shipman
and

44 George Britain to whom I give, every one of them, the full sum of forty
shillings
45 a piece for their pains. In witness whereof and that this is my last will and
46 testament, I have to each page and side³³⁶ subscribed my ?? and have
hereunder
47 put my seal, the day and year first ?? The mark of
48 Jone Wright. In the presence and witnessing of ?? ??
49 **Stephen Theobald**

336 does this imply it was written on both sides of the paper? All the original wills examined were written on only one side

Thomas Wylde (als. Hinge), yeoman

Thomas Wylde owned five messuages in Sevenoaks each identified by their occupants (who included a petty chapman, a cutler and a shoemaker). He does not appear to have any children and, although Elizabeth, his wife and executrix was left all his goods, etc. not otherwise bequeathed, there is no indication of where she would live. Since Thomas does not mention the house in which they were living, perhaps she would automatically continue to live there. A large number of people benefited from Thomas's will (see below), the bequests including ten "tegs or sheep" which he had bought at Lewes the previous Whitsuntide.

Thomas Edwards	2 sheep
Edward Sisley, overseer	3s 4d
The children of Henry Johnes:	
Thomas, Elizabeth and John	10s each

sons of his brother, William:

Tobias Wylde als. Hinge	2 sheep; messuage with a garden occupied by Richard Smythe, petty chapman
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John Wylde als. Hinge	2 sheep; messuage with a garden occupied by Bridget Vigin, widow; on her death, the tenement given to Helen Harris
Helen Harris, widow	tenement or outlet occupied by Peter Symons 10s a year to be paid to her by Thomas Martin and, on his death, his son Nicholas
goddaughter, Helen Marshall	10s to be paid by Tobias out of his messuage
Thomas Martin	2 sheep
Thomas and his wife Johan	the messuage with a garden " as the same is now divided " occupied by Roger Thomas, cutler, and Thomas Martin and, after the death of both of them to their son, Nicholas
John Fornte, overseer	2 sheep; 3s 4d
John and his wife Agnes	a tenement and garden occupied by George Lownes, shoemaker and Dennise Smythe, widow,

This will (CKS: Prs/w/17/117) was written by William Gibson who also wrote that of Percival Smith. Both include the phrase "crazy in body" (spelled crasy) at the beginning which has not been met elsewhere.

1 In the name of god Amen. The ninth day of April 1617 and in the fifteenth
year
2 of the reign of our sovereign Lord king James, I, Thomas Wylde als. Hinge
3 of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being crazy in body but of
4 good and perfect remembrance, thanks be given to Almighty god
therefore,
5 do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner
6 and form following: **First** and principally I give and bequeath my
7 soul into the hands of god who hath made me and all the world
8 and of Jesus Christ who hath redeemed me and all mankind
9 and of the holy ghost who fortified me and all the elect people
10 of god. **Item:** I give unto the poor people of Sevenoaks afore
11 said twenty shillings to be distributed amongst them at the
12 discretion of the overseers of this my will hereafter named, at the time

13 of my burial. **Item:** I give unto ?? **Michell** 10s to be paid unto her within
three months next after my decease³³⁷. **Item:** I give and bequeath my ten
teggis or sheep, which
14 I did buy at **Lewes** about whitsuntide last³³⁸, unto **Thomas Edwards,**
15 **John Fornte, Thomas Martin, Tobias Hinge** and unto **John Hinge,**
16 the same to be indifferently shifted and divided amongst them.
17 **Item:** I give unto **Thomas, Elizabeth and John, children of Henry Johnes,**
ten shillings a piece.
18 All the rest of my goods, cattalls and chattels whatsoever not before
19 given or bequeathed, I do give and bequeath unto **Elizabeth**
20 **Wylde als. Hinge, my wellbeloved wife,** whom I make and ordain
21 full and sole executrix of this my last will and testament. And I
22 constitute and appoint **Edward Sisley, yeoman, and John Fornte**
23 overseers of this my will and I do give unto either of them
24 three shillings and fourpence a piece for their pains to be
25 taken herein to be paid unto them within forty days next
26 after my decease. And I utterly revoke all former wills.
27 This is the last will and testament of me the said Thomas Wylde,
28 als. Hinge, concerning the disposition of all my lands and tenements

337 this item inserted

338 this would have been nearly a year previous; Lewes, in East Sussex, is about 33 miles from Sevenoaks

29 whatsoever. **First:** I give and bequeath my message or tenement with
30 th'appurtenances and one garden unto the said tenement belonging, now
in the
31 tenure and occupation of **Richard Smythe, petty chapman,** situated and
being
32 in Sevenoaks aforesaid, unto **Tobias Wylde als. Hinge, son of my brother**
33 **William Wylde als. Hinge,** his heirs and assigns for ever, he paying out of
34 the same tenement and garden ten shillings unto **Helen Marshall, my god**
35 **daughter,** within one month next after my decease. **Item:** I give and
bequeath
36 my message or tenement and garden with their appurtenances situated
and being
37 in Sevenoaks aforesaid, now in the tenure or occupation of **Bridget Vigin,**
38 **widow,** unto **John Wylde als. Hinge, son of the said William Wylde als.**
39 **Hinge, my brother,** his heirs and assigns for ever. **Item:** I give and
bequeath
40 the tenement or outlet in Sevenoaks aforesaid, now in the occupation of
Peter
41 **Symons,** unto **Helen Harris, widow,** for term of her natural life and
42 after her decease unto the said John Wylde als. Hinge, his heirs
43 and assigns for ever. **Item:** I give and bequeath my message or
44 tenement and garden thereunto belonging as the same is now divided
with

their appurtenances in Sevenoaks aforesaid, now in the tenure and occupation of **Roger Thomas, cutler**, and **Thomas Martin**, unto the said Thomas Martin and **Johan, his wife**, for and during the term of their natural lives and the longest liver of them. And after their decease to **Nicholas Martin, son of the said Thomas Martin**, and the heirs of the body of the said Nicholas Martin lawfully to be begotten. And for lack of such issue, to the use of the said Thomas Martin, his heirs and assigns for ever. The said Thomas Martin and Nicholas Martin, and their heirs, paying yearly at the feasts of the nativity of St. John the Baptist, St. Michael Th'archangel, the nativity of our Saviour Christ and Th'annunciation of the virgin Mary and by even portions, unto Helen Harris, widow, before named, during her natural life, ten shillings during her natural life.

Item: I give and bequeath all that my tenements and garden thereunto belonging or adjoining to the tenement last above mentioned and now in the occupation of **George Lownes, shoemaker** and **Dennise Smythe, widow**, unto John Fornte and **Agnes, now his wife**, for term of their natural lives and the longest liver of them. And to the heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten and to be begotten. And for lack of such issue

64 to the right heirs of the said **Agnes Fornte**³³⁹ for ever. In
65 witness whereof, I, the said Thomas Wylde als. Hinge, have unto this
66 my last will and testament, set my hand and seal the day and
67 year first above written.

Read, subscribed, sealed and published
the day and year above said, in the
presence of **William Gibson**, scr.

R. Poarham **Edward Sisley**³⁴⁰

339 may indicate that it was Agnes rather than her husband who was related to Thomas

340 probably the Edward Sisley whose will of 1619 has survived