

A

More Families & Transcripts

Richard Abraham, yeoman of Tonbridge	page 2.a.3
Anne Abraham, widow of Tonbridge	page 2.a.7
Anne's Bequests	page 2.a.8
The Acocks of Seal	page 2.a.16
The Adgoes of Seal	page 2.a.17
The Adlingtons of Seal	page 2.a.18
The Akourts of Kemsing	page 2.a.20
The Alchines of Ightham	see Gransden in More Families & Transcripts
The Alchornes of Shipbourne	page 2.a.21
The Alcocks of Ightham	page 2.a.22
William Aldridge of Ightham	page 2.a.23

Richard Aleyn of Chalk	page 2.a.25
Will of Thomas Allen of Nettlestead	page 2.a.30
The Allens of Shipbourne	page 2.a.32
The Allens of Tonbridge	page 2.a.33
Henry Allen, surveyor of land	page 2.a.34
Edward Allen, currier of leather	page 2.a.45
John Alphew of Chiddingstone & Penshurst	page 2.a.49
John Alward of Shipbourne	page 2.a.50
The Amhersts of the Tonbridge Area	page 2.a.51
John Amherste of Tudeley	page 2.a.52
Nicholas Amherste, tanner	page 2.a.56
Richard Amherst of Ightham	page 2.a.70
The Ashdowns of Seal	page 2.a.72
William Ashdowne of Leigh	page 2.a.74
The Avis Wills from Speldhurst	page 2.a.75
John Ayherst of Hadlow	page 2.a.82
The Aynscombs of Seal	page 2.a.89

Richard Abraham, yeoman of Tonbridge

Richard's will (CKS: Drb/Pw 21) was written, on 20th August 1608, by John Hooper who wrote a large number of wills between 1601 and 1641. The initial "I" is decorated and there is a variation of the Hooper mark at the top of the will. The end of the will is damaged and is thus difficult to read. Although John Hooper's name at the end of the will has survived, the writing (and decoration) is his.

Richard left a number of legacies to underage children including 12d to all of those godchildren who demanded it from his executor. But Richard added that those legacies to underage children were to be paid only when they reached the age of twenty-one or married. Often with such small bequests the testator specified that they could be paid straight away to the child's father who would then give a release affirming the legacy had been paid to the executor of the will. If this was not done, it could be twenty years before all the 12d were paid.

The exception to this was Richard's grandson Abraham (his surname is not known) who was to be paid his 12d when he came out of his apprenticeship.

1 In the name of god Amen. The twentieth day of August
2 Anno dm 1608, I, Richard Abraham of Tonbridge in the county
3 of Kent, **yeoman**, aged and weak in body and thereby put in mind of my last
4 end, to the intent that no contention may arise hereafter about any those
5 goods whereof god hath made me steward in this world, do ordain this my
6 present
7 testament and make the same as followeth. **First** I give, commend and
8 bequeath
9 my soul to Almighty god, my maker, with an assured hope of salvation by
10 and through Jesus Christ, his dear son and my alone saviour and redeemer.
11 And
12 my body to the earth to be buried in the churchyard of Tonbridge. **Item:**
13 I will to the poor of Tonbridge, to be distributed in the day of my burial,
14 ten shillings. **Item:** I give and bequeath to my two **daughters, Elizabeth**
15 and
16 **Sara**, to either of them 20s a piece and to **Abraham** and **Sara, their two**
17 **children,**
18 six shillings eight pence a piece. **Item:** I give to the other three children of

14 the said Sara, my daughter, 12d a piece. **Item:** I will to **Margaret Abraham,**
15 **daughter of Thomas Abraham,** five shillings to be spent and paid her at her
16 marriage day. **Item:** I wish? to **William and Robert Abraham, my kinsmen,**
6s 8d
17 a piece and to **William Abraham,** son of the said Robert, 5s. **Item:** I will
18 to **old mother Emerie** four shillings, to **old mother** the ?? 12d and to
19 all my godchildren (not before considered, that shall demand the same of
mine
20 executor) 12d a piece. **Item:** I will all and every my former legacies to such
21 persons and children as are underage be paid them, and every of them, at
their several
22 ?? of 21 years or day of marriage which shall first happen and not before
unless mine
23 executor will except Abraham, my daughter Elizabeth's son, who I will
shall
24 be paid his 6s 8d when he cometh out of his apprenticeship. **Item:**
25 I will all my stuff of household linen, woollen and implements to
26 **Alice, my wellbeloved wife,** and to **John Abraham, my son,** to be used and
occupied
27 by them jointly together or else shifted in severalty one half thereof
28 to my said wife and the other half to my said son, at the choice of my
29 said wife and at her ?? shall think ?? the same
30 ?? my goods. I give ?? John, my son, ??

31 my executor, to see my debts paid, ? charges¹ and my legacies paid and
32 my body decently buried. In witness whereof I have, to this my testament
33 set my hand and seal yeven the day and year above written.

Sealed, published and declared

in the presence of

William Harris

the mark of the

said Richard

Abraham

(John Hooper)²

1 "chardges" (usual for the Hoopers)

2 bottom of will rotted away bu John Hooper's writing

Anne Abraham, widow of Tonbridge

This will (CKS: Drb/Pw 31) was written, in April 1644, by George Hooper, a member of the Hooper family of scriptors. It is in his hand writing but is not decorated. It is an unusual will, interesting for a number of reasons. It is not known how, if at all, Anne's husband was related to the family of Richard Abraham described above.

The preamble includes the phrase: "I praise God, to whose gracious acceptance I commend my soul whensoever it shall please god to put an end to my days here upon earth". The second part of this sentence is most unusual and, as such, was possibly said by Anne herself (or her companions) rather than being a standard phrase used by the scriptor.

Anne had a sister married to John Fishenden whom she made one of her executors. There were a large number of Fishendens in Brenchley but no John is mentioned in the only Fishenden will transcribed - that of George Fishenden also written by George Hooper, in 1649. She also had a brother-in-law, Robert Abraham and a kinsman William Abraham.

Her other executor was her friend Thomas Worsley and “all benefit arising by this will” was to be “equally received and had by” them and “all legacies, charges and costs occasioned thereby” were to be equally paid and discharged by them, “not one of them more than the other”.

Anne's Bequests

When her will was written Anne was living with Thomas Goldsmith and the bedstead on which he “lyeth” was given to her kinsman Richard Bennett. Her second bedstead was given to another kinsman, Thomas Bennett; this was “in the room I come through to my lodging chamber”

Thomas Goldsmith had two daughters and a son to each of whom Anne left a pair of hempen sheets. Thomas himself was to have her “greater iron pot” and two “keelers”.

Christopher Mitchell was important enough to be mentioned but only so that he would not come and claim that he had been forgotten - she gave him “only one shilling”. The only other money bequests were £1 to Richard Bennett, servant of Ambrose Page and 6s 8d and 5s to two godsons.

She left to her sister's sons, Thomas and Paul Fishenden, a “pair of brandirons, slice tongs and iron trivet to be divided between” them. In addition, they were each to have “three pieces of my pewter (some small, some great)”. Her sister herself was to have her “great cupboard” and also six of her “milk trays”. William Mugredge's wife, Elizabeth, was also given six milk trays in addition to a large number of other items.

William Abraham's wife was to have “half a dozen of my pewter dishes, some of them to be great and some small”. Anne's executors would have to do a considerable amount of work in sorting out all these items. In addition to those already mentioned there were a number described in some detail:

- the “pair of sheets with the seaming lace in the middle”
- a “red worked linsey woollen coverlet “
- 2 pairs of hempen sheets (marked with w.h.³)
- 2 half dozens of “napkins marked with the like mark”

and other more general items:

- 2 flockbeds, 1 featherbed, 3 bolsters, 2 pillows, 2 best blankets and 3 other blankets
- 3 pairs hempen sheets, 3 pairs of other sheets, 3 coverlets
- 1 best tablecloth, 2 other tablecloths

3 the first of these letters is the same as the stylised letter “W” at the beginning of “William” on line 19

- 5 joined stools, 4 chests
- 2 sets of ½ dozen spoons
- 2 deep platters, one old kettle, one iron chafing dish
- 1 deep pewter platter, another pewter platter, 1 brass chafing dish,
- a wicker chair and another chair.

Will of Anne Abraham, widow of Tonbridge

written 8th April 1644

transcript from original; CKS: Drb/Pw 31

1 In the name of god Amen. The eight day of April in the year of our
2 Lord Christ one thousand, six hundred forty and four. I, Anne Abraham,
3 of **Halsden** in the parish of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **widow**, being
4 sick in body but of sound and perfect mind and memory, for which I praise
5 God, to whose
6 gracious acceptance I commend my soul whensoever it shall please god to
7 put an end
8 to my days here upon earth hoping and assuredly trusting for Salvation and
9 the pardon and
10 remission of all my sins by the only merits, death and passion of Jesus
11 Christ and my

8 body to the earth in decent manner to be buried at the discretion of my
executors hereafter
9 named. do make this to be my testament and last will⁴. I will and give to
Richard Bennett, my kinsman, the bedstead whereon **Thomas**
10 **Goldsmith** ?? lyeth and the fringe⁵ thereto belonging and the featherbed,
bolster and two pillows
11 whereon I now lie, my pair of sheets with the seaming lace in the middle,
two of my best
12 blankets, my red worked linsey woollen coverlet and one of my best table
cloths. **Item:**
13 I will and give to **Thomas Bennett, my kinsman**, my other bedstead in the
room I come through
14 to my lodging chamber, one flockbed and bolster thereupon, one pair of my
hempen sheets, a
15 coverlet and two blankets. **Item:** I will and give to **Ruth, the wife of John**
Wybarne, one pair of
16 my hempen sheets (marked with w.h.), half a dozen of marked with the like
mark,

4 this phrase inserted

5 fringe or abbreviation of "furnishings"?

17 one table cloth, three joined stools, half a dozen of spoons, two deep
platters, two of my chests⁶,
18 one old kettle, one iron chafing dish and one chair.

19 **Item:** I will and give to **Elizabeth, the wife of William Mugredge**, my other
flock bed and bolster, one
20 pair of hempen sheets marked with w.h., half a dozen of napkins marked
with the same mark,
21 one blanket and a coverlet, half a dozen of spoons, one table cloth, one
deep pewter platter
22 and one other pewter platter, two chests, one brass chafing dish, two joined
stools, six trays and
23 my wicker chair.

24 **Item:** I give to **Christopher Mitchell** only one shilling. **Item:** I will and give
to **Robert Abraham**, my
25 **brother⁷**, one pair of my sheets. **Item:** I will and give to **Richard, the son of
Walter Bennett**,

6 "chists" and on line 22

7 presumably "brother-in-law"

26 servant to **Ambrose Page**, the sum of twenty shillings of lawful money of
England. **Item:** I will
27 and give to **Thomas Fishenden** and **Paul Fishenden**, the two sons of my
brother John Fishenden, to either
28 of them a pair of sheets and to either of them three pieces of my pewter
(some small, some great) and
29 also my pair of brandirons, slice tongs and iron trivet to be divided between
the said Thomas and
30 Paul. **Item:** I will to **Thomas Goldsmith**, with whom I live, my greater iron
pot and my two keelers.
31 And to **Mary Goldsmith** and **Thomas Goldsmith**, his children, and to the
wife of William Weare, his daughter,
32 I will also to each and every of them one pair of my hempen sheets. **Item:** I
will and give to **Ruth Abraham**
33 **my kinswoman**, three pieces of my pewter. **Item:** I give to **my sister**, the
wife of John Fishenden,
34 my great cupboard and six of my milk trays. **Item:** I give to **William**
Marchant, **my kinsman**,
35 my lesser cupboard and my iron chafer. **Item:** I give to the **wife of William**
Abraham, **my kinsman**,
36 half a dozen of my pewter dishes, some of them to be great and some small.
Item: I will to **William**

37 **Hosmer, my godson**, six shillings and eight pence. And to **Edward**
38 **Mugredge, my godson**, I will five
shillings.

39 The residue and all other my goods and chattells not before disposed, I will
shall be⁸ equally divided between the said
40 John Fishenden and my **loving friend Thomas Worsley** if any remainder be
notwithstanding I will to the
41 said John Fishenden twenty shillings of the money he oweth me and I
make the said John Fishenden and Thomas Worsley
42 the joint executors of this my will, to see the same proved and my body
decently buried. And I will that all benefit
43 arising by this will to my said executors shalbe equally received and had by
the said John Fishenden and Thomas Worsley

8 "shall bee" here and on line 44 but "shalbee" on line 43; ("bee" both times earlier in will)

44 and all legacies, charges and costs occasioned thereby shall be equally
paid and discharged⁹ by them, the said John and Thomas¹⁰, not one of
45 them more than the other.

46 In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year
first above written.

Signed Anne

Abraham

Read, sealed, published and declared
by the said Anne Abraham
to be her testament and last will
in the presence of
William Mugredge
and **Geo: Hooper**

9 “dischardged”

10 most unusual to just give the first names; was it because it was getting near the bottom of the page and George Hooper wanted to make sur another page was not required? The Read, Sealed, etc. section is squahed into the left hand side of the sheet by the side of this last section.

The Acocks of Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#37 ¹¹	<u>ACOCK, Thomas</u> ----- 			Agnes Acock(m)	1	3	>Mar 1597
#38	<u>Agnes, his wife</u> -----				1	3	24 Mar 1597
• #1105	<u>Acock, Katherine</u>	18 Dec 1580			0	0	
• #1257	<u>ACOCK, Thomas</u>	8 Mar 1584			0	0	16 Mar 1584
• #1294	<u>ACOCK, William</u>	14 Mar 1585			0	0	

11 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

The Adgoes of Seal

Alternative spellings of this name are Adgoo and Adgow.

Francis Adgoe is known only from the baptism of his daughter, Dorothy, on 30th November 1610. The Thomas whose family is given below and who was listed in the Knole Manuscript of 1648 as living at Fuller Street and Chart could have been Dorothy's brother. Thomas's wife, Katherine Hall had had a base daughter, Francis, baptised on 8th June 1633 and buried 5 days later.

Num #	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#2240	<u>ADGOE, Thomas</u>	<1618	24 Apr 1638	Katherine Hall	1	7	

#2243	<u>Hall, Katherine</u>				1	8	

• #2244	<u>Adgoe, Anne</u>	16 Dec 1638			0	0	8 Jan 1639
		born less than 9 months after the marriage					
• #2245	<u>ADGOE, Thomas</u>	27 Dec 1639			0	0	
• #2246	<u>ADGOE, Ralph</u>	26 Sep 1641			0	0	15 Nov 1641
• #2247	<u>ADGOE, Ralph</u>	18 Jan 1643			0	0	
• #2248	<u>Adgoe, Etheldred</u>	25 Mar 1645			0	0	
• #2249	<u>Adgoe, Alice</u>	18 Jan 1647			0	0	
• #2250	<u>ADGOE, Richard</u>	14 May 1649			0	0	

The Adlingtons of Seal

The Robert Adlington, senior, who died in 1646 was probably the father of the children born between 1615 and 1627. His son Robert was listed in the Knoles Manuscript of 1648 as living in Seal.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#2251	<u>ADLINGTON, Robert</u> -----	<1594		Elizabeth Adlington(m) #2252	1	7	31 Dec 1646
• #2253	<u>Adlington, Margaret</u>	15 Jan 1615			0	0	
• #2254	<u>ADLINGTON, Robert</u>	16 Feb 1617			1	1	
• • #2261	<u>ADLINGTON, Robert</u>	9 May 1645					0 0
• #2256	<u>Adlington, Ann</u>		24 Feb 1639	John BRYAN	1	2	24 Feb 1643
• #2255	<u>Adlington, Joan</u>	2 May 1619			0	0	15 Aug 1638
• #2257	<u>Adlington, Alice</u>	14 Oct 1621			0	0	
• #2258	<u>Adlington, Mary</u>	6 Jun 1625			0	0	
• #2259	<u>ADLINGTON, Josiah</u>	2 Sep 1627			0	0	

Ann is known from her marriage, in 1639, to John Bryan. She could have been Robert's eldest child. See [Bryan in More Families & Transcripts](#) for her children.

Joan, "[daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Adlington](#)" was buried on 15th August 1638. This entry is taken as giving us the name of Robert's wife but, as with many of these families, these conclusions are based on very little evidence.

The Akourts of Kemsing

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
k236	<u>AKOURT, John</u> -----				1 8	6 Dec 1588
• k238	<u>Akourt, Joan</u>	4 Oct 1561			0 0	16 Jun 1564 age 2.75
• k239	<u>AKOURT, John</u>	30 Jul 1564			0 0	probably died before July 1576 when brother called John was born
• k240	<u>AKOURT, Thomas</u>	1 Dec 1566			0 0	20 Dec 1566 at 3 wks
• k241	<u>AKOURT, Thomas</u>	15 Oct 1570			0 0	
• k126	<u>Akourt, Margaret</u>	6 Jun 1574	18 Dec 1591	Steven HODLEY married at 17	1 9 k125	
• k242	<u>AKOURT, John</u>	1 Jul 1576			0 0	13 Sep 1577 at 14 months
• k243	<u>Akourt, Annes</u>	1 Nov 1581			0 0	5 Jul 1583 at 20 months
• k244	<u>Akourt, Isabell</u>	18 Nov 1583			0 0	

See [Hodley in More Families & Transcripts](#) for details of Margaret's children.

John Akourt was one of the three men who drew up the inventory of **John Becket's** goods and moveables in 1570 - see [Families & Transcripts](#)

The Alchornes of Shipbourne

Sarah Alchome (\$1713¹²), daughter of **Nicholas** (\$1711) and **Elizabeth** (\$1712), was baptised on 12th March 1637.

On 28th February 1643, **Isacc Alchome** (\$1864) and **Elizabeth Alchome** (\$1865) married. This is how their names were written in the register.

On 4th July 1643, **Robert Alchome** (\$1868) and **Jane Goodwyn** (\$1885) were married. It is not known how Jane was related to the other Goodwyns.

Nicholas, Isaac and Robert could have been brothers. The **Johane Alchome** (\$1061) who married **George Hooper** (\$1060) in Tonbridge on 17th February 1642 could have been their sister.

12 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

The Alcocks of Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
i2529 ¹³	<u>ALCOCK, Henry</u> -----			Alice Alcock(m) i2530	1 2	
• i2531	<u>ALCOCK, Henry</u>	16 Mar 1643			0 0	
• i2532	<u>Alcock, Lydia</u>				0 0	9 May 1649

Henry was "born 16 March and baptised the Easter Monday following" which was 4 April when he was 19 days old.

In **Kemsing**:

Thomas (k624), son of **Thomas Adcock** (k622) was baptised on 22nd November 1574; Adcock could be a variation of Alcock.

13 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database and "k" one in that for Kemsing

William Aldridge of Ightham

A William Aldridge, **borsholder and ale taster**, was mentioned in the Court Records for 1586-1618.

On 11th December 1611, **William Aldridge**, together with **Stephen Swanne** and **Thomas Richardson** were presented to the Court for having "separately encroached upon a certain lane leading to **Trice Well**" - see [Swan in More Families and Transcripts](#) for details.

On 20th December 1596, William Aldridge (i1838¹⁴) married **Elizabeth Allen** who could have been one of the daughters of Christopher Allen - see [Allen in Families and Transcripts](#). His daughter, Elizabeth, was born in 1572 and would thus have been twenty-four in 1596.

William's wife, Elizabeth, was buried on 27th April 1605; no children were recorded for this marriage.

On 31st July 1609, a William Aldridge married **Margaret Coyfe** and a daughter, Joan, was baptised on 29th March 1612. This could have been the second marriage of Elizabeth's husband who could have been the borsholder and ale taster and also the man brought before the Court in 1611.

Richard Aleyn of Chalk

Robert Aleyn was a reasonably wealthy man and his will is typical of the time (early sixteenth century) with bequests to the church and the inheritance of the land being organised by feoffees. It does, however, include more details than many wills of this period.

His bequests to the church and his godchildren were all given in bushels of barley, a bushel being a dry measure of 8 gallons capacity. The church was the first recipient receiving a bushel for each of four lights for the main altar and one each for a light before eight different saints. His five godchildren were to receive 16 bushels between them making a total of 28 bushels and this in the middle of January. He also left five marks (£3.33) to a honest priest to sing in the church for his soul and those of a number of relatives.

Robert left a wife, Alice, and an underage son, John. His bequest to John when he reached the age of twenty-one, is not only unusual but also shows Robert's wealth:

“five horses and a shode cart with complete harness thereto belonging, a plough, three copull? oxen and 6 kine”.

It is not known to what type of cart Robert is referring nor whether “copull” is a descriptive adjective or whether oxen were sometimes considered in pairs so that the bequest was for six oxen in total.

If John died without an heir, after Alice’s death, Robert’s lands and tenements was to be sold at the discretion of his feoffes and the money distributed by “**in deeds of charity within the said parish, that is to say in priests singing, poor maidens marriage and foul ways**”. Each of these three is abbreviated with their meaning being obvious to the feoffes. Priests singing and the marriages of poor maidens are obvious recipient of charity but foul ways (or “**fowle ways**” as it was written)? After the Reformation money was often left for repair of the local high-ways and this is probably an early example of a testator leaving money for the repair of “fowle ways” within the parish which was the responsibility of the parish.

Will of Richard Aleyn of Chalk

written 14th January 1510/1

transcript from probate copy; PCC: Bennett 38

- 1 In the name of god Amen. the 14th day of January in the year of our lord
god
- 2 1510. And in the second year of the reign of king Henry the VIII, I, Richard
Aleyn of the parish of Chalk

3 in the county of Kent, whole of mind and in my good memory, being
thanked be god, make this my present testament
4 and last will in form following. **First** I bequeath my soul to Almighty god,
my maker, to his blessed mother¹⁵, our lady saint
5 Mary and to all the holy company of heaven , my body to be buried within
our lady church of Chalk aforesaid. Also I bequeath
6 to the high altar for my tithes negligently forgotten, 20d. **Item:** to 4 lights of
our lady within the said church, four
7 bushels of barley. **Item:** for the maintenance of the lights before saint
Nicholas, saint James, saint Anne, saint John, saint
8 Loy?, saint Anthony, saint Sunday and saint Mary Magdalen, to every of
them a bushel of barley. **Item:** to the paving of
9 the said church 6s 8d to be d?? on me and my ?? fader. **Item:** to my godson
Richard Hartey? 4 bushels of barley.
10 **Item:** to my godson **Richard Shote** 4 bushels of barley. **Item:** to my godson
Richard Grinder, 4 bushels of barley. **Item:** to
11 my goddaughter Jane ¹⁶ 2 bushels of barley. **Item:** to my goddaughter ,
Robert Marten's daughter, 2 bushels of barley.

15 "moder"

16 space left here, preumably the scriptor, having made notes, found when he came to write the will that he did not have this surname and left spece for it to be ebtered before the will was signed. The copyist, making the probabte copy, also left this space.

12 **Item:** to an honest priest to sing within the said church of Chalk, by the
space of half a year for my soul, my father¹⁷ and
13 mother's souls, **William Aleyn** and **Johane, his wife**, and for the souls of
Richard Marten and Johane his wife and all
14 christian? souls five marks of the which 3s 4d for every ?? ?? of the said
priest within one year next after my
15 decease. And 3s 4d¹⁸ within a year then next ensuing.

16 **This is** the last will of me, the said Richard Aleyn, made the day and year
aforesaid. **First** I will that **Robert**
17 **Browning** deliver astate immediately after my decease unto **Alice, my wife,**
John Herenden, Thomas Bushop, Robert
18 **Bromfeld** of all that tenement, gardens and 4 acres of land which I have
purchased of the same Robert Browning for
19 term of the said Alice, my wife's life. And after her decease of the said
John Hereden, Thomas Bushop, Robert Bromfeld
20 to stand and be seised to the use of **John, my son**, forever. Also I would
that **Johane Reynold, widow**, deliver astate unto the

17 "fader"; the 6s 8d on line 9 would thus appear to be connected with himself and his wife's? father

18 5 marke is £3.33, 33s4d is £1.67

21 said Alice, my wife, John Herenden, Thomas Bushop, Robert Bromfeld in
manner and form as afore is rehearsed of all
22 such lands as I late purchased of the said Johane. And if it happen the said
John, my son, to decease without heirs of his body
23 lawfully begotten, then I will the said lands and tenements be sold by the
discretion of my feoffes after the decease of the said
24 Alice, my wife, and the money thereof coming I will it to be distributed by
my said feoffes in deeds of charity within the said
25 parish, that is to say in priests singing, poor maidens marriage and foul
ways¹⁹. Also I will that John. my son,
26 have, when he cometh to his age of 21 years, five horses and a shode cart
with complete harness thereto belonging, a
27 plough, three copull? oxen and 6 kine. The residue of all my goods and
catalls not bequeathed I give and bequeath to
28 Alice, my wife, whom I ordain and make mine executrix to distribute after
her discretion. These witnesses:
(names not given, at least not on the probate copy)

19 "fowle ways"

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Thomas
2 Allen of the parish of Nettlestead being sick of body
3 but of perfect memory (thanks be²⁰ unto god)
4 do make this my present last will and testament in
5 manner and form following: **First** I bequeath
6 my soul unto Almighty god and my body
7 to be buried in the churchyard of Nett
8 lestead. **Item:** I do give unto **Matthias**
9 **Allen, my eldest son,** twenty shillings.
10 I do give unto **my son Thomas Allen**
11 twenty shillings. **Item:** I do give unto my
12 **son John Allen** twenty shillings. **Item:**
13 I do give unto **my eldest daughter Jone**
14 **Allen** ten pounds and I give unto
15 **my daughter Elizabeth Allen** five pounds.
16 The which money I will that it be paid
17 unto the several persons before rehearsed

18 within one year aftermy decease. **Item:** I
19 do give unto **my wife Elizabeth Allen**
20 all the rest of my goods and chattells to-
21 gether with all moveables. And I do
22 renounce all other wills by me former-
23 ly made. And I do make and ordain
24 my wife, Elizabeth Allen, sole executrix
25 and **my brother Thomas Hills** overseer of
26 this my present last will. Dated this
27 16th of July 1631. In the presence of
John Pattenden

Thomas Allen
his mark

proved August 1631; since John Pattenden was the only witness and seems to have signed his name, he probably wrote the will.

The Allens of Shipbourne

There were three Allen marriages recorded in Shipbourne:

Henry Allen (\$972²¹) married **Agnes Hills** (\$973) on 23rd February 1610.

John Allen (\$1609) married **Elizabeth Wells** (\$1617) on 7th August 1634.

Mary Allen (\$1950) married **Henry Wickenden** (\$1932) on 18th September 1644.

Nothing more is known about any of these people.

See [Families & Transcripts](#) for the Allens of Ightham and Kemsing.

21 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

The Allens of Tonbridge

Three Allen wills have survived from Tonbridge:

	written	proved		
Edward Allen	1527/8		CKS: Drb/Pw 2, Drb/Pwr 8.142	
Henry Allen	19 Feb 1626/7	1627	PCC: Skynner 92; Prob 10/453	page 2.a.37
Edward Allen	24 Jan 1647/8	16 Feb 1647/8	CKS: Drb/Pw 32, Drb/Pwr 23.88	page 2.a.45

The two from the seventeenth century have been transcribed, Henry's being written by John Hooper and Edward's by George Hooper.

The relationship between Henry and Edward is not known. Although both their wives were living when their wills were written, both chose to make a married daughter their executrix. The probate clause at the end of Edward's will does not seem to include the name "Hanna March" and there is a note made below this, on the same date as the will was proved (16 February 1647/8) signed by George Hooper.

Henry Allen had a grandson whose first name was "Allen" but he was the son of Henry's daughter and therefore had a different surname. Edward seems to have a son called Allen whose name would thus have been "Allen Allen"; most strangely,

he was to receive his legacy of twenty shillings only “when and if he shall require the same”.

Henry Allen, surveyor of land

Henry Allen was a “surveyor of land”, a very unusual description. The original of his will has survived and, although the bottom of it is discoloured, John Hooper’s name can just be read. The will is decorated but not to the extent of some of the other Hooper wills.

The transcript has been made from the probate copy. The will was not proved until 5th October 1627 and Henry lived until at least August when he added a memorandum

- “Memorandum: that upon the fourteenth day of
- August 1627 Anno dm. 1627 the raisure²² and words therein written as within appeareth

- were done by the appointment of the within named Henry Allen who did then rati
- fy the same and this his testament and last will in the presence of us **Elias Allen**
- **Christopher Smith** and John Hooper.”

Because the original has not been studied in detail it is not possible to determine the changes made; the probate copy gives the will as it appeared after the changes made in August 1627.

Henry's wife, Tabitha, was to receive forty shillings owed to him by Anthony Denton and fifty shillings which Richard Darrell owed him with the money being paid to her when it was received by his executrix. If these debts were paid before he died. his executrix was to make the money “good to her”.

Henry was in receipt of an annuity of £7 from Nicholas Harris which was then being paid from Harris's estate. For the rest of the time it was due it was to be paid to Dorcas, Henry's daughter, and her son Allen, “towards his education in good letters”.

Henry lived in part of a “messuage or tenement, with the gardens, orchards, backsides and appurtenances which I late purchased of George Sorham and Anne, his wife”. This, together with a two acre croft of land purchased from the

Earl of Westmoreland, was to go to his grandson Allen Wilson, with Tabitha only having the right to live there until the autumn after Henry's death.

Whilst she was there she was to have “half the fruit and profit of the gardens, orchards and backside thereto belonging” except that from the part let out, but she was also to pay “one half of the charge of digging, setting, seed and sowing if any shall be during that time after my death. And also half the scotts²³ and duties for the said house and ground to the Lord, the minister and clerk”. She was, however, to receive an annuity of £3 “during the whole term of her widowhood” provided that she did not claim “any other or greater estate dower”.

23 “scot” - a customary tax

1 In the name of god Amen. the nineteenth
2 day of February in the second year of the reign of our sovereign lord Charles
3 by the grace of god king of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender
4 of the faith, etc. Anno dm 1626²⁴. I, Henry Allen of Tonbridge in the county of
5 Kent, **surveyor**
6 **of land**, do ordain and make this my testament and last will in manner and
7 form
8 following: **First** therefore yielding my soul to god that gave it. And my body
9 to the
10 earth from whence it was taken, I will and give to the poor of Tonbridge ten
11 shillings.
12 To every one of my godchildren twelve pence a piece. To **Henry Allen, my**
13 **kinsman**, ten
14 shillings and to **Francis Harris**, my servant, ten shillings. **Item**: I will to
15 **Tabitha, my**

10 **loving wife**, that forty shillings which **Anthony Denton, gentleman**, oweth
to me upon
11 his bond which I have. And also that fifty shillings which **Richard Darrell,**
widower,
12 oweth me to be paid unto her when it shall be received of them by my
executrix hereafter
13 named. And more I give her one of my silver spoons and half the wood,
coals and
14 fuel²⁵ that I shall have at my decease. **Item:** I will unto **Dorcas Wilson, my**
grandchild, one
15 other of my silver spoons. **Item:** I will and give unto **Dorcas Wilson, my**
loving daughter, my
16 other silver spoon, my cupboard in the parlour of my now dwelling house,
the table there,
17 my great cauldron, my salve or cupboard²⁶ and my iron plate to stand
before the fire-
18 stocke. The residue of my household stuff I will to the said Dorcas, my
daughter, and the

25 "fewell"

26 in 1625 John Wicking left his daughter one of his "[safes or fly cupboard](#)"; is "salve" another spelling of "safe"? -
see [Wicking in More Families & Transcripts](#)

19 said Tabitha, my wife, equally to be divided and shifted between them by
themselves if
20 they shall and will agree. Or else by my overseers to be laid and divided
into two as
21 equal parts as they can. And then my daughter to choose first and the
other part to
22 be to my wife. **Item:** I will and give to the before named Dorcas Wilson, my
grandchild,
23 and to **Thomas Wilson, her brother**, twenty pounds a piece to be paid to
them at their
24 several ages of twenty and one years or days of marriage which shall first
happen or

page 2:

25 to the survivor of them the whole. **Item:** I will that Tabitha, my wife, shall,
if she please, have her
26 continuance and dwelling in my now dwelling house with my executrix
and her assigns until
27 the feast day of Saint Michael the Archangel next after my decease. And
shall receive also half
28 the fruit and profit of the gardens, orchards and backside thereto belonging
(not now by)

29 ?? let out, coming, growing or being until the said feast day, she, my said
wife, bearing the
30 one half of the charge of digging, setting, seed and sowing if any shalbe
during that time
31 after my death. And also half the scotts²⁷ and duties for the said house and
ground to the Lord, the
32 minister and clerk. **Item:** I will and give to the said Dorcas, my daughter,
and **Allen Wilson,**
33 **her son, my grandchild,** to his use and towards his education in good
letters, all that
34 annuity of seven pounds per ann. heretofore granted and paid to me by
Nicholas Harris now
35 deceased to be issuing out of divers lands in Tonbridge for divers years
whereof some
36 are yet enduring, to be had and received by the said Dorcas, my daughter,
or the said Allen,
37 her son, during all the term and time yet to come of the said years if the
said Allen
38 shall so long live, to his use. And if he shall decease before the said years
shall expire,

27 "scot" - a customary tax

39 than, after his death to the use of his said mother and her assigns. All other
my goods
40 chattells, plate, money, debts and specialities for debts not before given
away or disposed,
41 I will and give to the said Dorcas Wilson, my daughter, whom I make and
ordain the
42 sole executrix of this my testament and last will. And I desire and appoint
my good
43 friends, **John Hooper** and **Abraham Tribe** to be overseers of this my will.
Item: if the
44 money above given to my wife shalbe paid in before my death, I will that
my executrix make
45 it good to her. This is also the last will of me, the said Henry Allen,
touching the dispo-
46 sion of all my lands and tenements made and declared the day and year
first above
47 written. **Item:** I will, give and devise to the said Allen Wilson, my
grandchild, his heirs
48 and assigns, forever, all that messuage or tenement, with the gardens,
orchards, backsides
49 and appurtenances which I late purchased of **George Sorham** and **Anne,**
his wife, in

50 part whereof I my self do now dwell, situated and being in the Town of
Tonbridge
51 aforesaid. And also all that croft of land containing, by estimation, two
acres more or
52 less, lying near **Quarry Hill** in Tonbridge, aforesaid, which I late purchased
of **Sir**
53 **Francis Fane**, now **Earl of Westmoreland**. To have and to hold the said
messuage, gar-
54 dens, orchard, backsides and their appurtenances and the said croft of land
with th'appur-
55 tenances unto the said Allen Wilson, his heirs and assigns, to the only use
and behoof of
56 the said Allen Wilson, his heirs and assigns, forever. Nevertheless my will
is that the
57 said Dorcas, my daughter, and her assigns, shall have and hold the said
messuage, land
58 and premises to her and their own use during the term of her natural life,
she keeping
59 the same well and sufficiently repaired. Provided always and my will is
that the said
60 Tabitha, my wife, during the whole term of her widowhood after my
decease, shalbe

61 paid out of all my said messuage or tenement, gardens, orchards, backside
and croft of
62 land with their appurtenances, one annuity or yearly rent of three pounds of
law-
63 ful english money, half yearly by equal portions. And for non payment
thereof
64 accordingly at the end of every half year by the space of seven days, it
shalbe law-
65 ful for her and her assigns to enter and distrain upon the premises, or any
part
66 thereof. And the distress and distresses there taken to withhold and keep
until she
67 shall be thereof fully paid with all arrearages thereof (any devise of the
premises to
68 the contrary thereof notwithstanding. Provided always, if the said Tabitha
shall at
69 any time after my decease attempt or claim to have any other or greater
estate dower
70 or demand unto all or any my lands and tenements or any otherwise than
by this
71 my testament and last will is willed and appointed unto her, then I will and
my mind

72 is that the payment of the said annuity thereby to her made. and all and
every legacy and bequest formerly
73 thereby to her given shalbe void to her, the said Tabitha, and of none effect
(anything
74 therein contained to the thereof notwithstanding. In witness whereof I, the
75 said Henry Allen, have to this my testament and last will set my hand and
seal yeven²⁸
76 the day and year first above written. Henry Allen. Read, sealed and
declared with the
77 words above interlined before the ensealing in the presence of

Robert Remington, Abraham Tribe, John Hooper, notary publique.

28 "given"

Edward Allen, currier of leather

Edward Allen, a currier of leather, had a shaving loft and had set up a “lodge and building . . . in the backside belonging to my now dwelling house” His wife, True, amongst other things was to have a pillow coat “she brought with her at our intermarriage”. If True was the mother of Edward’s married daughter she must have been married for about twenty years but perhaps the pillow coat she had brought with her was special and had been carefully kept. Edward’s mother-in-law, Anne Totty, was left a “reasonably good” sheet but many women lived to see their granddaughters married.

Will of Edward Allen of Tonbridge

written 24th January 1648

transcript from original

- 1 In the name of God Amen. The four and twentieth day of January in the year of our
- 2 Lord Christ according to the computation of the Church of England, one thousand, six hundred
- 3 forty and seven, I, Edward Allen of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **currier of leather,**

4 being at this present sick in body but of sound and perfect mind and
memory, for which I praise
5 God, for the ordering and disposing of that temporal estate wherewith God
hath blessed me here on earth,
6 do therefore make and ordain this to be²⁹ my testament and last will in
manner and form following:
7 **First** and principally I will and resign my soul to the gracious acceptance of
Almighty God, my
8 maker, hoping and assuredly trusting to have the pardon and remission of
all my sins by the only merits, death
9 and passion of his dearly beloved son, Jesus Christ, and my body to the
earth in decent manner to be
10 buried at the discretion of mine executor hereafter named. I will and give
to **True, my loving wife**, the
11 sum of five pounds of lawful money of England to be paid her within one
year next after my decease
12 by mine executrix. **Item:** I will and give more to the said True, my wife, one
half headed bedstead³⁰ standing

29 "bee", "hee" and "shee" from here onwards but "being" and "me" above

30 "bedsteddle"

13 in the little chamber of the southside of my now dwelling house and the
mat and cord?, one featherbed and bolster and
14 the three blankets and one coverlet usually used and belonging thereunto
and also one pillow and one new
15 pillow coat and one other pillow coat which she brought with her at our
intermarriage and also two pairs of
16 my sheets (one pair whereof to be a new pair lately made and the other to
be an indifferently good pair) and
17 also my best iron porridge pot, two pewter dishes and also my great iron
postuct? to be delivered unto her within
18 short time after my death. **Item:** I will and give to **Elizabeth, my eldest
daughter, the wife of Thomas Jackson**
19 the sum of forty shillings of of lawful english money to be paid unto her
within one year next after my decease
20 by mine executrix. **Item:** I will and give to **Allen, my son,** the sum of twenty
shillings of lawful money
21 of England to be paid unto him when and if he shall require the same by
mine executrix. **Item:** I will to the said
22 Elizabeth, my daughter, one little chest standing in my shaving loft and all
the linen and other things in that chest
23 as it is now locked up. **Item:** I give to **Anne Totty, my mother-in-law,** one
sheet to be a reasonable good one.

24 The residue and all other my goods, household stuff and chattles and also
the Lodge and building by me set up and
25 being in the backside belonging to my now dwelling house (after my debts
and legacies shalbe truly paid)
26 I wholly give and leave to **Hanna, my daughter, the now wife of William
March**, and I make and ordain
27 her, the said Hanna, to be the sole executrix of this my testament and last
will, to see the same proved,
28 my aforesaid debts and legacies paid and my body decently brought to the
earth and buried.

29 In witness whereof, I the said Edward Allen, have to this my testament and
last will my hand and seal the
30 day and year first above written.

Read, sealed, published and declared by the said
Edward Allen to be his testament and last will
in the presence of

**Edward Carpenter and
Geo: Hooper**

Edward Allin³¹

31 looks like a signature, Allin not Allen

John Alpew of Chiddingstone & Penshurst

John Alpew (or Alpey) of Chiddingstone in his will of 1488 (PCC: Milles 18) left “to the Free chapell of Penshurst a mass book and 2 chesebellys, whereof the one is of cloth of Bawdeky and the other of white sarsenett; also a chesebill of white damask”³².

“chesebelly/chesebill” was a chasuble, a sleeveless vestment worn over the alb (a long white, tight-sleeved vestment) by the priest whilst celebrating mass. Sarsenet is a thin material of fine silk..

32 Duncan, 1906, p.59

John Alward of Shipbourne

One John Alward could have married twice, as shown below, or there could have been two Johns.

	\$1519	\$1526	\$1798
	Elizabeth Page -	John Alward -	Mercy Morice
<i>mar:</i>	25 Jul 1630		2 Feb 1641
<i>bur:</i>	<1641	12 Dec 1643	
		John \$1527	
<i>bap:</i>		11 Sep 1631	

The Amhersts of the Tonbridge Area

Two Amherst wills have survived from Tudeley:

John Amherst	1588	CKS: Drb/Pw 15; Drb/Pwr 17.298	page 2.a.53
Nicholas Amherste	19 Feb 1600	CKS: Drb/Pw 19; Drb/Pwr 19I.130	page 2.a.57

Both were written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618. Only the first page of John's has been transcribed; the right hand side of the original has rotted so that the end of the lines cannot be read. It has a small version of the Nicholas Hooper mark at top and the "I" at the beginning is decorated. Nicholas Amherste's will was proved on 16th July 1600.

Six have survived from Pembury (or Pepingburie, as it was often written):

Thomas, Amherst	1459d	CKS: Drb/Pwr 2.168	
Thomas Amherst	1489d	CKS: Drb/Pwr 5.159(2)	
William Amherst	1561p	CKS: Drb/Pwr 12.491; Drb/Pw 6	
John Amherst	1578p	CKS: Drb/Pwr 15.109; Drb/Pw 12	
Richard Amherst	1602d	CKS: Drb/Pwr 19I.458	page 2.a.69
William Amherst	1635p	CKS: Drb/Pwr 19IIB.18; Dra/Pw1	

The only one of the Pembury wills which has been looked at is that of Richard Amherst of Pembury; it is a very long will (16 pages in the probate copy) and difficult to read; it was not written by Nicholas Hooper. Two short extracts are given from it.

John Amherst of Tudeley

Although “of Tudeley”, John wanted to be buried in Pembury and he had an unusual connection with two other parishes. He left “[three beds with their furniture](#)” to his daughter Elizabeth. These were at three different locations:

- one at William Walters at West Malling
- one in the hands of Thomas ??
- one at Edward Andrews at Peckham

1 In the name of god Amen. the seventeenth day of ?? (in the year)³³
2 our lord god one thousand, five hundreithe, four score and eight (and in the
??)
3 year of the reign of our sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the (grace of god
Queen)
4 of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, (I, John)
5 Amherst of Tudeley in the county of Kent, **husbandman**, (sick of)
6 body but yet of perfect mind and remembrance, thanks therefore (be given
to god)
7 almighty, do ordain and make this my present testament and last (will in
manner)
8 and form following³⁴: And **First** and principally I give, commend (and
bequeath)
9 my soul into the hands of Almighty god, my maker and to Jesus Christ, my

33 words in brackets assumed from context

34 "folowing"; usual for the Hoopers

10 saviour and redeemer, by whose precious death and bludshedding I trust to
be ??
11 And my body to be buried in the churchyard of Pembury in the said
(county).
12 **Item:** I will there shall be bestowed upon poor people resorting ??
13 Pembury aforesaid ten shillings. **Item:** whereas I owe to my late ??
14 **Dione Wynter**³⁵ three pounds, now I will and give unto her by three ??
15 three pounds lawful money so that that which I owe her and this my gift
shall ??
16 of six pounds which I will shalbe paid unto her within one whole (year next
after
17 my decease.

inserted here, written between lines 16 and 17:

Item: I will and bequeath to **my daughter Elizabeth** three beds with their
furniture whereof one at **William Walters** (of West??)

Malling, ?? in the hands of **Thomas ??** and the other at **Andrew Edwards**
at Peckham, nine pay??
?? ??

35 "late mistress"?; obviously the "late" cannot mean that Dione Wynter was deceased. Had he been a servant of Dione Winter?

second brass pot, and my second brass pan, to be delivered to her at her age of eighteen years or at the day of her marriage

18 The residue of all my goods and cattalls, as well (moveable as
19 immoveable, my debts paid and funeral discharged, I wholly, fully and
 (with the)
20 afore intent and purpose, give and bequeath to my **brother** (Mathew)
21 **Hartridge**³⁶, which Mathew I ordain and make my whole and (sole executor
 of)
22 this my will, to see the same proved and my body to be honestly ?? in
23 the earth. Notwithstanding will that my said executor shall deliver all other
 my ??
24 except the same afore given to the said Elizabeth, to my said **daughter**
 Margaret, at her full (age of eighteen)
24 years or day of her marriage which shall first happen. Deducting out of the
 same all such ??
25 in the probation of my will or any his charge about the same or for any
 thing ?? ??
26 ?? and all debts which I owe.

Nicholas Hooper, writer hereof

36 or "Partridge"

Nicholas Amherst, tanner

Nicholas Amherst was a tanner and he ordained that all the cisterns, tanning vessels and other items connected with tanning were to remain as standards to his house. All the tanned hide and the leather he had, either raw or tanned, was to be divided between his wife and John, one of his sons, with his wife having "free liberty in the tanyard and the tanhouses and vessels for the tanning and dressing out of the said leather" for which she was to have "sufficient tan".

<i>will:</i>		x1560	Nicholas - Johane	x1561 ³⁷	
		19 Feb 1600			

	x1562	x1563	x1564	x1565	x1566
	Johane - ?? Hover	Susan - ?? Everest	John -	Marie - ?? Turner	George -
<i>died:</i>					<1600
			x1568	x1570	x1572 x1573
			Christopher	Marie	Nicholas Arthur

Although his will has not been looked at in detail, **James Danne** in his will written in 1590 (CKS: Drb/Pw 16; Drb/Pwr 18.302) mentions his daughter Johane Amherst; she could have been Nicholas's wife, particularly since two of the witnesses to the

37 "x" indicates a reference in the miscellaneous database

will are John and Thomas Dan and James had two sons with these names. John was also to be one of the overseers and supervisors of the will; he could have been the John Dan of Tonbridge whose will of 1617 has survived. The George Dan of Tudeley whose will was written in 1633 was also a tanner - see [Dan in More Families & Transcripts](#).

Will of Nicholas Amherste of Tudeley

written 19th February 1599/1600

transcript from original

1 In the name of god Amen. The nineteenth day of February in the year of our
2 lord God, one thousand five hundred, four score and nineteen. And in the
two and fortieth
3 year of the reign of our sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God,
Queen of England
4 France and Ireland, defender of the faith. I, Nicholas Amherste of **Judds**
within
5 **the parish of Tudeley** in the county of Kent, **tanner**, being at the time of
making hereof in
6 reasonable good health of body and of perfect mind and remembrance,
thanks therefore be given to god

7 almighty, notwithstanding aged and full of aches and grief and thereby (as
also by daily examples)
8 put in mind of my last end. And being very desirous that love, unity and
goodwill should be ??
9 and continue between my wife, children and children's children, that no
contention happen between
10 them for or about those transitory possessions which god hath lent me to
dispose of after my decease
11 Therefore I do ordain and make this my present testament and last will in
manner and form
12 following: And **First** and principally I give, commend and bequeath my soul
into the hands of
13 Almighty god who gave it, trusting (by a sure faith in the merit of Christ's
passion) that the same
14 shalbe presented, without spot, before the throne of his majesty, And my
body to the earth, the
15 mother? of all things, to be buried in honest and decent sepulture, in sure
and certain hope of joyful
16 resurrection to life immortal. **Item:** I give to the parish of Tudeley

17 3s 4d. To the churchwardens of **Capel**³⁸ 6s 8d and to the churchwardens of
Pepingburie³⁹ 3s 4d
18 In the intent that they, and every of them, shall give and distribute the
same several⁴⁰ sums among the poorest
19 and most needy persons inhabiting within the said several parishes within
one month after my decease.
20 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Nicolas Rayne and Walter Rayne, two of the**
sons of my
21 **neighbour, Martin Rayne,** to each of them five pounds a piece of good and
lawful money of England
22 To be paid to the said Nicolas within one year next after my decease And to
the said Walter Rayne
23 at his full age of one and twenty years.⁴¹

Item:

24 I give and bequeath to **Marie Day** the sum of six pounds thirteen shillings

38 about 1½ south-east of Tudeley

39 Pembury, about 3½ miles south of Tudeley

40 "sondall" meaning several (occurs also on next line)

41 this is the end of the first page (each page is signed with the mark of Nicholas Amherste (a vertical cross). 1½ at the bottom of the first page and the top line of the next page have been heavily crossed out.

25 and four pence to be paid to her at her full age of twenty years. **Item:**
26 I bequeath to every of **my daughters Johane Hover, Susan Everest and**
27 **Marie Turner** and to my
28 **goddaughter, Marie Turner, her daughter**, ten shillings a piece to be paid to
29 them, and every of
30 them within one year next after my decease. **Item:** I give to every of **my**
31 **godchildren** 12d a piece
32 to be paid when they shall demand the same. **Item:** I will that my
33 Cisterns?, Tanfates?
34 Tanning vessels and all implements of tanning shall stand and remain
35 undefaced
36 and standards⁴² to my house for ever. And also my furnace and settle in the
37 kitchen, my table and
38 form in the hall, my press in the chamber wherein I now lie and my coverlet
39 with the
40 furniture to the same belonging shall likewise remain as like standards for
41 ever. **Item:** I
42 will that all such tanned hides and leather, either made or raw and
43 provided in, at the time of my decease,
44 shalbe equally shifted and divided between my loving wife and **John**
45 **Amherste, my son**, by mine

42 standers?

36 overseers hereafter named. And I will that my said wife shall have free
liberty in the tanyard
37 and the tanhouses and vessels for the tanning and dressing out of the said
leather to her appointed
38 and that she shall have sufficient tan for the same, she, my said wife, her
executors or assigns,
39 paying for the charge of the same. And I do severally forgive **Thomas**
Walter of Tonbridge,
40 **shoemaker,** all the debt that he now oweth me.
41 The residue of all my goods and cattells, debts, credits and chattels, I
wholly, fully
42 and with good effect, intent and purpose, give and bequeath to **Johane, my**
loving wife, whom I make
43 and ordain my whole and sole executrix of this my will to see my debts and
legacies paid And
44 my body decently and honestly buried. And I desire **my trusty friends,**
Abraham
45 **Borowage and John Dan,** to be supervisors and overseers of this my will,
desiring them
46 to take some pains to see that the same may be performed according to the
true meaning thereof. To

47 whom I give, for and toward their pains, six shillings eight pence, over and
above all their charges⁴³
48 and expense.

49 This is the last will of me, the said Nicolas Amherste, made and declared
the day
50 and year first above written concerning the order and disposition of all my
lands, tenements and
51 hereditaments whatsoever. **First:** I give and bequeath unto the said
Johane, my wife, All my messuage or
52 tenement lying in **Lamberhurst** and four acres of land, more or less, thereto
belonging, To have and to
53 hold the same withall and singular th'appurtenances, unto the said Johane,
my wife, and her assigns, during
54 her natural life, and after her decease the same to remain unto **Nicholas
Amherste, son of my son**
55 **George Amherste, deceased**, and to the heirs male of the body of the said
Nicolas Amherste, the son.
56 And for default of such heirs, the same to remain to **Arthur Amherste,**
brother of the said Nicholas,

43 no "d"

57 and the heires⁴⁴ males of his body lawfully begotten. And for default of
such heirs, to remain to the
58 right heirs of the said Arthur forever. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto her,
the said Johane,
59 my wife, All that my messuage or tenement called **Judds** wherein I now
dwell, And all the edifice,
60 gardens, Orchardland, meadows, pastures and feeding thereto belonging
and those withall now
61 occupied, severally situated, lying and being in **Tonbridge and Capel** of the
which I have made no other
62 conveyance⁴⁵, withall and singular th'appurtenances (except the wood
growing) unto the said Johane,
63 my wife, To have and to hold the same, withall and singular
th'appurtenances (except before excepted)
64 unto the said Johane, my wife, and her assigns, until the feast of St.
Michael come twelvemonth
65 next after my decease, During which time (if there shall not be sufficient
firewood for her

44 "heirs" is spelt "heires" throughout (this is usual for many wills) but here "the heires" has become "theires"

45 conveyance?

66 necessary burning during the same time) then it shall be lawful for my said
wife and
67 her assigns to fell, cut and take in upon the premises sufficient firewood for
her spending during
68 the said time, to be taken of such trees as are most unapt for timber.
Notwithstanding, my will is
69 that **John Amherste, my son**, his heirs and assigns, shall have the use and
occupation of all my said
70 tanhouses, tanbarn and tan vessels during the said time, not hindering my
said wife or her
71 assigns in the tanning, drying or dressing of her part of the leather and
hides before to her
72 appointed. And after the said feast of St. Michael twelvemonth next after
my decease or
73 presently after her decease (if she happen to decease before) Then my will
and mind is
74 that the said messuage, edifice, land, meadows, pastures, feeding, woods
and underwoods, thereto
75 belonging shall remain to my said son, John Amherste, to him and to his
heirs, the same withall
76 and singular thappurtenances, unto the said John, my son, for and during
his natural life. And after

77 his decease, I will and devise all the said messuage, land and premises
withall and singular th'appurtenances,
78 unto **Christopher Amherste, son of the said John, my son**, to have and to
hold to the said Christopher
79 by and during the term of his natural life. And after his decease, the same
to remain to the
80 heirs male of the body of the said Christopher lawfully to be begotten. And
if the said Christopher
81 happen to decease without heirs male of his body lawfully to be begotten,
then the same to
82 remain and go unto Nicholas Amherste, son of George Amherste, my son,
and the heirs male
83 of the body of the said Nicholas Amherste, the son, lawfully to be begotten.
And for default of
84 such heirs, the same to remain and go unto Arthur Amherste, brother of the
said Nicholas, and
85 the heirs male of his body lawfully to be begotten. And for default of such
heirs, the same
86 to remain to **John Amherste, son of Richard Amherste of Pepinbury⁴⁶** and
theires male

87 of his body lawfully begotten. And for default of such heirs to remain to the
next
88 heirs male of the name of Amherste for ever. **Item:** I will and devise unto
the said Johane,
89 my wife, from and after the said Michaelmas twelvemonth next after my
decease, during the term
90 of her natural life, One Annuity or Annual rent of four pounds of good and
lawful
91 money to be issuing, going and taken onto of and in All the said message
or tenement, edifice
92 gardens, Orchard, land meadows, pastures, feeding, woods and
underwoods called Judds
93 aforesaid and all other the land thereto belonging with thappurtenances
and to be taken at the feasts of
94 the nativity of our lord Christ, Thannunciation of the blessed virgin mary,
the nativity of
95 Saint John the Baptist and Saint Michael Tharchangel, by equal portions,
the
96 first time of payment thereof to commence and begin At the feast of the
nativity of our lord christ
97 which shall next come next after the said feast of Saint michael
twelvemonth next after my

98 decease. And I will that for lack of payment thereof, or any parcel thereof,
after any of the said feasts
99 by the space of ten days, that it shall and any be lawful to my said wife,
and her assigns, to
100 enter and distrain in and upon all, every or any the said messuage, land
and premises with thappurtenances
101 ⁴⁷and the distress, or distresses, there being taken and found lefullie⁴⁸ from
thence
102 to bear, lead, drive and carry away and the same to withhold, impound,
detain and keep until
103 the said Annuity or Annual rent of four pounds withall Arrearage thereof, if
any, be
104 fully satisfied, contented or paid. Provided always, that if the said Johane,
my wife shall either
105 by the courtesy⁴⁹ of Kent or otherwise, charge and take any other portion,
then by this my will is to her

47 "to enter and distrain" was written at the beginning of this line and then crossed out which might possibly show that a draft will had been copied

48 legally/lawfully?

49 custom?

106 limited or appointed (according to the true sense and meaning of the same)
That then and from thenceforth
107 for ever this present Annuity of £4 a year herein given shall cease, end and
determine (any thing
108 herein before mentioned to the contrary hereof in any wise
notwithstanding). In witness whereof
109 that is my true and last will, renouncing all other and former wills, I have to
every leaf or Sheet hereof
110 set my hand and to this last leaf or Sheet set my hand and Seal, yeven⁵⁰ the
day and year
111 first above written. In the presence of me, **Nicolas Hooper, writer**

John Dan⁵¹
Thomas Dan
Thomas Burgess⁵³

Sign. ⁵² **Nicolas
Amherste**

50 given

51 looks like a signature

52 his mark

53 marks of Thomas Dan and Thomas Burgess

First I bequeath my soul unto Almighty god, my maker and redeemer, hoping and assuredly believing to have eternal life by and through the precious death and passion of Jesus Christ. **Item:** my will is that my body shall be buried in the churchyard of Pepingebury aforesaid.

This is to be my last will and testament and I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year first above written in the presence of **John Jeffrey**, John ??, Nicholas Kip?, his mark, **Richard Johnson**

The mark and seal of the testator.

Richard Amherst of Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
i2343 ⁵⁴	<u>AMHERST, Richard</u> ----- 	17 May 1600*	26 Mar 1627	Dorothy Cradock i2344	1 7	3 Sep 1664*
i2344	<u>Cradock, Dorothy</u> -----	Jun/Jul 1602			1 7	18 Jul 1654*
• i2345	<u>Amherst, Dorothy</u>	23 Jun 1630			0 0	
• i2346	<u>Amherst, Dorothy</u>	2 Nov 1630			0 0	
	these entries are less than 5 months apart; was one entry made twice? perhaps the second entry was a burial					
• i2347	<u>AMHERST, William</u>	22 May 1632			0 0	10 Dec 1663*
• i2348	<u>Amherst, Dorothy</u>	8 May 1634			0 0	
• i2349	<u>Amherst, Jane</u>	18 Feb 1636			0 0	12 Mar 1636
• i2350	<u>AMHERST, Richard</u>	4 Apr 1637			0 0	
• i2351	<u>Amherst, Isabella</u>	14 Mar 1639			0 0	
Jane, Richard and Isabella were recorded as the children of Richard Amherst and Dorothy"						

54 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database; * indicates a date given by Morris, the event taking place in Pembury

Richard Amherst was born and buried in **Pembury**. The marriage and baptisms of the children above are taken from the Ightham parish records. For more details see Morris who says that Richard and Dorothy had six sons, the first and the last being still born and Isabella being buried with her mother and the last son. There was also a son **Charles** who became his father's heir and a daughter, Elizabeth.

i2343 was the Richard Amherst, Esq. who, with his wife Dorothy, was the executor of the will of Dame Dorothy Selby in 1642.. In 1637, William Selby left £50 to William, Dorothy and Richard Amherst - Isabella would not have been born by then.. (see **Selby in Families & Transcripts and Cradock in More Families & Transcripts** but the Selby wills have not been transcribed.)

Richard inherited and rebuilt **Bayhall, Pembury** which was inherited by his son Charles; presumably this was after his children, baptised in Ightham, had been born. It is possible that he was the grandson of Richard Amherst of Pembury whose will has survived, an extract from it being given above.

The Ashdowns of Seal

Although there are a number of surviving wills for Ashdown in North West Kent, there are none from the immediate Sevenoaks area except for four from Chiddingstone:

John Ashdown	1488
Henry Ashdown	1602
Joan Ashdown, widow	1617
Robert Ashdown	1647.

The Seal Ashdowns were connected with **Chiddingstone**:

- on 17th May 1591 **Susanna Dane** from Chiddingstone married **William Ashdown** (#1556⁵⁵) by a certificate from **Mr. Deiss, parson** of Chiddingstone,
- on 18th April 1602, Agnes Frenche (#940, baptised in Seal on 10th January 1580) married Robert Ashdown (#2222) of Chiddingstone. The marriage took place in **Shipbourne** “[having been asked 3 several sabbaths at both](#)

parishes, viz. Chiddingstone and Seal”⁵⁶. This was at the special request of Mr. Jenyns, vicar of Seal who was absent from his parish.

Robert and Agnes had two children baptised in Seal:

- Anna (#2220) on 13th March 1603
- Mildred (#2221) on 17th May 1604.

See [Frenche in Families & Transcripts](#) for details of Agnes's family.

Robert Ashdown (#2224) of **Cowden** had two children baptised in Seal:

- Jana (#2226) on 10th May 1612
- Dorothy (#2227) on 6 Mar 1614

Mary Ashdown (#2231), daughter of **Henry and Anne Ashdown** was baptised on 19th May 1639.

George Ashdown (#2229) married **Elizabeth Gardner** (#2677) on 6th January 1647. Their daughter, Francis, was baptised on 8th August 1647.

Henry and George could both have been the sons of Robert.

William Ashdowne of Leigh

In his will of 1551 (CKS: Drb/Pwr 11.149) William Ashdowne asked that “an honest preacher sufficiently licensed and authorised to preach the word for one sermon to be made in the church of Leigh the next Sunday after the day of my burial 2s 4d (12p). Item: for one other sermon to be made the Sunday after my month's day 2s 4d”.⁵⁷

The Avis Wills from Speldhurst

Three wills have survived for the Avis family of Speldhurst:

Robert Avis	1577	CKS: Drb/Pw 11; Drb/Pwr 15.77
-------------	------	-------------------------------

John Avis	1647	PCC: Fines 167
-----------	------	----------------

Edward Avis	13 Mar 1647/8d Nov 1649p	PCC: Fairfax 160; Prob 10/710 ⁵⁸
-------------	--------------------------	---

page 2.a.77

John Avis, whose will was proved by his son John, was described as of "Groombridge in Speldhurst"; Groombridge is about three miles south west of the centre of Speldhurst on the Kent/Sussex boundary.

Edward's will was nuncupative but was very long and detailed; it was written by George Hooper, son of John Hooper, notary public and parish clerk of Tonbridge. The Hooper family wrote many wills in the Tonbridge locality from the late 1550s until at least 1650, the date at which this study ends. This will was proved by Edward's son William.

58 Prob 10 is the PCC reference for the original will

From the beginning of the will it looks as if, in the spring of 1648, Edward had arranged for George Hooper to come and take down his wishes in the presence of William Hubbert. These do not appear to have been produced as a will for Edward to sign during his lifetime. The will was proved in November 1649 so that, sometime between the two dates Edward died and George produced the nuncupative will. This shows again how men such as Edward might arrange their affairs.

Edward's family, from his will:

		x1943	Edward - Hellen	x1944 ⁵⁹									
<i>will:</i>		13 Mar	1647/8										
<i>died:</i>		< Nov	1649										

x1945		x1946		x1951		x1947		x1948		x1949		x1950	
William		Sara -	Henry	Cronwell		Edward		Bridget		Margaret		Joane ⁶⁰	
		Sibell		x1952									

⁵⁹ "x" indicates a reference in the database covering a number of parishes

⁶⁰ Margaret and Joane born after 1627

1 **Memorandum** that upon the thirteenth day of March in the year of our Lord
Christ one thousand
2 six hundred, forty and seven, Edward Avis of Speldhurst in the county of
Kent, **butcher**, being
3 then of reasonable good health of body and of perfect mind and memory
did, in the presence of **William**
4 **Hubbert of Tonbridge** in the said county, **yeoman**, and **George Hooper** of
Tonbridge, aforesaid, **scrivener**, (did)
5 utter and declare his mind and did speak these words following, or the
same in effect, intending the same to
6 be put in writing and to be his testament and last will as followeth: viz. he
did will and give unto **William**
7 **Avis, his son**, and to his heirs and assigns for ever, one message or
tenement wherein he, the said Edward
8 then dwelt and the barns, edifices and buildings, closes, yards, gardens,
orchards and three parcels of land thereto
9 adjoining and belonging, containing, by estimation, four acres and an half
in Speldurst aforesaid. And also all those

10 five parcels of land called **Stockland** containing, by estimation, fourteen
acres in Speldhurst aforesaid charged⁶¹
11 with an annuity of four pounds by him granted for the jointure of **Hellen, his
wife. Item:** he did will and
12 confirm to **Edward Avis, his son,** and his heirs and assigns forever, two
pieces or parcels of land called
13 **Claver mead** containing, by estimation, three acres and an half in
Penshurst in the said county of Kent which
14 he late purchased in his own name and in the name of the said Edward, his
son, jointly. **Item:** he did will and
15 give unto **Sibell, the daughter of Sara (his daughter) wife of Henry
Cronwell,** five pounds to be paid unto
16 her at her age of one and twenty years or on the day of her marriage which
shall first happen. And if the said Sibell
17 shall die before she shall attain her said age unmarried, then the same five
pounds should remain and be paid equally
18 to and amongst such other child or children as the said Sara, his daughter,
should have. And if she should have no other child or
19 children, then the same five pounds should be and remain to his executor.
Item: he did will and give to the said Sara,

61 "chardged", a spelling often used by the Hoopers

20 his daughter, the sum of five pounds to be paid unto her at the end of one
year next after his decease if she
21 shall be then living. **Item:** he did will and give to **Bridget, his daughter**, the
sum of forty pounds to be paid unto
22 her at the end of two years next after his death⁶². And if she shall die before
the same time then he willed the same
23 forty pounds should belong and be equally paid unto and amongst all his
other children and his executor to have an equal
24 share thereof. **Item:** he did will and give to **Margaret, his daughter**, the sum
of forty pounds to be paid unto
25 her at her age of one and twenty years or on the day of her marriage which
shall first happen. And if she shall die before
26 her said age unmarried, then the sum of money shall belong and be paid
equally amongst all the rest of his
27 children and his executor to have an equal share thereof. **Item:** he did will
and give to **Joane, his daughter**, the
28 sum of forty pounds to be paid unto her at her age of one and twenty years
or on the day of her marriage which first
29 happens. And if she shall die before her said age unmarried, then her said
portion shall belong be paid and remain

62 "death" here, "decease" line 20

30 equally to and amongst all other his children. **Item:** he did will and release
unto the said Edward Avis, his son,
31 the sum of ten pounds which he had formerly lent unto him. **Item:** he did
will and give unto the said Bridget,
32 his daughter, one feather bed lying on a plain joined bedstead in the
chamber over the hall of his dwelling
33 house and the ?? pillow, two blankets and one coverlet which was her
mother's, thereto belonging. **Item:** he did
34 will and give to Margaret and Joane, his daughters, to either of them, a
flockbed and a bolster, two old blankets and
35 one coverlet in the outer chamber. **Item:** he did will that all his linen should
be laid and divided into five equal
36 parts and **William, his son**, should have one such part thereof, Edward, his
son, should have an other such part thereof, Bridget,
37 his daughter, should have an other such part thereof, Margaret, his
daughter, should have an other such part thereof. And Joane,
38 his daughter, should have the other such part thereof. **Item:** he did give to
Bridget, his daughter, one joined chest formerly by
39 him made. And to Margaret, his daughter, he gave one joined chest by him
bought of **Nicholas Jeffrey**. And to Joane,
40 his daughter, he did give his best boarded chest. **Item:** he did will that his
executor should pay unto Hellen, his wife, the

41 fifty shillings which formerly she had deposited and laid down for and
towards the payment of one press, one bedstead and other goods
42 late bought of **Mr. Weston**. **Item:** he did will and give to the poor of
Speldhurst aforesaid twenty shillings. **Item:** he did
43 make and ordain the said William Avis, his son, to be the sole executor of
this his testament and last will. These words,
44 or the like in effect, were uttered and declared by the said Edward Avis to
be his testament and last will in the presence of

William Hubbert and Geo. Hooper

John Ayherst of Hadlow

John's will (CKS: Drb/Pw 17; Drb/Pwr 18.349) was written by Nicholas Hooper who wrote many wills for this area of Kent.

There are a number of unusual phrases in this will. His executor was to see it "proved within convenient time after my decease" with "the charge of the probation" being "equally borne out of my moveable goods aforesaid".

John's eldest son, John, was to inherit his tenement and land paying £5 to his two brothers and his sister when they reached the age of eighteen. If there was any non-payment, the will allows any one of them unpaid to enter the "tenement and lands and . . . there distreign if there be a sufficient distress there to be found". If, however, there was an insufficiency, they could "enter upon all and one the same tenement and land with th'appurtenances and shall enjoy so much of the rent, revenues and profit of the said tenement and land as shall satisfy the sum and sums of him, her and them so unpaid". This was an unusual amount of detail; was it specified by the testator or just Nicholas Hooper trying out a new specification?

John made his “brother-in-law” William Pawley his supervisor and overseer. William was probably the brother of John’s wife but he could have been the husband of John’s sister. There were a large number of Pawley’s in Hadlow but only two of the seven surviving wills have been transcribed, one from 1591 and the other from 1640 - see [Pawley in More Families & Transcripts](#). Thus it is not possible to identify John’s brother-in-law.

The Will of John Ayherst of Hadlow

written 10th July 1594
transcript from original

Nicolas Hooper's
mark

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The tenth day of July in the year of our Lord god
- 2 one thousand, five hundred, fourscore and fourteen. And in the six and
- 3 year of the reign of our sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of god,
queen

4 of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. I, John Ayherst
5 of Hadlow in the county of Kent, **husbandman**, being sick and weak of body
6 but yet of good mind and perfect remembrance, thanks therefore be given
to
7 Almighty god, do ordain and declare this my present testament and last
will in manner
8 and form following⁶³: And **First** and principally I give, commend and
bequeath my
9 soul into the hands of Almighty god, trusting and knowing assuredly that
through
10 a steadfast faith in the merits of his son Christ's death and passion, I shalbe
11 the child of salvation. And my body to be⁶⁴ buried in the churchyard of
Hadlow
12 aforesaid. **Item**: I give and bequeath to **my daughter Anne** my cupboard
and my best pair of sheets.
13 And to **her brother John, my son**, the best pair of my sheets save one.
14 **Item**: I will and give unto my **brother-in-law, William Pawley**, the sum of
four

63 "folowing"

64 "bee" and "hee" throughout

15 pounds of lawful money. In consideration that he, the said William, his
executors or
16 assigns, shall and will (at my entreaty, and as I put trust and confidence in
him), well
17 and honestly, keep and bring up, or cause to be brought up, **my youngest
son, George.**
18 And all the rest of my moveable gods and household stuff, I will shalbe
equally divided
19 between **my three youngest children, viz. Arthur, George and Anne.** Item: I
20 will and require **my eldest son, John Ayherst,** to be executor of this my will
and to
21 see the same proved within convenient time after my decease, And I desire
my said
22 brother-in-law, William Pawley, to be supervisor and overseer of this my
will.
23 To whom I will toward his pains and expense four shillings. And I will that
24 the charge of the probation of this my will shalbe equally borne out of my
moveable
25 goods aforesaid.
26 This is the last will of me, the said John Ayherst, made and declared
27 the day and year first above written, touching the order and disposition of
my tenement

page 2:

28 and land thereunto belonging, lying and being in **Boughton Mallard** in the
said county
29 of Kent **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **John Ayherst, mine eldest son**, all
30 that my message or tenement, situated, lying and being in Boughton
Mallard aforesaid
31 with the outhouse, garden, orchard and lands thereunto belonging now in
the occupation of
32 one ⁶⁵ Dennis, containing by estimation, seven acres whether more or
less, together
33 situated, lying and being in Boughton Mallard aforesaid with all and
singular th'appurtenances.. To have and
34 hold the same withall and singular th'appurtenances , to the said John. my
son, his heirs
35 and assigns forever. He, the said John, my son, his heirs, executor or
assigns
36 paying out of the same unto my other three children, viz. Arthur, George
and Anne,
37 the sum of five pounds a piece of good and lawful money at the age, and
several ages, of

38 eighteen years of them, my said children. And if any of them happen to
decease before
39 his or her said age, then the portion of him, them or her, so deceased, to be
equally divided
40 amongst the survivor or survivors of them at the age and several ages
aforesaid. And if it
41 happen and if my said children to be unpaid and of their portions aforesaid,
at the times
41 afore limited: Then I will he, she or they so unpaid shall enter upon all my
said
42 tenement and lands and shall there distreign if there be a sufficient distress
there to be
43 found, or else shall enter upon all and one the same tenement and land
with th'appurtenances and
44 shall enjoy so much of the rent, revenues and profit of the said tenement
and land
45 as shall satisfy the sum and sums of him, her and them so unpaid. In
witness
46 whereof I, the said John Ayherst, to this my present last will have set my
hand and
47 seal yeven the tenth day of July in the six and thirtieth year of the
48 reign of our sovereign Lady Elizabeth by the grace of god, queen

49 of England, France and Ireland as aforesaid, etc. in the presence of William
Pawley
50 **George Johanes**⁶⁶ and of me, **Nicolas Hooper**, writer hereof and others

Signum W William
Pawley
George Jones

Signum John
Ayherste⁶⁷

Nicolas Hooper

66 possibly the George Joanes whose will of 1613 has survived (h121)

67 mark is a vertical cross; surname is written "Eyherst" although it is "Ayherst" throughout the will

The Aynscombs of Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#1239 ⁶⁸	<u>AYNSCOMB, Richard</u> -----		6 Apr 1587	Bridget Burgis #1240 of Sevenoaks	1	2	
• #1574	<u>AYNSCOMB, William</u>	4 May 1589			0	0	30 Jun 1589
• #1603	<u>AYNSCOMB, William</u>	6 Sep 1590			0	0	

68 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

B

More Families & Transcripts

The Bachelors of Shipbourne	page 2.b.9
The Bacons of Ightham	page 2.b.11
The Bagfields of Kemsing	page 2.b.12
Robert Baker of Horsmonden	page 2.b.13
A Burglary at Robert Baker's of Penshurst	page 2.b.20
Johane and John Baker of Speldhurst	page 2.b.21
The Bakers of Kemsing	page 2.b.22
Thomas Baker of Leigh	page 2.b.22
The Baldens of Ightham	page 2.b.23
Robert Balden/Baldwin	page 2.b.25
Robert Baldwin's Appearances in the Court Records	page 2.b.26
John Balden	page 2.b.29

Other Baldens	page 2.b.30
The Baldens/Baldwins of Shipbourne	page 2.b.31
William & Edward Barley of Ightham	page 2.b.32
The Barnabys of Seal	page 2.b.33
The Barrets of Ightham and Seal	page 2.b.34
Cuthbert Fethergill	page 2.b.35
Benedict Barret	page 2.b.36
The Seal Barrets	page 2.b.39
William Bartlett, yeoman of Tonbridge	page 2.b.41
William Bartlett's Brewing Equipment	page 2.b.42
Will of Thomas Barton of Hadlow, 1595 (extract)	page 2.b.48
see Transcripts and Families for the other Bartons	
The Bassetts of the Chiddingstone Area	page 2.b.49
Henry Bassett of Chiddingstone	page 2.b.51
The Family of Henry Bassett	page 2.b.53
Thomas Bassett of Cowden	page 2.b.63
Henry Bassett of West Peckham	page 2.b.69
Thomas Bassett of Chiddingstone	page 2.b.78

Walter Bassett of Leigh	page 2.b.89
John Bassett, the elder, of Chiddingstone	page 2.b.92
The Bassetts of Seal	page 2.b.99
The Bassetts of Shipbourne	page 2.b.100
see also Chalklins in More Families & Transcripts	

The Batchelers of Shipbourne	page 2.b.101
The Bates of Shipbourne	page 2.b.102
William Bawcombe of Wrotham/Shipbourne	page 2.b.103
George Baxter, gent, of Ightham	page 2.b.104
William Beach, yeoman, of Penshurst	page 2.b.105
The Beadles of Shipbourne	page 2.b.116
Ralfe Beamonde and Lore Page, widow, of Shipborne	page 2.b.117
Nuncupative Will of Ralfe Beamonde	page 2.b.120

The Bedells of Ightham see [Greentree in More Families & Transcripts](#)

The Family of Thomas Bee of Ightham	page 2.b.123
Anne Beecher, spinster of Penshurst	page 2.b.124

The Bennetts of Ightham	page 2.b.129
William Bennett	page 2.b.129
John Bennett's Possible Family	page 2.b.131
Other Bennetts	page 2.b.132
The Court Records	page 2.b.132

The Family of Robert Bennet of Shipbourne

see [The Collyns of Shipbourne in More Families & Transcripts](#)

William Best of Horton Kirby	page 2.b.134
William & Thomas Beverley, Sheep Stealers	page 2.b.136

Katherine Biggenden, widow, of West Peckham	page 2.b.138
---	--------------

The Birds of Shipbourne, Ightham & Kemsing	page 2.b.142
The Birds of Ightham	page 2.b.143
The Birds of Kemsing	page 2.b.145

The Bishops of Tonbridge and Hadlow	page 2.b.146
Thomas Bishop, yeoman of Tonbridge	page 2.b.148
John Bishop of Tonbridge	page 2.b.152
Robert Bishop of Hadlow	page 2.b.156
John Bishop of Wrotham	page 2.b.163

The Boghursts of Seal and Shipbourne	page 2.b.176
Robert Bold of Horsmonden	page 2.b.177
The Booths of Seal	page 2.b.179
William Borowgh, vicar of Tonbridge	page 2.b.182
The Boswells of Shipbourne	page 2.b.183
The Bournes of Speldhurst and Tonbridge	page 2.b.184
The Family of Thomas Bourne of Tonbridge	page 2.b.185
Thomas the elder's will	page 2.b.185
Thomas the elder of Speldhurst	page 2.b.190
Will of Alice Bowles of Hoo St. Marys	page 2.b.199
The Bowles of Seal, Kemsing, Ightham and Shipbourne	page 2.b.201
The Bowndes of Ightham	page 2.b.205
The John Bowndes	page 2.b.205
Other Bowndes	page 2.b.207
The Bowndes and the Court Records	page 2.b.211
The Bramptons of Seal	page 2.b.214

The Brattles of Shipbourne	page 2.b.216
The Brett/Breets of Seal	page 2.b.217
Will of Joane Bridgin of Chatham	page 2.b.306
The Brights from Seal, Ightham and Kemsing	page 2.b.218
John Brightling, Blacksmith of Tonbridge	page 2.b.221
The Brissendens of Ightham and Shipbourne	page 2.b.228
The Broades of Ightham and Seal	page 2.b.231
Thomas Brodnax, gentleman of Ightham	page 2.b.233
The George Brookers of Speldhurst	page 2.b.234
Will of George Brooker, carpenter, of Speldhurst	page 2.b.235
George Brooker, scriptor	page 2.b.237
The Broughtons of Seal	page 2.b.238
Alice Browne of Seal & her two families	page 2.b.240
Thomas Browne of Seal	page 2.b.242
The Brownes of Shipbourne	page 2.b.244
Thomas Browne, weaver of Tonbridge	page 2.b.245
Will of Agnes Browne of Erith	page 2.b.307

The Brungares of Ightham	page 2.b.248
The Bryans of Seal and Shipbourne	page 2.b.249
Richard Buckley, Vicar of Seal	page 2.b.252
The Budds of Ightham	page 2.b.253
The Budgeons of Shipbourne and Seal	page 2.b.254
The Budgens of Tonbridge, Leigh and Pembury	page 2.b.256
William Budgen of Tonbridge	page 2.b.257
John Budgin of Leigh	page 2.b.259
The Family of John and Oliver Budgen	page 2.b.263
Oliver Budgen of Leigh	page 2.b.265
Sixteenth Century Budgens in Leigh	page 2.b.271
John Budgen of Pembury	page 2.b.272
The Bullens of Ightham	page 2.b.279
The Burgeis Family of Shipbourne	page 2.b.280
William Burgeis's Will	page 2.b.282
Will of Richard Burgess of Tonbridge	page 2.b.286
Thomas Burgess of East Peckham	page 2.b.288

The Burroughs of Ightham	page 2.b.298
A Common Quarreller and Alehouse Haunter	page 2.b.298
Other Burroughs	page 2.b.301
The Burtons of Ightham	page 2.b.302
John Busby of Ightham	page 2.b.303
The Buttresses of Seal	page 2.b.304
Will of Joane Bridgin of Chatham	page 2.b.306
Will of Agnes Browne of Erith	page 2.b.307

The Bachelers of Shipbourne

This name is spelled Bachelor, Bachelor and Bacheller

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
\$1816 ⁶⁹	<u>BACHELER, William</u> ----- 		23 Nov 1641	Dorothy Paltock	1 5	
\$1184	<u>Paltock, Dorothy</u> -----	8 Mar 1618			1 5	
• \$1817	<u>BACHELER, Edward</u>	14 Oct 1644			0 0	
• \$1894	<u>Bachelor, infant</u>				0 0	22 Sep 1643
• \$2070	<u>BACHELOR, infant son</u>				0 0	20 Dec 1646
• \$2071	<u>BACHELOR, infant</u>				0 0	9 Jan 1648
• \$2072	<u>BACHELER, William</u>	27 Mar 1649			0 0	

See the [Paltocks in More Families & Transcripts](#) for more details of Dorothy.

⁶⁹ \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
\$2098	<u>BACHLOR, Stephen</u> , senior -----				1	1	2 Aug 1647
•	\$1520 <u>BACHELOR, Stephen</u>					1	2
•	• \$1522 <u>Bachelor, Elizabeth</u>	20 Jun	1630				0 0
•	• \$1523 <u>BACHELER, Thomas</u>	19 Aug	1633				0 0

John Bacheller (\$1906) married **Margaret Brooker** (\$1920) on 14th February 1644.

The Bacons of Ightham

William Bacon (i7⁷⁰), son of John Bacon (i5) was baptised on 9th April 1564.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i8	<u>BACON, William</u> -----				1	3	5 Jul 1595
• i10	<u>BACON, John</u>				0	0	16 Jan 1563
• i11	<u>BACON, George</u>	5 Jun 1569			0	0	13 Jun 1569
• i12	<u>Bacon, Awdrie</u>	14 Feb 1574			0	0	

A William Bacon was mentioned in the Court Records 1586-1618.

⁷⁰ "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

The Bagfields of Kemsing

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
k245 ⁷¹	<u>BAGFIELD, Steven</u> -----	<1605	<1626	Sindery Bagfield(m) #246	1	7	
• k247	<u>Bagfield, Elizabeth</u>	25 Jan 1626			0	0	29 Jan 1626 <1 wk
• k248	<u>Bagfield, Lucie</u>	23 Dec 1627			0	0	
• k249	<u>BAGFIELD, Steven</u>	2 May 1630			0	0	13 Jan 1638 age 7
• k253	<u>Bagfield, --</u> "-- Bagfield -- of Steven Bagfield" was buried 3 Sep 1632; perhaps a stillborn child				0	0	3 Sep 1632
• k250	<u>BAGFIELD, Richard</u>	12 Jun 1636	son of "Stephen and Sindery"		0	0	
• k251	<u>Bagfield, Mary</u>	21 Apr 1639			0	0	
• k252	<u>Bagfield, Jane</u> "twin daughters of Stephen and Sindery"	21 Apr 1639			0	0	

⁷¹ "k" indicates a reference in the Kemsing database

Robert Baker of Horsmonden

The scribe of Robert Baker's will (CKS: Drb/Pw 32; Drb/Pwr 23.104) was very fond of capital letters which is shown in the following transcript. He also used some unusual spellings. The last two or three words from one page are repeated at the beginning of the first line of the next page. It is more usual for the first two or three words of the next page to be written, separately, at the bottom of the previous page.

At the bottom of each page the name "William Heard" appears and he was one of the witnesses; he could have written the will. Unfortunately, particularly given the number of capital letters, there is no other word starting with a capital "H" (not even Horsmonden) so that, particularly since the surname "Heard" is difficult to read, this may not be a correct interpretation.

Mary was recorded as "[my now wife](#)"; if she was not the mother of Robert's sons, she could have been relatively young so that they might have had to wait a considerable time before coming into their inheritance. The eldest son, John, was fortunate in that he had already been "preferred" so that he did not have to wait until Mary's death before coming into his inheritance.

1 In the name of god Amen. the
2 nineteenth day of the month of April in the year
3 of Our Lord Jesus Christ One Thousand, Six hundred, forty
4 and seven and in the Three and twenty year of the Reign of
5 our most Gracious sovereign Lord King Charles, etc. I, Robert
6 Baker of Horsmonden in the County of Kent, **Smith**
7 being sick and diseased in body but whole of mind and of good and
8 perfect Remembrance, Laud and praise be given unto almighty God,
9 Do make and Ordain this my Present Testament and Last
10 Will in manner and form following: **First** and before all Other thin
11 gs, I Commend My soul into the protection of Almighty
12 God, my Lord and saviour Jesus Christ, by Whose death and passion
13 I surely Trust to be saved. And my body to Christian Burial
14 in the Churchyard of Horsmonden, The Order and Manner there
15 of I Commit to the Discretion of my Executors Here After
16 named. **Item:** I Give unto the poor people of Horsmonden Ten
17 Shillings⁷² to be paid unto them at the day of my funeral

72 "Shillines"

18 or within half a year Immediately after my decease.
19 This is the Last will and Testament of me, the Afore Named
20 Robert Baker Which is Concerning the disposing of all my
21 Temporal Goods which God hath Blessed me with all as Namely
22 my Lands and Tenements⁷³ with other Moveables Lying and being
23 in Horsmonden Aforesaid which I purchased of **John Austen**
24 of Horsmonden Aforesaid so that by the Assistance of Almighty
25 God I will dispose it thus. **Item:** I Give unto **Edward**
26 **Baker, my Kinsman**, 10s to be paid unto him by my Exec
27 utor within a year After my decease. **Item:** to **my son**,
28 **John**, my Eldest, because I have Given unto him A certain⁷⁴
29 Tenement already with the Appurtenances there unto belonging
30 to him and to his heirs for Ever, therefore At this Time I
31 will and Bequeath unto him out of all my Goods that Remain
32 unto me which I have to dispose at This present Time
33 10s and the same to be paid unto him within half a year
34 Immediately After my decease and 10s more I will unto him

73 "Teliments?" but tenements seems to be what is meant since the same word appears at the beginning of line 29

74 "sartaine"

page 2:

35 unto him out of my Moveables After the decease of me and **Mary,**
36 **my wife.** **Item:** I give unto the **three sons of my son,**
37 **Robert,** Lately deceased ? pounds A piece and the same to be
38 paid unto Them at the years of one and twenty of Age.
39 **Item:** I Give unto **my son William** twenty shillings out
40 of My Moveable Goods, the same to be paid unto him
41 within half a year immediately After my decease.
42 **Item:** I Bequeath unto him also the house which he now
43 dwelleth in with one Barn, one Close and one Orchard with Two
44 pieces or parcels of Land with a hopgarden and the Upper
45 half of one Wood next unto the street ?? by the
46 path which Leadeth through the middle of the wood, the
47 Which piece and parcels of land afore Mentioned doth Join
48 with the Kings highway Leading from Horsmonden to
49 **Brenchley** and Joining to A wood Called **Shearden** and
50 Lying Against the South Containing by Estimation Eight
51 Acres, More or Less. To have and to hold the Afore said
52 Messuage or Tenement⁷⁵, Barn, Close, Orchard with four
53 pieces or parcels of Land Afore Mentioned With all and Singular
54 their Appurtenances thereunto belonging to the said Will

75 here spelt "tenement" but "teliment" again on line 60

55 iam Baker, my son, and the same to Enjoy to him and to his
57 heirs for Ever Immediately After the decease of me,
58 the said Robert Baker, and Mary, my Now wife. **Item:** I Will
59 and Bequeath unto **Thomas Baker, my son,** All my Messuage
60 and Tenement Wherein I now dwell with the Barn, Build
61 ings, Closes, Orchards, Gardens And four pieces or parcels of
62 Land with a Wood pertaining there unto and the Other
63 half of the Wood Afore mentioned Adjoining thereunto with
64 Other Outhouses standing upon the Land With all and Singular
65 the Appurtenances thereunto belonging, Lying and Being in Horsmon
66 den Aforesaid, Containing in all, By Estimation, fourteen
67 Acres. More or Less, Being part of it Against Shearden
68 Land and Lying Against a lane bounding to the Lands of the
69 heirs of **Edward Saxby, late of Brenchley,** and the Lands
70 Lying Against the **Furnes Lane** and a Gainst the Kings high

page 3:

71 the Kings high Way there Leading from Horsmonden to Brenchley,
72 The which to have and to hold all the Afore said Messuage,
73 Barn, Buildings⁷⁶, Closes, Orchards, Gardens with Those
74 pieces or parcels of Land and Wood with Th'appurtenances,

76 "bildines"

75 unto the said Thomas Baker, my son, and the same to Enjoy
76 to him and to his heirs for Ever Immediately After the
77 decease of me, the said Robert Baker, and Mary, my now Wife.
78 But My mind and will is That if Either of my Two sons,
79 William and Thomas, do die With out heirs Lawfully
80 begotten of their Bodies, that Then I will that one shall
81 be the Other's heir. And if it so happen that they both
82 die with out heirs Lawfully begotten as aforesaid,
83 That then my mind is that the son of my Eldest
84 son John and the three sons of my son Robert shall have
85 all the said Land with th'appurtenances there unto belonging
86 Equally between them And the same to Enjoy to Them and ti
87 Their heirs for Ever.

88 And my mind and will is That my son William
89 Shall Allow my son Thomas A Carringway⁷⁷ through his
90 said Land Out of the Wood for the Carring of Timber
91 or the like, without Any Molestation, as need shall
92 require and the said William, my mind is shall Bear
93 part of the Reparations all ways of the drawwell
94 as need shall Require, the which said Drawwell standeth

77 here and on the next line it is just "carryin" without the "g"

95 at the Shiften of the Said Lands.
96 And All my moveable Goods, Corn, Chattell, household stuff
97 With all the Tools in the Shop and all what soever
98 being not Afore Willed nor bequeathed
99 I Give unto Thomas, my son, and
100 unto Mary, my wife, Whom I make and Ordain
101 to be my Sole Executors of this my Last Will
103 And Testament. And this denying

page 4:

104 And this denying and Revoking all other wills and
105 Bequeathments whatsoever Afore written. I publish
106 and declare this to be my Last will and Testament
107 in witness hereof I, the said Robert, to this my
108 present Testament, have put to my hand and
109 Seal The day and year first above written
110 with these witnesses ?? under subscribed.

Robert Baker

Richard Day

William Heard

the Thomas ??

mark of

A Burglary at Robert Baker's of Penshurst

At the August 1645 Assizes five men and three women, all from Penshurst, were indicted for burglary. They were accused of burgling the house of Robert Baker of Penshurst on 14th December 1644 and stealing a woman's coat (10s), 2 cloaks (£1), 2 children's coats (6s), a petticoat (2s), a pair of sheets (4s), a smock (3s), an apron (2s), a pair of shoes (6d), a pair of stockings (2s) and a leather purse (4d) containing 2d in money.

They were:

William Edmunds *alias* **Oxenbridge**

James Comby, **Henry Kensington** and **Thomas Philipps**, labourers,

Margaret Oxenbridge, wife of Jonah Oxenbridge, labourer,

Susan Philipps, wife of Thomas Philipps, labourer,

William Carter, labourer, and

Elizabeth Woodden, wife of Thomas Woodden, labourer,

None of them are otherwise known but the parish records have not been checked.

The indictment was endorsed by Robert Baker as a true bill but the accused were found not guilty.

Johane and John Baker of Speldhurst

Neither of these two Speldhurst wills have been investigated. The connection between Johane and John and them with the other Kentish Bakers, if any, are not known.

Johane's will (**PCC: Dale 22**) was written at the beginning of 1619 and proved in 1621. The witnesses were **Thomas Baker and Sam White**

The will of John Baker of Speldhurst (**PCC: Lee 130, Prob 11/178**) is very long; it was written on the 31st August 1638 and proved sometime in the same year. The witnesses were **Hugh Wilroy, John Marshall and Thomas Welle**.

John is given as being of Groombridge in Speldhurst; Groombridge is now in East Sussex with the centre of the village being about three miles southwest of the village of Speldhurst.

The Bakers of Kemsing

Christopher Baker (k223) had two children baptised in Kemsing:

- Thomas (k225) baptised 6th May 1583
- William (k226) 27th March 1587

Thomas Baker (k714) married **Jana Court** (k715) on 8th July 1610.

Thomas Baker of Leigh

In the summer of 1593, Thomas Baker of Leigh, gent., was the **constable of Somerden hundred**. In Peshurst, on 4th June he arrested Thomas Jordan on suspicion of him having set fire to the house of Elizabeth Bonner⁷⁸ - see [Jordan in More Families & Transcripts](#).

78 Cockburn (Eliz.); 2094

The Baldens of Ightham

The name **Baldewyn** occurs in the Court Roll of 1425 and “**Baldwins appear in Court Rolls, Parish Registers and Churchwardens and Overseers' books with substantial continuity.**” (CRI 1937, p.188). In the parish registers for the period investigated, the name is spelt “Balden”. The Court Rolls usually recorded the name as Robert Baldwin but the Robert Balden of 1593 is probably the same person - i25⁷⁹, see pages 2.b.25 and 2.b.?. **Nicholas Baldewyn, borsholder,** appears in the Records for 1553-74 and this could obviously be i13 on the next page.

William Balden (i33) married Anne Powle (i34) on 27th January 1561. No children were recorded but William was buried on 21st August 1590 and “**Anne Balden, widow**” on 6th July 1599. A **William Bauldewyn, baker and brewer, and Agnes Bauldewyn, baker and brewer,** occur in the Records for 1555 to 1574 and an **Anne Baldwyn, baker and brewer,** in the Records for 1586 to 1618. Were these i33 and i34 with Anne/Agnes carrying on the baking and brewing after her husband's death?

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i13	<u>BALDEN, Nicholas</u> -----				1	6	28 Dec 1587
i14	<u>his wife</u> -----				1	6	21 Sep 1578
• i15	<u>BALDEN, James</u>	2 Feb 1561			0	0	
• i16	<u>BALDEN, Nicholas</u>	16 May 1563			0	0	29 May 1586
• i17	<u>Balden, Anne</u>	5 May 1566			0	0	13 Jun 1586
			buried 2 weeks after brother Nicholas				
• i18	<u>BALDEN, Henry</u>	21 Dec 1568			0	0	
• i19	<u>Balden, Dorothy</u>	28 Oct 1571			0	0	
• i20	<u>Balden, Margaret</u>	8 Jan 1576			0	0	

Nicholas and his wife may have had some older children since records did not start until 1560.

The baptisms of two sons of Richard Balden (i21) were recorded

- Richard on 2nd March 1567
- Samuel on 29th January 1576.

If Richard and Samuel were brothers there was a long interval between their births.

Robert Balden/Baldwin

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i25	<u>BALDEN, Robert</u> ----- 		22 Jul 1583	Mabel Weston i26	1	6	<1623
i26	<u>Weston, Mabel</u> -----				1	3	28 Apr 1629
• i27	<u>BALDEN, Weston</u>	21 Jan 1584		given mother's maiden			0 0
• i28	<u>Balden, Elizabeth</u>	5 Sep 1585					0 0
• i29	<u>BALDEN, Reginald</u> 	26 Dec 1586	27 May 1616	Elizabeth Hadlow i320	1	1	
• i320	<u>Hadlow, Elizabeth</u>	7 Feb 1591		married at 25			2 5
• • i359	<u>Balden, Dorothy</u>	26 Jul 1617					0 0
• i30	<u>Balden, Marie</u>	26 May 1588	25 Oct 1613	William NORMAN i360	1	0	
• i31	<u>Balden, Francis</u>	6 Jun 1591		married at 25			0 0 6 Sep 1608
• i32	<u>Balden, Anne</u>	18 Feb 1593					0 0

Robert's wife, Mabel, was the sister of the William Weston whose will of 1625 survived. Their eldest son was given the name Weston. By 1625 Mabel was a widow and William left her a message, in which she was already living, for the rest of her life. On her death it was to go to Reginald's daughter, Dorothy, - see [Weston in Families & Transcripts](#)

Robert's son Reginald, possibly the Reginald Bawlden mentioned in the Court Records for 1586-1618, married Elizabeth Hadlow but he died before 1623. By that time Elizabeth was married to **William Craft**, their eldest son being baptised on 2nd Jun 1623. See the Family of [Theophilus Hadlow in Families & Transcripts](#) for details of Elizabeth Hadlow.

Robert Baldwin's Appearances in the Court Records

Robert Baldwin, who was **borsholder** 1588 to 1589, occurs in the Court Records a number of times:

- On 17th April 1588, **Robert Baldwin** and **Edward Rootes** were presented to the Court for having "deposited their sullage opposite their houses in the highway in contamination of the air and to the

inconvenience of travellers. Ordered that each of them remove his dung heap within 20 days, under penalty 20d." (CRI 1937, p.198).

- Six months later, on 3rd October 1588, he was presented to the Court, together with **Robert Bound**, for having "fought together with their hands. Fined 12d each." (CRI 1938, p.4).
- Presumably Robert Baldwin had removed his dung heap satisfactorily and fighting with Robert Bound was not considered too significant since, also on 3rd October 1588, he was nominated, together with **Theophilus Hadlow** for the office of borsholder and Baldwin was chosen by the steward. (CRI 1938, p.33) Twenty-eight years later Robert's son, Reginald, married Theophilus's daughter Elizabeth.
- In 1593, he was on the receiving end of "a common breaker of hedges" - see **Hammonds in More Families & Transcripts**
- On 24th April 1595 he was fined 6d for having assaulted **George Hawkes** at Ightham and striking him "with his fists" (CRI 1938, p.5).
- In 1598 Robert Baldwin appears to have acted in self defence: on 8th May of that year, the Court heard that "**Samuel Mare** about 1 November last, assaulted Robert Baldwin in the public way at

Ightham and Robert Baldwin, in defending himself, broke the head of Samuel". Samuel survived having his head broken, so much so that he was fined 3s 4d for assaulting Robert (CRI 1938, p.6); (see [Meere in More Families & Transcripts](#) for details of Samuel Meere/Mare)

- On 20th September 1600, **Edward Tunbridge** "assaulted Robert Baldwin, drawing blood. Fined 3s 4d." (CRI 1938, p.6). From the date of his marriage, Robert Baldwin was in his forties at this time whilst Edward Tunbridge was in his twenties and probably not yet married (his first child was baptised 1602 - see [Tunbridge in More Families & Transcripts](#))
- On 14th October 1605, "Robert Baldwin has obstructed the highway⁸⁰ between Ightham and Borough Green near the Stone Steps. To be amended before 1 November, under penalty 3s 4d". (CRI 1937, p.193).

80 The word highway, as here used, may mean a public way for (i) wheel traffic, (ii) a bridle path, or (iii) foot passage only (Harrison's footnote).

Robert's eldest son, **Weston Balden**, also came before the Courts. On 16th October 1604, he was presented for assaulting **Edward Lambard** in the highway at Oldbury Hill (CRI 1938, p.7).

John Balden

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i354	<u>BALDEN, John</u> -----	<1584			1	3	
• i356	<u>BALDEN, Thomas</u>	18 Nov 1604			0	0	3 Dec 1604
• i357	<u>BALDEN, James</u>	9 Feb 1606			0	0	
• i358	<u>Balden, Mabilie</u>	13 Mar 1608			0	0	

Robert Palmer of Wrotham was presented to the Court on 4th October 1605 accused of assaulting "**John Baldewyn at Ightham and striking him with a stick, value 2d, drawing blood. Fined 3s 4d.**" (CRI 1938, p.7)

John Bauldwyn was borsholder for 1606-7: the jury at the View of 13th October 1606 "**nominated to the office of borsholder of Ightham for the coming year John Bauldwyn and Richard Day of whom John Bauldwyn was chosen by the steward.**"

And he was sent to the nearest justice of the peace to take the oath." (CRI 1938, p.34).

Other Baldens

Elizabeth Balden (i36) married Richard Yonge (i35) on 17th November 1592. **Richard Yonge, Thomas Yonge and William Yonge, mercer**, are mentioned in the Court Records for 1586 to 1618 but only Richard's marriage appears in the Parish Register.

A child of **Thomas Balden and his wife Dorothy** was baptised at **Shipbourne** on 20th July 1596.

Other Baldens/Baldwyns mentioned in the Court Records 1586-1618:

Arthur Baldwyn

Henry Balden } could have been the sons

James Baldyn } of Nicholas Balden

Richard Bawlden i21 (page 2.b 24) would have been in his forties in 1586

There is no apparent connection between these Baldwins and those of West Peckham and Wrotham for which see [Families & Transcripts](#).

The Baldens/Baldwins of Shipbourne

There is no obvious connection between the Baldens/Baldwins recorded in the following isolated events and the Baldens of Ightham.

The daughter (no name given) of **John Balden** of **Wrotham** was buried, in Shipbourne, on 25th February 1583.

Thomas Balden (\$630⁸¹) and his wife **Dorothy** (\$631) had a “**child**” baptised on 20th July 1596, no name being given.

William Baldwin (\$1702) married **Elizabeth Jewry** (\$1718) on 17th January 1637.

Thomas Balden (\$2036), the son of **William Balden** (\$2034) was baptised on 2nd November 1645.

John Baldwin (\$2152), the son of **John Baldwin** (\$2150), was buried on 28th August 1648.

81 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

William & Edward Barley of Ightham

William Barley (i2883), in his will of 1542 (PCC: **Spert 13**), asked to be buried in the chancel within the parish church of “Itam”⁸².

Edward Barley, gent. (i1155), was buried on 31st July 1563.

The Barnabys of Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
#1032 ^{B3}	<u>BARNABY, Robert</u> -----	<1561	20 Aug 1581	Alice Addison #1033	1 2	1 Jan 1604 in his 40s/50s
•	#1145 <u>Barnaby, Johane</u>	19 Feb 1582			0 1	
•	• #2281 <u>Barnaby, Thomas</u>		12 Apr 1612	"spurius Johane Barnaby"		0 0
<p>A child nursed at Robert Barnaby's was buried 5 April 1592</p> <p>A Johane Barnaby was buried 6 Feb 1635 when #1145 would have been 53 years old. If this was #1145, she did not marry.</p>						
•	#1513 <u>Barnaby, Elizabeth</u>	21 Jul 1588	23 Apr 1615	Samuel BOWLE married at 26 #2047 - see Bowles		1 6

The Barrets of Ightham and Seal

A number of Barrets were recorded in the Ightham and Seal parish registers:

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
i92	<u>BARRET, Robert</u> -----				1 3	16 Jun 1595 in his late 50s
• i94	<u>Barret, Margaret</u>	5 May 1560				0 0
• i95	<u>BARRET, Nicholas</u>	2 Apr 1564	6 Jul 1612	Joane Chapman i99	1 2	27 Sep 1639
• • i103	<u>BARRET, Thomas</u>	21 Jun 1613				0 0 22 Jun 1613 < 1 wk
• • i104	<u>BARRET, Thomas</u>	8 Jan 1616				0 0
• i96	<u>Barret, Elizabeth</u>	21 Mar 1568				0 0

If it was the Nicholas born in 1564 who married in 1612, he was forty-eight when he married Joane. The Nicholas buried in 1639 was described as a "householder"; if he was Robert's son, he was seventy-five when he died.

Nicholas Barret held the office of borsholder for at least one year between 1586 and 1618. There are two entries for Nicholas Barret in the Court Rolls:

- He and **Samuel Meere** (i1695) were presented to the Court on 5th April 1592 and fined 4d each for assaulting each other. (CRI 1938, p.4).
- In 1602, Nicholas was assaulted by **William Bennet, sen.**, (i662) who "[struck him with his dagger, value 6d, drawing blood, in the house of John Willard lately of Ightham deceased](#)". It was two years later, on 16th October 1604 when Bennet was presented to the Court and fined 3s 4d. (CRI 1938, p.7) The John Willard could have been i777 - see [Willard in More Families & Transcripts](#)

Cuthbert Fethergill

On 21st April 1601 Constance Barret (i98) married Cuthbert Fethergill (i97).

Cuthbert Fethergill was one of the residents within the View of Frank-pledge in October 1597 who made default but was pardoned because he had not been sufficiently summoned to the Court. (CRI 1938, p.33)

Benedict Barret

Benedict, who married twice, was mentioned in the Court Records for 1568-1618.

<u>Num</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Married</u>	<u>Spouse</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Died</u>
i100	<u>BARRET, Benedict</u> -----				2	1	>March 1638
	<i>Marriage 1</i>		23 Oct 1614	Agnes Willard i101	1	1	
i101	<u>Willard, Agnes</u> -----	"Agnes" when married; "Anne" on burial			1	1	16 Feb 1633
• i108	<u>BARRET, Thomas</u>	no baptism recorded			0	0	27 Feb 1623
	<i>Marriage 2</i>		8 Apr 1634	Elizabeth Bud(m) i102	1	0	
i102	<u>Bud(m), Elizabeth</u> -----	widow when she married i100; wife of Benedict Barret when buried			1	0	2 Mar 1638

The years in which Benedict was mentioned in the Court Records must have been after 1590 if he was i100. A Benet Barratt of Ightham, labourer, was indicted a number of times at the Assizes for keeping an unlicensed tippling-house in 1627 and 1628. He could have been the above Benedict Barret. In each case the indictments covered other people both in Ightham and other parts of the county. From July 1629, these people and the writs issued to them are listed in

Cockburn's Calendar of the Assize Records but no details are given. They are listed in the table below. The number preceding the date is the number of the reference in Cockburn's Calendar for the reign of Charles I.

The people included are:

BtB Benet Barratt, labourer

BjB Benjamin Barrett (i2751), shoemaker; given as Garrett in March 1630

MW Mary Woodyer, widow - given as Goodyer/Goodier in some cases; see the [Woodyears of Ightham in More Families & Transcripts](#)

TS Thomas Stone, labourer - see [William Chownings in More Families & Transcripts](#)

RH Reginald Haseden/Hastden, husbandman

MG Mary Garner - could have been Mary Woodyer/Goodier

Ref. date		BtB	BjB	MW	TS	MG	RH
272 Jul 1627 328 Feb 1628	ind. for keeping an unlicensed tippling-house between 1 Feb & 1 Mar 1627 on 1 Jun 1627 & other occasions	x x					
330 Feb 1628	writ, venire facias	x					
354 sum 1628 422 Mar 1629	ind. for keeping an unlicensed tippling-house on 1 Feb 1628 & other occasions between 1 Jun & 10 Jul 1628		x x	x x	x		x

492 Jul 1629	writ of attachment	x		x			x
493	writ capias	x	x	x	x		
558 Mar 1630	writ of attachment	x		x			x
559	writ capias	x	x			x	
620 Jul 1630	writ of attachment	x		x			x
621	writ capias		x	x	x		
717 Mar 1631	writ of attachment		x	x			x
718	writ capias		x	x	x		
800 Jul 1631	writ of attachment			x			x
801	writ capias			x	x		
850 Jul 1632	writ of attachment			x			x
913 Mar 1633	writ of attachment			x			x
985 Jul 1633	writ of attachment			x			x
1067 Mar 1634	writ of attachment			x			x
1111 Jul 1634	writ of attachment			x			x
1119 Feb 1635	writ of attachment			x			x
1321 Feb 1636	writ of attachment			x			x
1398 Jul 1636	writ of attachment			x			x
1440 Feb 1647	writ of attachment			x			x
1482 Jul 1637	writ of attachment			x			x
1559 Feb 1638	writ of attachment			x			x
1622 Jul 1638	writ of attachment			x			x
1755 Jul 1639	writ capias			x			x

The Seal Barrets

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
#1677	<u>BARRET, John</u> -----	<1574	7 Nov 1594	Jane Cobb	1 8	26 Mar 1623
#465	<u>Jane Cobb</u> -----	17 Sep 1569		married at 25 yrs	1 9	30 Jan 1617
• #1840	<u>BARRET, John</u>	23 Feb 1595			0 0	3 Mar 1595
• #1860	<u>Barret, Elizabeth</u>	2 May 1596			0 0	< 1609 probably died before #2277 was born
• #1920	<u>BARRET, Gregory</u>	26 Feb 1599			0 0	3 Aug 1600 at 18 mths
• #3568	<u>Barret, Anne</u>	4 Oct 1600			0 0	
• #2275	<u>BARRET, Andrew</u>	28 Sep 1603			0 0	29 Sep 1603
• #3655	<u>Barret, Dorothy</u>	18 Nov 1604			0 0	
• #2276	<u>Barret, Alice</u>	25 Jul 1606			0 0	
• #2277	<u>Barret, Elizabeth</u>	2 Jul 1609			0 0	

Jane Cobb had a son **William** before she married; he was baptised on 9 May 1591. He died from the plague when he was 14, being buried on 30 Oct 1603; the

register says: "alias Clifford, incerti patris". See [Cobb in More Families & Transcripts](#) for Jane's family.

The first of John and Jane's children was born only three months after their marriage but he was buried less than a fortnight after being baptised. Their last recorded child, Elizabeth, could have been the Elizabeth Barret buried on 21st November 1609 but no parents were given.

Assuming that the baptisms of John and Jane's children all took place about the same time after birth, the intervals between their baptisms illustrate how, when one infant dies soon after birth, the next birth follows much more quickly than if it had lived:

Interval 1-2	14.3 months	first child died at <2 weeks	
	2-3	33.9	
	3-4	19.3	
	4-5	35.8	
	5-6	13.7	fifth child died at <1 week
	6-7	20.2	
	7-8	35.3	

William Bartlett, yeoman of Tonbridge

Both John Hooper and George Hooper signed the will of William Bartlett (PCC: Evelyn 59) and since only the probate copy has been examined, it is not possible to tell from the writing who wrote it.

William made a number of bequests to his underage grandchildren and these were “to be paid to their parents to and for their said children’s uses . . . their said parents giving their acquittance for the same upon payment thereof”.

William organised the arrangements for dividing his household goods between his four children, three of whom at least were married. Each was to have a chest full of linen which he had divided between them putting their name on each chest. In addition, all his brass, pewter and iron pots, his kettles, chafers, spits and pans, were to be equally divided between them and in the “quiet and indifferent shifting thereof, I wish every of my said children to bring a friend with them to lay out and divide the same as equally as they can and my said children to take and choose according to their ages one after another beginning with the eldest first”.

William Bartlett's Brewing Equipment

William left his brewing equipment, which was currently being used by his son William, to his other son, Robert. He gives a considerable amount of detail:

“my furnace, brewing tun, coolback, mashfate, underback and all my brewing tubs and brewing vessels”

“tun” is another word for vessel and the other vessels were:

coolback	vessel for letting the hot beer cool before adding the yeast
mashtun	vessel for ‘mixing the porridge’, that is the boiled barley
underback	vessel into which the mashtun drains.

Will of William Bartlett of Tonbridge

written 18th January 1641
transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. the eighteenth day of January
2 in the year of our sovereign lord King Charles the sixteenth, I, William
Bartlett
3 of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, aged and sickly and weak of
body but of good and

4 perfect memory, thanks be therefore given to Almighty god, for the
settling of that estate where
5 with God hath blessed me, do ordain and make this my testament and
last will as followeth: **First**
6 yielding my soul to the gracious acceptance of Almighty god, through
Jesus Christ, my saviour
7 and my body to the earth in decent manner to be buried with hope of a
joyful resurrection to
8 life eternal, I will to my kinswomen, **Ann** and **Sara Dixon**, two shillings
and six pence a
9 piece. **Item:** I will to the poor of Tonbridge aforesaid thirty and five
shillings to be distributed
10 amongst them either in the day of my burial or within short time after.
Item: I will to **Martha**,
11 **my daughter**, already preferred, twenty shillings and to **William James**,
her son, my godson,
12 twenty shillings and to her other children, viz. **John, Thomas, Daniel**,
Martha and Marie, I will
13 twenty shillings a piece to be paid their parents to and for their said
children's uses within
14 one year next after my decease, their said parents giving their
acquittance for the

15 same upon payment thereof. And also I will to the said Martha, my
daughter, one featherbed,
16 two feather bolster, one feather pillow, one chest wherein I shall write or
cause her name
17 to be written and all the linen that shalbe in that chest. And also I will
unto her two
18 blankets and one rug. **Item:** I will to **Elizabeth, my daughter**, already also
preferred, one
19 featherbed, one feather pillow, two feather bolsters, two blankets and one
rug. And also
20 that chest whereon I shall write or cause her name to be written. And all
the linen that
21 shalbe therein. **Item:** I will that **William, my son**, shall hand all those
featherbeds and other
22 bedding and furniture of bedding and bedstedles not before bequeathed
which he hath in
23 his use, except one featherbed, two feather bolsters, one feather pillow,
two blankets and one
24 rug of the better sort which I will he shall deliver to **my son Robert** when
he shall demand
25 the same or within six days after demand thereof made. **Item:** I will to
Mary, the wife of

26 ?? William, one wine? cup of silver. And to **Marie and Elizabeth, her**
daughters, I will
27 twenty shillings a piece to be paid to their parents, to their use, within
two years next
28 after my decease, their said parents giving an acquittance for the same
upon payment thereof
29 ?? ?? mine executors. **Item:** I will to **Martha Dane, my grandchild,**
twenty
30 shillings to be paid within half a year next after my decease. **Item:** I will
to my son,
31 Robert Bartlett, my furnace, brewing tun, coolback, mashfate, underback
and all my brewing
32 tubs and brewing vessels which my son William hath and useth. **Item:** I
will to my
33 four children, viz. Robert, William, Martha and Elizabeth, all my brass,
pewter and iron
34 pots, kettles, chafers, spits and pans, equally to be divided and shifted
between them. And
35 in the more quiet and indifferent shifting thereof, I wish every of my said
children to bring
36 a friend with them to lay out and divide the same as equally as they can
and my said children

37 to take and choose according to their ages one after another beginning
with the eldest first.

38 **Item:** I will and give to **my cousin John Gilbert** forty shillings and to his
daughter **Anne**

39 twenty shillings to be paid to the said John and Anne within two years
next after my

40 decease. **Item:** I will to my son William that chest whereon I shall write
or cause his name

41 to be written and the linen that shalbe therein at my decease. And my
will and meaning

42 is that such beds and bedding as I have given to my daughters shalbe of
the beds and bedding

43 in the room where I now lodge so far as they will extend and the rest to
be of those in my

44 son William's use. The rest and residue of my plate, household stuff,
goods and chattells,

45 I will to Robert Bartlett, my son, whom I make the full and sole executor
of this my

46 testament and last will, to see the same proved and all my debts and
legacies paid and my

47 body decently to be brought to the earth.

48 **Touching** my lands and tenements called **Dyckendens** and all other my
land
49 and tenements, my will is I do devise the same as followeth: I will and
devise to

page 2:

50 Robert Bartlett, my son, and to his heirs and assigns forever, all those my
lands
51 commonly called Dyckendens, by estimation twenty acres lying together
in Tonbridge in the
52 county of Kent. And also all other my lands and tenements with their,
and every of their,
53 appurtenances. To hold to the only use and behoof of the said Robert
Bartlett, his heirs and
54 assigns, forever. In witness whereof I, the said William Bartlett, to this
my testament and
55 last will contained in three sheets of paper have to every sheet
subscribed my name. And
56 have annexed them together with my seal, dated the day and year first
above written.
57 William Bartlett. Sealed, published and declared in the presence of
George Hooper,
58 **Daniell Piper** and **John Hooper**, notary pubq.

I bequeath my soul to Almighty god, my only saviour and redeemer, whom I desire by the merit of Christ's passion that I may be the child of salvation. And my body to be buried in the churchyard of Hadlow aforesaid.

witnesses: **John Stone, Henry Barstow, Thomas Tuttesham**

Thomas Tuttesham probably wrote the will; the words “following” and “be” are spelled in the form given here, not as they were usually spelled by the Hoopers (“folowing, bee)

See [Tuttesham in More Families & Transcripts](#) for information on the Tutteshams.

The Bassetts of the Chiddingstone area

There are surviving Bassett wills from a number of parishes north and west of Tonbridge: Chiddingstone, West Peckham, Leigh and “Coodam” which is probably Cowden.

		written:	proved:		
Henry Bassett	Chiddingstone	23 Mar 1585	Apr 1585	PCC: Brudenell 16	page 2.b.54
Thomas Bassett	Cowden	16 Feb 1589/90	7 Jul 1592	CKS: 18.166; 16	page 2.b.64
Henry Bassett	West Peckham	18 Nov 1598	1599	CKS: 19I.64; 18	page 2.b.70
Thomas Bassett	Chiddingstone	18 Feb 1614/5	20 Apr 1615	CKS: Pws/w/1/141	page 2.b.80
Walter Bassett	Leigh	11 Jun 1629	1629	CKS: 21.388; 28	page 2.b.89
John Bassett, the elder	Chiddingstone	25 Aug 1638	2 Nov 1638	PCC: Lee 136	page 2.b.93

The will of Henry Bassett of West Peckham was written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1578 and 1618 for his own parishioners as well as those in nearby parishes. The will of John Bassett was written by the scriptor Thomas Leddall.

The approximate positions of four parishes and Tonbridge are:

			* West Peckham
Chiddingstone			
*	*	*	Tonbridge
	Leigh		
*		Cowden to Chiddingstone	3 miles
Cowden		Leigh to Chiddingstone	3 miles
		Chiddinstone to West Peckham	7 miles

In 1585, Henry of Chiddingstone left land in Peckham to his son, Henry who could, therefore, be the Henry of West Peckham who wrote his will in 1598. If he was born about 1560, making him in his mid-twenties when his father died, he would have been in his late thirties in 1598 and could therefore reasonably be expected to have two underage children at that time. He could have married soon after coming into his inheritance.

There were also Bassetts in Shipbourne - see [Chalklins in More Families & Transcripts](#).

Henry Bassett of Chiddingstone

The Henry Bassett who died in 1585 had three daughters and five sons (two daughter and two sons being underage in 1585). From his legacies, it appears that Henry had at least £140 which could be paid or "put out to profit" within one year of his death.

Henry's Bequests to his Children

Joane	£20	two pairs of sheets and one cover (coverlet?)
Henry		two pairs of sheets one chest of the worst sort of chests in my house tenement, etc. in Little Peckham and Peckham
Thomas		half of the residue Henry's dwelling house, etc. in Chiddingstone lease of a pond of water in Broomy Lane
William		half of the residue tenement, etc. in Penshurst called Walterchild
Pentecost	£30 ⁺	two pairs of sheets; one chest of the worst sort of chests in my house three parcels of land in Chiddingstone

John	£60*	two pairs of sheets; one chest of the worst sort of chests in my house
Johane	£20*	two pairs of sheets and one cover
Susan	£20*	two pairs of sheets and one cover

* the money for the younger children was to be put forth "to some one man or men of trust for the best and most advantage and profit thereof" until they were twenty-one (or married in the case of Joane and Susan) when they were to be paid "their several stocks with the increase thereof".

Henry's overseers were also to "have full power and authority as well for the governance, ruling and bringing up of all" Henry's under age children until they were twenty-one (or married in the case of Joane and Susan) and, for the sons, the "rule and government of their several stocks, lands and tenements, as well for the letting and devising of their said lands as also for the receiving, taking, paying and performing all and every thing and things in and about the same". When it came time for the sons to inherit, the overseers had to give account of "all receipts, payments, profits, commodities" for the stocks, portions of money, lands and tenements".

John does not appear to have been left any land and it was perhaps because of this that he was to receive £60, twice as much as that left to HenryFive parcels of

land given to the sons were to be put out, by Henry's overseers, for the "best profit" which was to go "towards the bringing up of my two youngest daughters yearly as it is received . . . until both my youngest daughters accomplish their full ages of fourteen years"⁸⁴.

The Family of Henry Bassett

The reasons for taking the testators of 1598 and 1615 as brothers and the sons of Henry Bassett of Chiddingstone are given below when their wills are described.

			x635 John -										
			x637 Henry of Chiddingstone -										
will:			23 Mar 1585										
	x639	x640		x642	x641	x657	x643	x644	x645	x646			
	Joane	Henry	- ?? Johnson	William	Thomas	- Katherine	Pentecost	John	Johane	Susan			
parish:	West Peckham			Chiddingstone									
will:	18 Nov 1598			18 Feb 1615									
	x648	x649		x658	x659								
	Henry	Margaret		Pentecost	Michael								

⁸⁴ definitely "fourteen" (at least in the probate copy)

1 In the name of god Amen. The three and twentieth day of March, one
2 thousand, five hundred, eighty four and in the seven and 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. I, Henry
4 Bassett of the parish of Chiddingstone in the county of Kent and in the
diocese of Canterbury⁸⁵,
5 being sick in body but of good and perfect remembrance (laud and praise
be to Almighty God) do make
6 and ordain this my last will and testament manner and form following
(That is to say), **First:** and before
7 all things I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my maker and redeemer
and by body to be buried in the parish
8 churchyard of Chiddingstone aforesaid. **Item:** I bequeath to the poor people
of the said parish of Chidding
9 stone ten shillings to be bestowed in the day of my burial in meat, drink
and money at the discretion of mine

85 "Canterbury" at least in the probate copy but Chiddingstone is (and was) in the deanery of Shoreham

10 executors and overseers. **Item:** I bequeath to every of my godchildren that
do demand it twelve pence. **Item:**
11 I give and bequeath unto to **Joane, my eldest daughter**, twenty pounds of
lawful money of England to be
12 paid unto her within one year after my decease. **Item:** I bequeath to
Johane, my second daughter, twenty
13 pounds of the like lawful money to be paid unto her likewise within one
year after my decease. **Item:**
14 I bequeath to **Susan, my daughter**, twenty pounds of the like lawful money
to be paid unto her in like sort.
15 And my very will and mind is that my executors and overseers, or two of
them so that one of them be one of my
16 overseers do receive and take the said money so above given to my two
youngest daughters and to put forth
17 their stocks of money to some one man or men of trust for the best and
most advantage and profit thereof
18 until they shall accomplish their several ages of one and twenty years or be
married. And then my will and
19 mind is that my executor and overseer do see my said two daughters paid
their several stocks with the increase
20 thereof as they shall severally accomplish their said ages or happen to be
married which shall happen first.

21 And if it happen that any of my said three daughters die before they shalbe
able to receive their stocks
22 according to this my last will, that then my will is that her or their parts so
dying shall remain equally
23 to the rest of my said daughters then living. Also I bequeath to every of my
said daughters two pairs
24 of sheets and one cover to be like wise delivered unto them within one
month next after my decease. **Item:**
25 I bequeath unto **Pentecost Bassett, my son**, thirty pounds of lawful money
of England to be paid
26 within one year next after my decease. **Item:** I bequeath unto **John, my son**,
three score
27 pounds of the like money to be paid unto him in like sort. And my will is
also that my overseers,
28 or one of them, do take and receive the said several sums of money so
above given to my said sons and do
29 put it forth for the best and most advantage thereof until they do
accomplish their several ages of one and
30 twenty years. And then my will and mind is that my said overseer do see
my said two sons paid their
31 said several stocks with the profits thereof as they shall severally
accomplish their said age. And if

32 any or both of my said sons, Pentecost or John, happen to die before they
shall receive their portions as is
33 aforesaid, that then I will that his or their parts so dying shall equally be
divided amongst my sons
34 and daughters then living. **Item:** I bequeath to either of my said sons,
Pentecost and John, two pairs
35 of sheets and one chest of the worst sort of chests in my house. **Item:** I
bequeath to **Henry Bassett, my son,**
36 two pairs of sheets and one chest of the like sort. All the residue of my
goods, chattells and debts (my debts paid and
37 my funeral expenses and my legacies in this my last will performed) I give
and bequeath wholly to **Thomas**
38 **Bassett and William Bassett, my sons,** whom I ordain and make my joint
executors of this my last will and
39 testament. And I ordain and appoint **Henry Ashdowne, junior, of the**
Lathe, and **my brother-in-law Robert**
40 **Vant of Sevenoaks** to be overseers of this my said will. And I give to either
of them for their pains
41 herein to be taken, over and above their expenses, thirteen shillings and
four pence a piece.

42 This is the last will and testament of me the said Henry Bassett, the elder,
made

43 the day and year above said concerning the disposition of all my lands,
tenements and hereditaments, lying and
44 being in the said county as followeth. **First:** I give and bequeath unto unto
Thomas Bassett, my son, and to his heirs,
45 all that my dwelling house and all barns, stables, mills, lands, tenements
and hereditaments whatsoever
46 to the same belonging which did descend and come unto me by way of
inheritance from **John Bassett, my father,**
47 which said tenement, land and other the premises are lying and being in in
the said parish of Chiddingstone.
48 **Item:** I bequeath unto **William Bassett, my son,** and to his heirs, all that my
tenement and land and other
49 hereditaments, lying and being in in the parish of **Penshurst** called
Walterchild lands which I lately
50 purchased of **Thomas Gervys and Jane, his wife.** **Item:** I give and bequeath
unto to **Henry Bassett, my son,**
51 and to his heirs as well my tenement and land, and other the premises
thereunto belonging, lying in the parish
52 of **Little Peckham** as also all those lands, tenements and hereditaments to
the said tenement now belonging
53 lying in the said parish of Peckham which I lately purchased of **John**
Master, Thomas Master and

54 **Thomas Baker.** Item: I bequeath to **Pentecost Bassett, my son,** and to his
heirs, those three parcels of
55 land lying in Chiddingstone called **Crouch** lands and **Marles** which I lately
purchased of **Mr. Willoughby**
56 of **Bore Place** and of **Mr. John Carrell.** And also, it is my very will and mind
that my overseers shall
57 have full power and authority as well for the governance, ruling and
bringing up of all my said children
58 which be now under the ages of one and twenty years until they shall
severally accomplish the said ages of
59 one and twenty years, or other time herein limited, when they shall receive
their portions. As also the rule
60 and government of their several stocks, lands and tenements, as well for
the letting and devising of their
61 said lands as also for the receiving, taking, paying and performing all and
every thing and things in and
62 about the same until such time as each one of my said sons whose lands
they do so let and devise
63 shall accomplish his full age of one and twenty years. And my will is that
as well my said sons and my said
64 daughters shall have, receive and enjoy to themselves their several stocks
and lands so to them herein given as they

65 severally accomplish their said ages, or other time herein limited, when
they should receive their portions
66 as is aforesaid. So as my said overseers do become bounden to my said
executors, within one month next
67 after my decease, to make a true and ?? account to every of my children,
within one quarter of a year after
68 the accomplishment of their several ages or other times herein limited,
when they shall enjoy their
69 said stocks and lands as well for the charges they be at for the bringing up
of him, her or them, to whom
70 they shall so give account as also of all receipts, payments, profits,
commodities for or concerning as well
71 their stocks and portions of money as also his lands and tenements to
whom such account is made. And
72 also it is my will and mind that if any of my said sons or daughters die
before their full ages of one and
73 twenty years or other time as is aforesaid, so that there can be no account
made to him, her or them in form
74 aforesaid, then I will the said account shall be made to the husband, wife⁸⁶,
child or children of the same so

86 but the sons get their inheritance only after they reach their twenty-first birthday so that this part can refer only to daughters who married before reaching their twenty-first birthday.

75 dying (if he, she or they have any at the time of his or their decease) or for
such default then to all the residue
76 of my said sons and daughters which shalbe then living. Provided, and
also it is my will, that William⁸⁷,
77 my son, have no interest by this my will of, in and to one lease which I
have of the demise of **John Ton**
78 **bridge** of one pond of water being in **Broomy Lane**. And if he, his executors
or assigns, refuse to suffer
79 Thomas, my son, and his heirs to enjoy the same lease wholly to his use,
then my will is that he lose the
80 benefit in being joint executor of this my will and then my will is the part of
my goods remaining to Thomas,
81 my son, And also it is my will that it shalbe lawful for my overseers to
lease, and put out to farm, one
82 parcel of land above given to my son Thomas containing four acres called
Onedayland in Chiddingstone⁸⁸
83 above, given to my son Henry containing four acres and one parcel of land
called **Lynches in Peckham**

87 this refusal to allow William have any interest in this pond is tantalising in that there must have been a reason for it which can no longer be retrieved and a pond of water seems trivial compared with Henry's other bequests.

88 "and one parcel of land" appears to have been omitted from here (or two parcels, since a total of five were to be let out)

84 to such person as they shall think good to be put out for the best profit and
the money or best profits
85 thereof coming to be employed towards the bringing up of my two
youngest daughters yearly as it
86 is received. And I will that they shall have full authority to enter into the
said five parcels of land
87 immediately after my decease and the same to let and devise at their
pleasure during and until both my
88 youngest daughters accomplish their full ages of fourteen years. So that
the whole and best profit
89 thereof be yearly employed towards the bringing up of my said two
daughters. And if any of my
90 said sons, or their heirs, refuse to perform this my will herein, then I will
that he or they so refusing
91 shall have no benefit by this my will. But his or her portions, as well of
money as of land, hereby to
92 him or them given shall remain to the residue of my sons then living.
Sealed, read and delivered
93 and published in the presence of **Daniell Woodgate, Tristram Goard and
Edward Baldwin.**

Thomas Bassett of Cowden

Thomas is described in his will as a labourer but he was certainly a wealthy one. He owned land:

- called **Mollwood and Mollidens** which included a “**messuage, six acres of land, twelve acres of pasture and twelve (acres of) woods**” in Cowden described in more detail in “**a certain writing**” indented and dated April 1589; this was to go to his son Edward
- eight acres called **Pypers Croft** in the parish of Chelsham, Surrey for 99 years “**according to the true intent and purpose of a certain lease or writing indented**”.

Although he seems to have had three sons he only mentions John because John owed him some money which was to be paid to Catherin, Thomas's daughter.

1 In dei nomine amen. The sixteenth day of February in the year of our lord
1589, I, Thomas
2 Bassett of the parish of Cowden⁹⁰ in the county of Kent, **labourer**, being sick
in body but in very good
3 and perfect remembrance, thanks be given unto god, do make and ordain
this to be my last will
4 and testament in manner and form following, that is to say, **First** and
principally I commend my soul
5 in to the hands of Almighty God, my only saviour and redeemer, hoping to
have full remission and for
6 givenness of my sins by his bloodshedding⁹¹ once for all. And when it shall
please him to call me out of this

89 the right hand side of the will has decayed so that the ends of the lines have disappeared the probate copy has been used; it is from there that the date of writing has been taken.

90 "Coodam"

91 "bludshedding"

7 mortal life, then I commit my body unto the earth from whence it came and
to be buried in the church
8 or church yard of **Chelsham**⁹² by the discretion of mine executor. **Item:** I do
give and bequeath
9 unto **Edward Bassett, my son of Maresfield** in the county of Sussex,
husbandman, to the only use
10 and behoof of the said Edward Basset, his heirs and assigns for ever, all
those my lands and tenements
11 called⁹³ by the name or names of **Mollwood and Mollidens** withall and
singular the appurtenances thereunto
12 belonging and also⁹⁴ one messuage, six acres of land, twelve acres of
pasture and twelve acres of
13 woods with the appurtenances, situated and being within the parish of
Cowden aforesaid according
14 to the true intent and meaning of a certain writing indented, bearing the
date sixteenth

92 although written "Chesham" here, it was in Chelsham, Surrey that Thomas owned land (see line 20) and it was presumably there where he wanted to be buried; Chelsham is about 17 miles north west of Tonbridge

93 "cauled"

94 "all so"

15 day of April in the one and thirtieth year of the reign of our sovereign⁹⁵
Lady Elizabeth,
16 by the grace of god of England, France and Ireland, queen, defender of the
faith, etc.
17 my mind and will is that the said Edward Basset, my son, his heirs,
executors
18 and assigns, shall have, hold, occupy and enjoy, to his and their use one
parcel of land
19 called by the name of **Pypers Croft** containing by estimation eight acres.
more or less,
20 situated and being within the parish of Chelsham within the county of
Surrey for and during
21 the full term of fourscore and nineteen years from the feast of St. Michael
the
22 archangel last past before the date hereof according to the true intent and
meaning
23 of a certain lease or writing indented made and bearing the date ??
24 testament as in the said indenture more at large it doth and may appear.
Item: I give and
25 bequeath unto **my daughter Catherin** the bed that I lie upon, a bolster, two
pillows, two blankets,

26 three pairs of sheets, one iron pot and my best chest, three pewter platters,
a kneading trough
27 a bunting hutch, two firkins and thirty and five shillings in money which
my son John
28 doth owe unto me. All which implements, with the said money, I will shall
be paid
29 unto her at the day of her marriage or the day of my death ?? ?? **Item:**
30 I give and bequeath unto **my son Robert Bassett** a mauling vat being at
Thomas
31 Bassetts at Colson and a great chest which is at **John Haysenett** at Col?
and a little
32 brass pot. The residue of all my goods and cattell, moveables and
unmoveables
33 not given nor bequeathed in this my last will and testament, I give and
bequeath unto
34 the above named Edward Basset, my son, whom I do make and ordain my
whole
35 and sole executor of this my said last will and testament and he to pay the
36 legacies of this my said last will. Also I do request my wellbeloved friend
37 **Thomas High of Fairchild** of Chelsham to be my trusty overseer to this my
last
38 will and testament and I give to him for his pains 3s 4d over and besides
ordinary

39 charges if any be. In witness whereof I have here unto put my seal and
40 mark in the presence of those whose
41 names are underwritten.

rest of transcript from probate copy only

Thomas High, Richard Glover, Edward High

Also I give unto my daughter Catherin ⁹⁶
6 ewes to be paid at the hour of death

96 this looks like a surname but, from line 29 Catherin was not married; the time of payment seems strange

Henry Bassett of West Peckham

Henry of Chiddingstone left land in Peckham to his son, Henry who could, therefore, be the Henry of West Peckham who wrote his will in 1598. He died at the end of 1598 or the beginning of 1599; he does not mention a wife so that she probably died before him. However, he had two underage children and he appointed his "wellbeloved and trusty friend and mother-in-law, Joane Johnson, widow," his "full, whole and sole executor". He also left her all his "moveables, goods, debts, cattells and chattels, toward the payment of my debts and for and towards the bringing up of my two children, Henry Bassett and Margaret Bassett," In addition he appointed his "wellbeloved and trusted friend Thomas Tuttesham, gent." supervisor and overseer of his will "desiring him, for good cause, to be the best means he can" that his will "may be performed according to the meaning hereof".

Henry appointed his "wellbeloved and trusted friend Thomas Tuttesham, gent.," his supervisor and overseer. Thomas Tuttesham wrote a number of wills for people in the locality.

Nicolas Hooper's
mark

1 In⁹⁷ the name of god Amen. The eighteenth day of the
2 month of November in the year of our lord
3 god one thousand, five hundredth, four score and eighteen.
4 And in the one and fortieth year of the reign of our
5 sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of god queen
6 of England, France and Ireland, defender of the
7 faith. I, Henry Bassett of West Peckham
8 in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being at the time
9 of making hereof very sick in body but yet of perfect
10 mind and remembrance, thanks therefore be given to
11 Almighty god, do ordain and make this my present
12 last will and testament in manner and form
13 following, that is to say: **First** and principally, I give,

97 decorated "I" in the original

14 commend and bequeath my soul into thandes⁹⁸ of
15 Almighty god, my maker, trusting that, by the merit and
16 precious death and blood shedding of his dear son,
17 Jesus Christ, the same shalbe presented, without spot,
18 before the throne of his majesty. And my body to the
19 earth in sure and certain hope of resurrection to
20 eternal life. **Item:** I will there shalbe given to the
21 poor in this the said parish at the discretion of mine
22 executor hereafter named at my burial 3s 4d. **Item:**
23 I will to **my son, Henry Bassett**, my new joined
24 cupboard and bedstead both standing in the parlour. And
25 to **my daughter, Margaret**, one great joined chest,
26 three other ?? chests, mine iron pot and
27 brass stupnett⁹⁹. The residue of all my moveables,
28 goods, debts, cattells and chattels, I wholly, fully
29 and with good effect, intent and purpose, give and
30 bequeath to **my wellbeloved and trusty friend and**
31 **mother-in-law, Joane Johnson, widow**, toward
32 the payment of my debts and for and towards the

98 the hands - not a usual abbreviation (this is the probate copy)

99 saucepan

33 bringing up of my two children, Henry Bassett
34 and Margaret Bassett, which Joane Johnson¹⁰⁰, my
35 mother-in-law, I make and ordain my full, whole
36 and sole executor. And I ordain and make my
37 **wellbeloved and trusted friend Thomas Tuttesham, gent.**,
38 supervisor and overseer of this my will desiring him,
39 for good cause, to be the best means he can of
40 this my will may be performed according to the
41 meaning hereof to whom I give, over and above his
42 chardges¹⁰¹ and expenses any wise to be laid out about
43 this my will, six shillings and eight pence.

44 This is the last will of me, the said Henry Bassett,
45 made and declared the day and year first above written,
46 concerning the order and disposition of all my lands
47 and tenements and other hereditaments whatsoever
48 situated, lying and being within the **borough of Oxenhoth**. And first
49 I will that my said mother-in-law, Joane Johnson, her

100 Joane was probably his wife's mother, his wife having already died; if she had been his step-mother, his father's second wife, she would have had to have married ?? Johnson after his father's death

101 "d" in probate copy but not in original

50 executors or Assigns, or any other whom she shall
51 thereto nominate and appoint before her decease, and his,
52 her or their executors or assigns afterwards, shall have
53 the education, governance and bringing up of my said
54 children, Henry and Margaret Bassett, to whose
55 faithful tuition I commit them until my said son
56 Henry shall or should come and attain to his full
57 age of one and twenty years. At which time my said
58 daughter, Margaret (if she live) shalbe of her age
59 of seventeen years and a half or thereabouts, during
60 all which time I will that she, the said Joane
61 Johnson, her said executors or Assigns or other to
62 be nominated or which the premises may concern as aforesaid,
63 shall, have and receive and take up the issues, revenues and
64 profits or otherwise shall have the occupation of all my
65 said lands and tenements and hereditaments withall and
66 singular th'appurtenances, paying the quit rents yearly
67 issuing out of the same and keeping the necessary
68 reparations thereof, from time to time, as often as need
69 shall require and doing such other duties as shalbe
70 imposed and ordinarily laid upon the same without
71 any account making to my children, or either of them,
72 or their heirs. And after my said son, Henry

73 Bassett, shall have attained his said age of one and
74 twenty years, I will all that my messuage or
75 tenement wherein I now dwell, one kitchen, one
76 barn and other edifices thereto belonging, with the
77 closes, yards, gardens, orchards and two several
78 parcels of land thereto adjoining, containing, by
79 estimation, six acres whether more or less, together
80 situated, lying and being at **Oxenhoth** aforesaid.
81 And also all those three other sendalls or parcels of land
82 and meadows called Oxenhoth lands to the said
83 tenement belonging, by estimation nine acres whether
84 more or less, together lying and being at Oxenhoth
85 aforesaid in West Peckham aforesaid, unto him the said
86 Henry Bassett, my son, to have and to hold
87 the same, withall and singular thappurtenances, to him the
88 said Henry, his heirs and assigns, for ever.
89 And likewise, at and after my said son Henry shall,
90 should and attain his said full age of one and twenty
91 years, I will and give all that my one parcel
92 of land called **Limchers**, by estimation four acres,
93 to the said tenement now belonging, withall and
94 singular thappurtenances, unto my said daughter, Margaret
95 Bassett, to have and to hold the said parcel called

96 Limchers, withall and singular thappurtenances, unto the said
97 Margaret Bassett, my daughter, her heirs and
98 assigns for ever. **Provided** always that, if my said son Henry
99 Bassett happen to decease before his said age of One and twenty years and
without
100 heirs of his body lawfully begotten, Then I will all the premises to him
given
101 withall and singular thappurtenances, to my said daughter Margaret and
her heirs.
102 And that also, if it happen my said son to live and my said daughter
happen to decease
103 before the said age of my said son and without like heirs, Then I will all
that
104 parcel of land called Limchers before to her willed shall remain to my said
son
105 Henry, his heirs and assigns, for ever. Any thing herein before mentioned
106 contrary hereof in any wise notwithstanding. **Provided** also that if it
107 shall happen both my said children to decease without heirs of his and
their
108 bodies lawfully begotten as aforesaid, Then I will all the said messuage,
kitchen,
109 Barns and premises, withall and singular thappurtenances, here above
willed to my said son

110 shall remain to **Johane, my sister, now wife of George Johnson**¹⁰², her heirs
and assigns
111 for ever. And then I will the said parcel called Limchers, with
th'appurtenances herein willed
112 to my said daughter to the said Johane Johnson, my mother-in-law, her
heirs and
113 assigns for ever. Any thing herein before mentioned to the contrary hereof
in any
114 wise notwithstanding. **In witness** whereof, to this my present last will and
115 Testament, I, the said Henry Bassett¹⁰³, have set my hand and Seal yeven¹⁰⁴
the
116 day and year first above written.

Nicolas Hooper's
mark
with initials

102 it looks as if Henry and his sister Johane married a sister and brother, the children of Johane Johnson

103 Johnson crossed out and replaced with Bassett

104 given

Read, Sealed and acknowledged in

the presence of **Nicolas Hooper**, writer hereof,
and of **William Fayreman** and
John Rootes with others.

The mark of William
Fayreman

signed ¹⁰⁶ John
Rootes

Henry Bassett¹⁰⁵

105 this looks like a signature

106 although the word "signed" is given, this is the mark (a large T) presumably of John Rootes

Thomas Bassett of Chiddingstone

The Thomas whose will of 1614/5 has survived could be another son of Henry of Chiddingstone and a brother of the Henry of West Peckham. It was Thomas to whom Henry, the father, left his dwelling house in Chiddingstone with all his “[barns, stables, mills, lands, tenements and hereditaments . . . which did descend and come unto me by way of inheritance from John Bassett, my father](#)”. Thomas is described in his will as a yeoman of the mill in the parish of Chiddingstone and he also named one of his sons Pentecost.

Thomas left all his moveables to his wife, Katherine, except for the “[lease of the flowing of water to my said mills](#)” which he left to his son Pentecost when he reached the age of twenty-one. In the mean time, Katherine was to have the use of the “[water flowing upon condition that she do no act to make void the said lease](#)”. It is interesting to see this lease as classed as a moveable item.

With his barns, stables, mills and land Thomas was obviously a very wealthy yeoman and he instructs his wife within one year after his decease, to “[remove and take down](#)” the house which was already on the land called Gillards and in its place to “[set up and furnish](#)” a new dwelling house in and upon the land called the Eyland “[in such place as shall be thought most meet and convenient by my executrix and overseers](#)”.

Katherine, before she was allowed to prove the will, was to enter into a bond of £100 unto the overseers “with condition thereupon endorsed” that after Michael and Pentecost reached the age of twenty-one she would not make any further claim on any of his lands other than those he had already given her by a deed. Was Katherine expected to have £100 of her own to use for this bond? Otherwise she would appear to be in a "catch 22" position: unable to prove the will and therefore benefit from it but unable to enter into the bond so as to be able to prove the will.

After all the various complicated arrangements and provisos Thomas was worried that some misunderstandings might arise and he added: “Last of all, my will and meaning is that, if any ambiguity or doubt shall arise or grow about the construction of this my will, that the true meaning thereof shall be set down and construed by my overseers aforesaid according to the true intent and meaning thereof who now are present at the making thereof and best understand my meaning therein.”

1 In the name of god Amen. The eighteenth day of February in the year of
our
2 lord god one thousand, six hundred and fourteen an in the twelfth
3 year of the reign of our sovereign lord James, by the grace of god, of
4 England, France and Ireland king, defender of the faith. And of
5 Scotland the 48. I, Thomas Bassett, of the mill in the parish of
Chiddingstone
6 in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick and weak in body yet of perfect
7 remembrance, thanks be unto Almighty god, do make and ordain
8 this my last will and testament in manner and form following: And **first**:
9 I give and bequeath and commend my soul into the hands of Almighty
10 god, my maker and Jesus Christ, his son, my only saviour and redeemer
11 and my body to the earth from whence it came. **Item**: I will there shalbe
12 bestowed at my burial, amongst the poor people of the parish of
Chiddingstone
13 the sum of 20s to be divided at the discretion of mine executrix here
14 after named or her assigns. **Item**: I give and bequeath unto every of my
15 godchildren demanding the same of my executrix within one year next

16 after my decease, 6d a piece. **Item:** I will that all those parcels of
household stuff
17 hereafter presently named shalbe and remain as standards and
implements to
18 my mansion house wherein I now dwell and to my mills thereunto
belonging
19 for ever and to remain as goods --ept to the said freehold - - in my
20 hall of my mansion house, my cupboard there in the kitchen, my - -
21 furnace there. In my chamber where I lie, the joined bedstead and side
22 cupboard there. And in my mill, all my stones, bins, hronges, curowes
23 and other implements there. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Alice Goale,**
24 **my maidservant,** the sum of forty shillings of good and lawful money
25 of England to be paid her within two years next after my decease if she,
26 the said Alice, be then living by my executrix hereafter named or her
assigns.
27 The residue of all my goods and cattells, debts, moveables and chattells
28 and all other my moveable goods whatsoever (except my lease of the
flowing
29 of the water to my said mill¹⁰⁷), my debts and legacies paid and funeral
30 discharged, I wholly, fully and with good intent and purpose give and
31 bequeath them to **Katherine, my wellbeloved wife,** whom I do ordain

107 see line 98

32 and make my whole executrix of this my last will and testament whom
33 I do appoint to see my debts and legacies paid as aforesaid and my body
34 decently buried and this my will performed. And I heartedly desire my
35 **trusty and wellbeloved friends, William Birsty and Henry Streatfield,**
36 **Edward Everest and Thomas Saunders** of Chiddingstone to be supervisors
and overseers of

37 this my will heartily desiring them to take some pains that the same
38 may take effect and be accomplished according to the true meaning
thereof.

39 To whom I give 6s 8d a piece in token of my good will over and above their
40 charges anyway to be laid out about this my will

41 This is the last will and testament of me the said Thomas Bassett made
42 and declared the day and year first above written concerning the
43 order and disposition of all my lands, tenements, mills and
44 hereditaments whatsoever, situated, lying and being within the
45 parish of Chiddingstone aforesaid. And first my will and meaning is
46 that whereas I have heretofore, by conveyance thereof, made and given
unto

47 Katherine, my wellbeloved wife, for term of her natural life
48 my messuage and tenement wherein I dwell and certain parcels of land
49 as by the said appendeth, if she, the said Katherine, my wife, shalbe

50 content to accept of the said messuage and lands so to her given for term
of
51 her life in full satisfaction and recompense of all such jointure and dower
which
52 she may hereafter claim out of any of my lands, then my will is that the
said Katherine
53 my wife, shall likewise have, hold, occupy and enjoy all other my lands,
54 meadows, pastures, woods and underwoods, together with my two mills
55 an all other hereditaments whatsoever. As also all that parcel of meadow
called
56 **The Eyland** containing, by estimation, twelve acres lying in Chiddingstone
aforesaid
57 until **my two sons, Pentecost Bassett and Michael Bassett**, shall severally
58 come to their several ages of 21 years, keeping all and every my said
59 messages, buildings and mills well and sufficiently repaired in all manner
of
60 - - - whatsoever and doing or committing no manner of waster in or
61 upon the same or any part thereof other than in needful timber for
reparations
62 and necessary firewood for her burning in my said tenement and needful
63 hedgeboot for the fencing of the premises, the same to be taken by the
appointment

64 and assignment of my overseers, or some of them, and not otherwise and
upon
65 condition also that the said Katherine, my wife, shall bring up my two sons,
66 Pentecost and Michael Bassett in all godly education befitting their degree.
67 And also that the said Katherine, my wife, shall pay unto my two sons,
from
68 their several ages of 16 years until their several ages of 21 years,
69 the sum of 20s a piece yearly, at two ?? or times in the year,
70 ?? the feasts of Th'annunciation and St. Michael Th'archangel, by even
71 portions. And after that my said sons shall severally attain unto their
several
72 ages of one and twenty years, then I will, give and bequeath to my
73 said son Pentecost Bassett all my said messuage wherein I now dwell
74 with my mills and all houses, barns, and buildings thereunto belonging,
except my
75 house standing upon a parcel of land called **Gillands** appointed to be - -
76 as hereafter in this my will shalbe set down¹⁰⁸, together with all the
buildings,
77 meadows, pastures, waters, streams, flowing of waters, woods,
underwoods

108 see line 88

78 and other th'appurtenances to my said messuage and mills belonging or in
any way
79 appertaining, situated, lying and being in Chiddingstone aforesaid. To
have
80 and to hold the same and every of the same, withall and singular their
81 appurtenances, unto the said Pentecost Bassett, my son, and to his heirs
and assigns
82 forever. **Item:** I will, give and bequeath all the said parcel of meadows
called
83 the Eyland, withall and singular their appurtenances, unto my said son
Michael Bassett after his said age of one and twenty
84 years, to have and to hold, the said parcel of meadows withall and singular
85 their appurtenances, unto my said son Michael Bassett and to his heirs and
86 assigns for ever. **Item:** I further will, and my meaning is, that Katherine,
my
87 wife and executrix shall, within one whole year next after my decease, at
her own
88 - - costs and charges, remove and take down the above mentioned house,
89 standing upon the said parcel of land called Gillards, and the same shall
90 set up and furnish meet for a dwelling house in and upon the said parcel of
land
91 so called the Eyland before and given to Michael, my son, in such place as
shalbe thought

92 most meet and convenient by my executrix and overseers.
93 **Item:** my will and meaning is that if any of my sons happen to decease
before
94 his age of one and twenty years aforesaid, and having no issue, then I will
and give all my said
95 messuage, mills, lands tenements and all other my hereditaments
whatsoever
96 in Chiddingstone aforesaid unto the overliver of them, to have and to hold
97 to him, the said overliver, his heirs and assigns forever. **Item:** I will, give
98 and bequeath to my son Pentecost Bassett all my lease of the flowing of
99 water to my said mills, to have and to hold to him and to heirs and assigns
during
100 so many years as shalbe to come after he shall accomplish his age of 21
101 years and, in the mean time, Katherine, my wife, shall have the use of the
said
102 water flowing upon condition that she do no act to make void the said
lease.
103 Provided always, and my will and meaning is, that if Katherine, my wife
and
104 executrix, before she shall be admitted to prove my will shall enter into
bond
105 one hundred pounds unto my overseers, or two of them, with condition
thereupon endorsed that she shall not, after

106 my two sons shall accomplish their several ages of 21 years, make any
further claim
107 into any other my lands than in - - such those and such lands as I have
already, by
108 deed, confirmed unto her but suffer them to descend to my two sons
according to
109 this my will that then she shalbe suffered to prove my will and take the
110 benefit thereof.
111 Provided always, and my will and meaning is that, whereas I have formerly
given
112 all the use and profit of all my lands unto Katherine, my wife, until such
time as my two
113 several sons shall attain unto their several ages of one and twenty years
yet not
114 withstanding, my will is that if the said Katherine, my wife, happen to die
before
115 the said sons shall accomplish their several ages aforesaid, that
immediately
116 after the decease of the said Katherine, my wife, my lands and tenements
117 before given them shall descend and come unto them as if they had
attained
118 their full age of 21 years aforesaid.

119 Last of all, my will and meaning is that, if any ambiguity or doubt shall
arise or grow about
120 the construction of this my will, that the true meaning thereof shalbe set
down
121 and construed by my overseers aforesaid according to the true intent and
meaning
122 thereof who now are present at the making thereof and best understand
my meaning
123 therein.
124 In witness whereof, to this my present last will and testament, I, the said
125 Thomas Bassett, have set my hand and seal to every leaf and sheet thereof,
126 being four sheets, have set my mark and, to the fourth have set my mark
127 and seal, yeven the day and year first above written.

*th*¹⁰⁹

read, sealed, pronounced
declared as the last will
of the above named
Thomas Bassett in the
presence of **William Woodgate**
John Saxpoose?

109 mark similar to a handwritten and joined "th"

Walter Bassett of Leigh

The John Bassett who wrote his will in 1638 had cousins Thomas, Francis and Henry, the names of Walter's three sons. Walter had a brother John so it looks as if the father of the testator of 1638 was Walter's brother.

	x660	x662		x1260		
	Walter - Elizabeth			John -		
will:	11 Jun 1629					
	x663	x664	x665	x666	x661	x667
	Thomas	Francis	Henry	Marie	John -	Martha
will:					25 Aug 1638	

Will of Walter Bassett of Leigh

written 11th June 1629

transcript from original

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The eleventh day of June
- 2 in the year of our lord god, according to the computation of
- 3 England, one thousand six hundred twenty and nine and in the
- 4 fifth year of the reign of our sovereign lord Charles, by the

5 grace of God king England, Scotland, France and Ireland,
6 defender of the faith, etc. I, Walter Bassett of **Haseden** in the
7 parish of Leigh-next-Tonbridge in the county of Kent, though
8 sick in body yet (praised be god) of sound memory, do constitute
9 and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form
10 following¹¹⁰: **First** and principally I give and bequeath my soul
11 into the hands of Almighty God, my creator, redeemer and sanctifier,
12 trusting assuredly to obtain full and free forgiveness of my sins
13 and everlasting salvation for and through the only passion and
14 obedience of my saviour and redeemer Christ Jesus. And my body
15 to be committed to the earth from whence it was taken to be decently
16 buried in the parish church or churchyard of Leigh. I will and
17 bequeath to **my eldest son Thomas** ten pounds to be paid
18 unto him when he shall accomplish the full end and term
19 of one and twenty years. **Item:** I will and bequeath to **my two sons**
20 **Francis and Henry** ten pounds a piece to be paid when they
21 shall accomplish the full end and term of one and twenty years.
22 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my daughter Marie** ten pounds to
23 be paid at her day of marriage or when she shall accomplish
24 the age of one and twenty years. **Item:** I give and bequeath to my
25 son Thomas a little press. **Item:** I bequeath to my son Francis

110 "following"

26 a plank chest and a hanging ?? **Item:** to my son
27 Henry a joined chest. **Item:** I bequeath to my daughter Marie the great
28 joined chest. The rest of my goods and chattells I bequeath to my
29 **loving wife Elizabeth** whom I appoint sole executrix of this my
30 last will and testament desiring her to see to the bringing up of my children
and I appoint **my brother John Bassett**
31 and **my brother-in-law George Skinner** to be overseers thereof and
32 my will is that if my wife marry again that she put in sufficient
33 bond for the payment of the children's portions. And renouncing all
34 former wills either by word or writing, I publish and declare
35 to be my last will and testament, in witness whereof I have set
36 to my hand and seal the day and year above written.

Signed. sealed and published

In the presence of us

the mark of Walter Basset

Zachary Taylor

William ??

Christopher Combridge

John Bassett, the elder, of Chiddingstone

Although described as John Bassett the elder, John mentions no children in his will. His main heir was his “cousin” Thomas Bassett who had two brothers, Francis and Henry. Walter Bassett’s three sons were Thomas, Francis and Henry. These were probably John’s cousins implying that Walter was his uncle.

John’s wife, Martha, was to have the rents and profits from his land until she remarried or died with the interesting proviso that if at any time she sowed “any oats upon any of my lands, that the said Martha, or her assigns, shall pay unto Thomas Bassett aforesaid, five shillings yearly for every one¹¹¹ that shall be so sowed with oats to be levied by distress or otherwise”.

John’s will was proved on 2nd November 1638.

111 piece of land?

1 In the name of god Amen. The
2 five and twentieth day of August Anno Dm 1638 in the fourteenth year of
3 the
4 reign of our sovereign lord king Charles, I, John Bassett, the elder, of
5 Chiddingstone
6 in the county of Kent, **husbandman**, being at this time not well in body but
7 of good and
8 perfect remembrance, praised be god, do make and declare this my last
9 will and testament in manner
and form following: **First:** I bequeath my soul to Almighty God and to Jesus
Christ, my only
saviour and redeemer, by whose death and passion I fully trust, with an
assured hope to have all
my sins fully forgiven and to obtain to the joyful resurrection of eternal life,
committing
my body to the earth in decent sort to be buried in the churchyard of
Chiddingstone aforesaid.

10 **Item:** I give to the poor people of the said parish, twenty shillings to be
distributed to them within
11 one month next after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto unto **my**
cousin, Elizabeth Wickenden,
12 **the now wife of Edward Wickenden,** ten pounds of lawful money to be paid
unto her within
13 one year next after my decease. **Item:** I give unto **Elizabeth and Thomas,**
the children of
14 the said Elizabeth, to either of them five pounds a piece of like lawful
money of England to be
15 paid unto them within one year next after my decease. **Item:** I give unto
John Goldsmith,
16 **George, Henry and William Goldsmith, my brother-in-laws's children,** to
either of them five
17 pounds a piece of like lawful money to be paid within one year next after
my decease.
18 **Item:** I give unto **my cousins, Thomas, John and William Sanders,** to either
of them five pounds
19 a piece of like lawful money to be paid within one year after my decease.
Item: I give
20 unto **Sara, my cousin, the now wife of Robert Hunter,** five pounds of like
money to be paid within

21 one year after my decease. **Item:** I give unto **Mary, Thomas and Elizabeth**
22 **Brookes, the**
23 **children of Thomas Brookes, my cousin,** to either of them five pounds a
24 piece to be paid
25 unto them when they shall accomplish their several ages of one and
26 twenty years, by
27 my executrix or her assigns. **Item:** I give unto **my brother-in-law, William**
28 **Brookes,**
29 forty shillings now remaining in his hands. The residue of all my moveable
30 goods, house
31 hold stuff, cattell and chattells whatsoever unbequeathed, my debts,
legacies and funeral
discharged, I give and bequeath unto unto **Martha, my loving wife,** whom I
do make the sole
supervisor hereof to see this my last will and testament performed thus.

29 This is the last will and testament of me the said John Bassett, the elder,
made and
30 declared the day and year aforesaid concerning the disposing of all my
messenger, tenements and
31 lands, situated, lying and being in Chiddingstone aforesaid. **Item:** my will
is that Martha, my

32 wife shall have all the rents and profits of all my said messuage, tenements
and lands (except
33 one coppice wood which I give unto **Thomas Bassett, my cousin** forthwith)
so long as she
34 remains my widow and unmarried, and not felling my woods and keeping
my house,
35 barns and buildings well repaired. And moreover, I will that the said
Martha, my wife, shall
36 have and take one cord of wood yearly out of the woods growing on my
lands so long
37 as she remains my widow, by the appointment of my cousin Thomas
Bassett and paying
38 for the cutting thereof. Provided always, that if Martha, my wife or her
assigns, at
39 any time do sow any oats upon any of my lands, that the said Martha, or
her assigns,
40 shall pay unto Thomas Bassett aforesaid, five shillings yearly for every one
that shalbe
41 so sowed with oats to be levied by distress or otherwise. **Item:** I give, will
and devise
42 unto Thomas Bassett, my cousin, all my said messuage or tenement, barn
or buildings, with

43 the orchard, gardens and appurtenances and two pieces and parcels of
land thereunto belonging
44 containing three acres, more or less. And also one other parcel of land
called **Ranyard**
45 also **Penniard Hall** containing, by estimation, sixteen acres, more or less,
situated, lying and being
46 in Chiddingstone as aforesaid. To have, hold and enjoy unto the said
Thomas Bassett and his
47 heirs, from and after the decease of Martha, my said wife, or her day of
marriage. Provided
48 always that the said Thomas, his heirs or assigns, shall pay out of my said
messuage, tenements
49 and lands, unto **Francis Bassett, his brother**, thirty pounds of lawful money
of England
50 and unto **Henry Bassett, his brother**, twenty pounds of like lawful money,
both payments
51 to be made within two years next after the said Thomas shall enter and
enjoy my said
52 tenement and lands. And in default of payment thereof, it shall be lawful
to and for
53 the said Francis and Henry Bassett to enter in and upon the said tenement
and lands with

54 th'appurtenances and the same and only part thereof to have, hold and
enjoy until their said
55 legacies or portions be fully paid and satisfied withall ?? if any be. In
witness whereof to
56 this present testament and last will, containing two sheets of paper,
revoking all former and
57 former wills, I, the said John Bassett, have set my hand and seal the day
and year aforesaid.
58 John Bassett, his mark. Read, sealed and declared to be the last will of the
said John Bassett
59 in the presence of **William Pocock**, his mark, **Thomas Leddall, scr.**

The Bassetts of Seal

There were two mentions of Bassett in the Seal parish registers:

- **Alice Bassett** (#631¹¹²) was buried on 3rd March 1570
- on 26th September 1593, **Richard Bassett** (#1660) married **Tomasine Spilstead** of Chevening (#1661) by a "[Licence from the Faculties](#)". They probably lived in Chevening.

112 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

The Bassetts of Shipbourne

On 28th October 1611 **William Bassett** (\$1035¹¹³) married **Dorothy Lowdwell** (\$1036) “**by a testimonial from Mr. Turner ye minister of Otford**”. Their son, **Henry** (\$1064), was baptised on 20th March 1612 only five months after the marriage. They had a second son, **George** (\$1063) baptised on 21st September 1615.

On 14th February 1640 **Elizabeth Bassett** (\$1775) married **Henry Green** (\$1764).

On 24th February 1643 **John Bassett** (\$1857) married **Dorothy Norice** (\$1858).

113 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

The Batchelors of Shipbourne

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
\$1173 ¹¹⁴	<u>BATCHELOR, Stephen</u> ----- 		16 Jun 1616	Johane Wayman	1	4	
\$506	<u>Wayman, Johane</u> -----	2 Jul 1592			1	4	23 Jul 1643
• \$1174	<u>Batchelor, Bridget</u>	10 Mar 1617			0	0	
• \$1175	<u>BATCHELOR, William</u>	11 Mar 1621			0	0	
• \$1176	<u>BATCHELOR, Stephen</u>	9 May 1624			0	0	
• \$1177	<u>BATCHELOR, John</u>	15 Oct 1626			0	0	

See the [Waymans in More Families & Transcripts](#) for more details of Johane.

114 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

The Bates of Shipbourne

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
\$907 ¹¹⁵	<u>BATES, Jeames</u> -----				2	8	
	<i>Marriage 1</i>			Anne Bates(m)	1	4	
\$908	<u>Bates(m), Abbe</u> -----				1	4	5 Jun 1620
• \$909	<u>BATES, WILLIAM</u>	14 Mar 1608			0	0	
• \$989	<u>Bates, --</u>	17 Jun 1610	no name, no son/daughter		0	0	
• \$1158	<u>Bates, child</u>	"a child of Jeames Bates not baptised was buried"			0	0	9 Sep 1615
• \$1262	<u>Bates, Joane</u>	3 Nov 1618			0	0	4 Nov 1618
	<i>Marriage 2</i>				1	4	
• \$1413	<u>BATES, CLEMENT</u>	23 Apr 1626			0	0	11 Jun 1626
• \$1425	<u>BATES, JOHN</u>	27 May 1627			0	0	
• \$1426	<u>BATES, ROBERT</u>	15 Nov 1629			0	0	
• \$1427	<u>BATES, RICHARD</u>	31 Mar 1633			0	0	

115 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

William Bawcombe of Wrotham/Shipbourne

Although described as **William Bawcombe of Wrotham**, William (\$216¹¹⁶) and his wife, **Sara** (\$217), had three children baptised in Shipbourne:

- Sara \$218 8 Apr 1582
- Anne \$303 25 Oct 1584
- Thomasine \$304 19 Oct 1587.

The Wrotham registers have not been checked so they could give more information on the family.

In 1596, **William Bawcombe of Shipbourne, husbandman**, was indicted as an accessory to the stealing of a mare from Richard Mann. In a second crime of the same kind, **Sarah Bawcombe, wife of William Bawcombe** (given this time as “of Sevenoaks”) was indicted as an accessory. Given that the wife of \$216, above, was Sara, this looks like the same couple. See [John Walter in More Families & Transcripts](#) for details.

116 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

George Baxter, gent, of Ightham

The will of George Baxter, written 10th February 1645/6 and proved June 1646, has survived (**PCC: Twisse 86**). It has not been transcribed but the witnesses were William James and Thomas Sawyer. The burial of his wife, Anne, and the baptisms of their children were recorded in the parish register.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
i2212	<u>BAXTER, George</u> ----- gent	<1602		Anne Baxter(m) i2213	1 4	30 May 1646
i2213	<u>Baxter(m), Anne</u> ----- 	<1602		name given at her burial	1 4	12 Mar 1633
• i2214	<u>Baxter, Jane</u>	26 Dec 1622			0 0	
• i 2215	<u>BAXTER, William</u>	20 Jan 1625			0 0	
• i 2216	<u>BAXTER, Reginald</u>	5 Aug 1627		Martha Baxter(m) i2650	1 1	
• • i2651	Baxter, Anna	1 Oct 1650 born on 1 Oct, baptised 13 Oct when 12 days old				0 0
• i2406	<u>Baxter, Anne</u>	12 Oct 1631			0 0	

William Beach, yeoman of Penshurst

William Beach's will (CKS: PRS/w/1/162) was written by John Hooper, notary public and parish clerk of Tonbridge who wrote many wills for people in the Tonbridge area. The "original" which has survived and from which this transcript was made is not, however, the will written by John Hooper but a copy made, not by Hooper, probably when the will was proved.

William lived in a hall house with a kitchen where there was a double cheese-press, a chamber over the hall and an "inner chamber beyond the hall chamber". In the hall itself there was a "furnace" and some brand irons with other brand irons in the kitchen and the chamber over the hall. There was also a millhouse with an applemill, a barn, outhouses, closes, garden and orchard.

William had set up a lease to John Mylles, his wife and their son, for a small piece of land on which John Mills had "set up a house". The yearly rent for this land is given as "seven pence" which seems very small but it looks as if Mills would own the house and pay rent only for the land.

Other than twenty shillings to the poor of Penshurst and five shillings to each of his two daughters, Martha and Johane, William left all his goods and chattells to

his wife Elizabeth whom he made his executrix. Johane was to have the use of a number of items including a furnace, double cheese press and some brandirons and if Elizabeth married again, she was to have half of goods, etc. left by her father.

Elizabeth was to have William's house, land, etc. for as long as she remained a widow with the proviso that the furniture left to her was to be "[kept only in my said dwelling house](#)". If she married again she was to be paid an annuity of £5 by Johane who was to have the house, lands, etc. which she would otherwise inherit on her mother's death.

But William had two daughters, Johane and Martha. Johane was to be his main heir but the arrangements for Martha seems unusual. If she married Andrew Pullen, the servant of Thomas Jeffrie of Ashurst, she was to be paid an annuity of £1 from the death or remarriage of her mother. But if she did not marry Pullen, she was to be paid an annuity of £5. This might have been reasonable if her only options were to marry Pullen or not marry at all but, if she did not marry Pullen she would have the advantage of an annuity of £5 when looking for another husband.

1 In the name of god Amen. The twentieth day of March in the year of our
Lord God
2 one thousand, six hundred, twenty and five, I. William Beach of
Howlburrowe in
3 the parish of Penshurst in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being in reasonable
good health of
4 body and of good and sound memory (praised be God) do ordain and make
this
5 my testament and last will in manner and form following: **First** and
principally
6 yielding my soul to Almighty god, my maker, and my body to the earth
7 in decent manner to be buried with the assured hope of a joyful
resurrection to
8 eternal life through Jesus Christ, my only saviour. **Item:** I will and give to
9 the poor people of Penshurst twenty shillings to be distributed either in the
day
10 of my burial or shortly after at the discretion of mine executrix hereafter
named.
11 **Item:** I give to **Martha** and **Johane**, my two daughters, to either of them five

12 shillings a piece to be paid them, by my executrix, within one month next
after my
13 decease. The residue and all other my goods, cattells, chattells and credits
I will,
14 give and bequeath to **Elizabeth, my loving wife**, and to her executors and
assigns,
15 (while) she shall remain sole and keep herself widow during the whole time
16 of her natural life after my decease. But if my said wife shall marry any
time
17 after my decease, I will unto her only the one half of my goods, cattells and
18 chattells. And the other half thereof I will shalbe and remain to my
daughter
19 Johane. And further I will and be, if provided by this my will, that these
20 my goods hereafter particularly named shalbe and remain to the use of the
21 said Johane, my daughter, and her heirs and assigns, that is to say my
22 furnace and new watering? ??, the plate and brand irons in the hall¹¹⁷ and
23 the cupboard in the hall, the double cheese-press, the brand irons and plate
24 in the kitchen, the plate and brand irons in the chamber over the hall,
25 the bedstedle, featherbed, bolster and furniture of the bed in the further or
26 inner chamber beyond the hall chamber. And my wife to have the use
27 of these only during her widowhood after my decease. And further, I will

117 "brandyrans" and "hawle" throughout

28 that the applemill and standings (being for? it in the millhouse) shalbe to
the
29 use of Johane, my daughter, after the decease or next marriage of my wife
30 which shall first happen. And I do make and ordain the said Elizabeth,
31 my wife, my full, sole and only executrix of this my last testament and last
will,
32 to see the same proved and my debts and legacies aforesaid paid and my
33 body decently brought to the earth. And I devise my loving brother-in-
34 law, **Thomas Babb**¹¹⁸, and my good neighbour, **William Suck?**, to be
35 overseers that this my will may take effect according to my mind

page 2:

36 intending?. And for the pains herein to be taken, I give to either of them
five shillings a piece. **Item:**
37 whereas I have heretofore made a lease to **John Mylles** and **Margaret, his**
wife, to their eldest child
38 of a little parcel of land whereon the said John hath new set up an house
and do by this my will,
39 satisfy the said lease to be good to the said John and Margaret and their
eldest child according to

118 husband of sister or brother of wife? probably the latter

40 the tenure and purport of the said lease for the yearly rent of seven pence
thereby ??

41 This is also the last will of me, the said William Beach made and declared
the day

42 and year aforesaid touching the ordering and devising of all my lands and
tenements with their

43 appurtenances. **Item:** I will give and devise to Elizabeth, my wife, all that
messuage or

44 tenement wherein I now dwell with the barn, outhouses, closes, garden,
orchard and

45 lands with th'appurtenances thereto belonging and also my other ??,
tenements and

46 hereditaments in Penshurst aforesaid with necessary and mete furniture
for her ?? to be

47 kept only in my said dwelling house for ?? and during the whole time of
her

48 natural life if she shall so long keep herself widow after my decease. And if
49 she shall marry again after my death, the I will to my said wife only

50 one annuity or yearly rent of five pounds of lawful english money to be paid
51 her quarterly by equal portions, after her said marriage, during her natural

life with

52 power to distrain¹¹⁹ therefore upon all or any my houses, lands or
tenements aforesaid if
53 it shall not be paid her quarterly or within six days after any quarter day, it
54 being demanded at my said dwelling house. And after the decease or next
marriage
55 of my said wife, which shall first happen, I will and give all my said
messuage or tenement,
56 barn, outhouses, closes, garden, orchard, lands, tenements and
hereditaments with their appurtenances,
57 unto the said Johane, my daughter, to have and to hold the said messuage
or tenement,
58 lands and all other the premises to the said Johane, her heirs and assigns,
to the only use and
59 behoof of the said Johane, her heirs and assigns, forever. Provided always
and my will and
60 mind is that Martha, my daughter, if she shall marry with **Andrew Pullen**
61 now servant with **Thomas Jeffrie** of Ashurst, shalbe paid during her natural
62 life, after the decease or the next marriage of my said wife, which shall first
happen, out of
63 my messuage, lands and tenements aforesaid the yearly rent or sum of
twenty

119 "dystreyne"; also on lines 67 and 76

64 shillings of lawful english money to be paid her quarterly by equal portions
65 during her said natural life. And for default of payment thereof, or within
66 ten days after every quarter day, it being demanded at my said messuage, I
67 will it shalbe lawful for my said daughter Martha and her assigns to
distrain upon
68 my said messuage, lands, tenements and hereditaments aforesaid or any of
them and such
69 distresses to hold and keep until the said yearly sum of 20s shalbe paid
according to the
70 purport of this my will. And if the said Martha shall not marry the said
71 Andrew Pullen, then after the decease or next marriage of my said wife,
which shall
72 first happen, I will and give to the said Martha for term of her natural life,
one
73 annuity or yearly rent of five pounds of lawful english money to be issuing
out of
74 my said messuage, lands, tenements, houses and hereditaments, to be
paid her quarterly by
75 equal portions or within ten days after every quarter day during her said
natural life
76 and shall have power to distrain for nonpayment thereof as aforesaid and
such distresses
77 to hold and detain until the said annuity of five pounds shalbe paid to

78 her from time to time withall arrearages thereof according to the purport of
this my

page 3:

79 will. Any gift or devise of the said messuage, lands and premises to the
said Johane
80 and her heirs to the contrary thereof notwithstanding. And further, my will
is that
81 the said Johane, my daughter, her heirs and assigns, in consideration of
my gift and
82 devise of my messuage and lands aforesaid to them willed, shall pay to
Hester Babb, daughter
83 of my brother-in-law Thomas Babb, the sum of five pounds of lawful
english
84 money within one year next after the decease of my said wife. And to
every other child
85 of my said brother-in-law, twelve pence within the said year. And for
default of payment
86 of their said legacies, I will it shalbe lawful for my said brother-in-law's
children

87 that shalbe unpaid to enter upon my lands, or any part thereof, and the
same to hold¹²⁰
88 until they, and every of them, so unpaid shalbe fully paid the same.
Provided always, if the
89 said Elizabeth, my wife, shall not will and truly pay or cause to be paid to
Henry
90 **Gouldsmith**, his executors or assigns ??, payment of six pounds and ten
shillings provided
91 in his indenture of lease dated the eight day of April in the one and
twentieth
92 year of the regn of our sovereign lord king James of England and to him,
the said
93 Henry, by me the said William Beach, made, sealed and delivered
according to a proviso
94 ?? in the said indenture of lease and to perform the said proviso or
condition
95 then, after the ?? of the said condition happening in the default of my
wife
96 for and by reason of the neglect of any payment that shall grow payable
after my
97 death in her lifetime , I will that she shall loose the benefit of this my will.

120 "hould"

98 And it shalbe lawful for the said Johane, my daughter, her heirs and
assigns, to
99 enter and put her out of all my said houses, lands, tenements and
hereditaments, any
100 bequest thereof to my said ?? to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.
And
101 I do hereby revoke all ?? wills by me made and do declare this to be my
102 only testament and last will. In witness whereof I have to this my
103 testament and last will set my hand and seal yeven the day and
104 year first before written. The mark of William Beach. Read, sealed
105 subscribed, published and declared in the presence of **John Myles** and
John
106 **Hooper, notary publicu.**

The Beadles of Shipbourne

In December 1604, there are three successive entries in the parish register all referring to **Martin Beadle** (\$818¹²¹):

- 2 Dec 1604 **Thomas** (\$820) son of Martin Beadle - entry ends here
- 3 Dec 1604 **Clemence** (\$819) “wife of the said Martin Beadle, buried”
- 30 Dec 1604 “the same Martin Beadle and **Joane Peake** (\$821) were married by Lycence”

Clemence presumably died after giving birth to Thomas who was either baptised or buried (or both) on 2nd December.

On 20th April 1601, **Margaret Beadle** (\$672) married **Abell Man** (\$671). Margaret Man was buried on 1st February 1619. Was this Abell's wife?

121 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

Ralfe Beamonde and Lore Page, widow, of Shipbourne

The nuncupative will of Ralfe Beamonde, shingler, of Shipbourne, was spoken on 12th January 1578/9. He describes Lore Page, widow, as his mother and her four children as his brothers and sisters and it is likely that Ralph and Johane were her children from her first marriage to the shingler's father. Richard Page, Ralfe's stepfather, was also a shingler.

		\$8		\$7 ¹²²								
<i>bur:</i>	?? Beamonde -	Lore	-	Richard Page								
		21 Jul 1601		27 Feb 1576								

			\$210		\$35		\$40		\$57		\$58	
<i>bap:</i>	Ralfe	Johane	Sylvester	Henry	Henry	Elizabeth	Margerie					
<i>will:</i>	12 Jan 1579		27 Oct 1560	7 Feb 1563	4 Apr 1564	19 Oct 1566	3 Feb 1569					
<i>bur:</i>				9 Feb 1563								

The Pages were a large Shipbourne family for whom a number of wills have survived - see [Page in Families & Transcripts](#). There are no entries for Beamonde in the parish register.

122 "\$" indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

Ralfe appointed Gyles Mills as his executor asking him to organise the payment of his debts but with the remainder, after his legacies were paid, going to his mother Lore. He left Gyles Mills a “[slitting saw and his best hat and 2s 6d lawful money to see his will fulfilled](#)”.

Giles Mills, blacksmith, wrote his will on 21st January 1579 only nine days after Ralfe spoke his wishes but this is the man to whom Ralfe was referring since Giles passes on his responsibility to his brother Olyver:

“[And whereas one Ralph Beomond, deceased, in his life time gave me authority to take up all his debts which were owing unto him as by an account in writing by him made it doth appear And after the same authority willed that I, the said Giles, should give, pay and make an Account over to Lore Page, widow, mother of the said Ralph, . . . my mind and will is, therefore, that the said Olyver, my brother, have the like authority as I, by virtue of the said writing, . . . she the said Lore allowing all such expenses unto the said Olyver as he shall . . . layout and bestow in the getting and having of the sum](#)”.

The Sylvester Page, servant, who was one of the witnesses to the will of Giles Mills could have been Ralfe’s stepbrother who would have been eighteen in 1579.

Ralfe’s will was written by Nicholas Hooper as was that of Giles Mills. Two unusual bequests were:

- “to four good ringers of Shipbourne 4d a piece at Christmas, Easter and Whitsuntide”.
- “to four poor men, to every of them, 4d to carry his body to the church”.

Men to carry the body to the church would ne necessary in most cases. Was this usually done by relatives and friends who did not expect to be paid or did the executor pay the men required taking it as one of the expenses to be covered by the overall phrase “see my body decently buried” or the equivalent?

Nicolas Hooper's
mark

- 1 In¹²³ the name of god Amen. The twelfth day of January in the year of our
lord god a thousand
2 five hundred, three score and eighteen and in the one and twentieth reign
of our sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the
3 grace of God, Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith,
etc. Ralfe Beamonde, late of
4 Shipbourne in the county of Kent, **shingler**, deceased, did speak and utter
these words following¹²⁴ concerning his last will
5 in the presence of **Christopher Gadfor, William Moyse and Richard Russell**
vidlet: **First** he willed to his **sister Johane**

123 decorated "I"; mark small and attached to "h" of "the"

124 "folowing"

6 **Beamonde** the sum of ten pounds lawful money to be paid to her within
one month after his decease. **Item:**
7 he will to his **brother Silvester Page** the sum of 20s lawful money and all
his apparel saving his best hat.
8 **Item:** he willed to his **brother Henry Page** the sum of forty shillings lawful¹²⁵
to be paid unto him at such time
9 as the year of his apprenticeship¹²⁶ shalbe expired. **Item:** he willed to his
sisters Elizabeth Page and **Margery**
10 **Page**, to either of them forty shillings lawful money to be paid to them, and
either of the, at their age and age of 21 years
11 or immediately after the decease of **Lore Page, his mother**. **Also** he willed
that it either or any of his
12 brethren and sisters should happen to decease before the time of their
several payment and payments as afore is said, that then
13 the survivor and survivors of him, her or them so deceased shalbe heir or
heirs to him, her or them so deceased. **Item:** he
14 willed to **Elizabeth Gadfer** ten shillings to be paid to her within one whole
year after his decease. Also he willed to

125 "money" omitted

126 "apprentished"

15 four good ringers of Shipbourne 4d a piece at Christmas, Easter and
Whitsuntide. **Item:** he willed to four
16 poor men, to every of them, 4d to carry his body to the church. Also he
willed to **Gyles Mylls** a slitting saw, his
17 best hat and 2s 6d lawful money to see his will fulfilled. **Finally;** he willed
that the said Gyles Mylls should
18 be his executor to receive and take up all his debts into his own hand and,
after such receipts, to pay and deliver the
19 same unto the said Lore Page, his mother, and she to have the governance
and keeping of the same and to pay the same
20 to such person and persons as are before named and at the days before
appointed and the residue and overplus she, the said
21 Lore, to have to her own use. And that she, the said Lore, should pay to the
said Gyles Mylls such and
22 so much money as he should fortune to lay out for his charge in or about
the executing of the promises? from time
23 to time.

27th April 1579

a five line note which is not decipherable

The Family of Thomas Bee of Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i1726 ¹²⁷	<u>BEE, Thomas</u> -----	<1575			1	6	23 May 1612
• i1728	<u>BEE, William</u>	31 Oct 1596			0	0	
• i1729	<u>BEE, John</u>	30 Mar 1599	twin		0	0	
• i1730	<u>BEE, Robert</u>	30 Mar 1599	twin		0	0	
• i1731	<u>BEE, Thomas</u>	15 Nov 1601			0	0	
• i1732	<u>BEE, William</u>	12 Aug 1604			0	0	
• i1733	<u>BEE, Richard</u>	14 Sep 1606			0	0	

all Thomas's seven recorded children were boys

Thomas Bee was mentioned in the Court Records 1586-1618

127 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

Ann Beecher, spinster of Penshurst

This will, written 16th June 1628 (CKS: Pwr/w/1/135) has been found since the transcripts of the other Beecher wills were made - see [Families & Transcripts](#). This has now been transcribed - see below. It looks to have been written by a professional scriptor but there is no indication of who he was. One of the witnesses was James Beecher and a James Beecher witnessed the will of Edward Beecher in 1635. The two originals need to be compared to see if James was the writer of both.

From the children of her brother William which Ann mentions, she can be identified as the sister of the William Beecher of Penshurst whose will of 1638 has survived. In 1635 Edward Beecher of Penshurst made Robert Beecher of Penshurst one of his supervisors but without specifying the relationship between them. Robert of Penshurst was another of Ann's brothers.

The will of John Hollomby of Chiddingstone written in February 1637 has survived. John had two brothers, Richard and Henry, who could have been two of the witnesses to this will with Richard being her sister Sylvester's husband - see [Families & Transcripts](#)

p953	p957	p954	p955	p118	p956	p958	
Alice - ?? Holmden	Robert	Ann	William	-	Sylvester	Richard Hollomby	
	of Brasted	of Penshurst					
will:			16 Jun 1628	23 Aug 1638			
	p107	p108	p109	p110	p959	p960	
	Elizabeth	Richard	Clemence	Susanna	Margery	John	
bap:		3 Sep 1609					

Ann left 10s to her goddaughter, ?? Moyse, possibly Mary. Mary, the daughter of Andrew Moyse of Penshurst was baptised on 11th April 1608 and could have been Ann's goddaughter. The will (1629) of Mary Moyse has survived (see [More Families & Transcripts](#)) one of the witnesses to it being William Beecher, probably Ann's brother.



Will of Ann Beecher, spinster, of Penshurst

written on 16th June 1628

transcript from original

- 1 In the name of god Amen. the sixteenth day of June in the fourth year of the reign of our
- 2 sovereign lord Charles, by the grace of god of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, king, defender of the faith,

3 ?? I, Ann Beecher of the parish of Penshurst in the county of Kent,
spinster, being sick and weak in body but
4 of sound and perfect memory, thanks be given to god, therefore do make
and declare this my last will and testament in
5 manner and form following: **First** and principally I commend my soul into
the hands of Almighty god,
6 my maker, and Jesus Christ, his son my only saviour and redeemer and my
body to the earth from
7 whence it came with a full assurance of joyful resurrection at the last day.
And as concerning
8 disposing of such worldly goods as god hath lent in this world, first I give
and bequeath unto the poor of
9 the parish of Penshurst, wherein I appoint my body to be buried, the sum of
20s and to be distributed upon
10 the day of my burial. **Item:** I give unto him that shall preach at my burial
10s. **Item:** to the ringers 10s.
11 **Item:** I give to my **loving brother Robert Beecher of Penshurst** aforesaid, in
regard I have been
12 chargeable unto him, the sum of eight pounds of good and lawful money to
be paid unto him within one
13 whole year after my decease. **Item:** I give to my **loving brother William
Beecher** forty shillings

14 to be paid within one whole year as aforesaid. **Item:** I give to the **three**
15 **children of my brother William Beecher** aforesaid
16 ?? **Richard, Clemence and Susanna** Beecher, 20s a piece to be paid as
17 aforesaid. And to
18 **Elizabeth Beecher, one other of his daughters**, my best petticoat.
19 **Item:** I give to **Alice Holmden of Brasted, my sister**, 20s
20 to be paid within one year as aforesaid. **Item:** I give unto **Mary? Moyse,**
21 **my goddaughter**, 10s? to be
22 paid as aforesaid. **Item:** I give to my **cousin Margery Hollomby**, being my
23 goddaughter likewise and
24 the only daughter of my **sister Hollomby** the sum of ten pounds to be paid
25 unto her within one whole
26 year as aforesaid. **Item:** I give to my **cousin**¹²⁸ **John Hollomby, brother of**
27 **the said Margery**, the sum of
28 five pounds to be paid unto him as aforesaid. The residue of all my goods,
29 money, household stuff and
30 moveables whatsoever I do with good intent and purpose give and
31 bequeath them unto my loving kinswoman¹²⁹

128 "cousin" was sometimes used for "nephew" or "niece" so Margery and John could be her sister's children

129 "sister" crossed out and replaced with "kinswoman" was Sylvester not the sister mentioned in line 20 or was "sister" also incorrect on that line? If the person who was to receive £10 was her executor, it is likely she was her sister since Richard Hollomby was described as her brother.

24 **Sylvester Hollomby** whom I do ordain and make my whole and sole
executrix of this my will.
25 whom I do appoint to see my debts and legacies paid and this my will
performed and my body decently buried.
26 **Item:** And I do appoint my loving brothers William Beecher and **Richard**
Hollomby to be supervisors of
27 this my will, desiring them to be aiding and assisting my said executrix
about the proving
28 and performing of this my will and to see my debts and legacies to be paid
in regard of my executrix but
29 young and to see this my will performed according to the true intent and
meaning thereof. In witness
30 whereof to this my will containing of one side of paper I give so to my hand
and seal being
31 the day and year first above written.

Signed, sealed and acknowledged to be her the mark of Ann Beecher
will in the presence of Richard Hollamby
James Beecher
Henry Hollamby

The Bennetts of Ightham

From about 1570 to the 1630s, there were three generations of William Bennetts in Ightham and a John Bennett who had children between 1611 and 1621. ("i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database)

William Bennett

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i662	<u>BENNETT, William</u> -----				1	9	
• i685	<u>BENNETT, John</u>		"John, son of William Bennett"		0	0	10 Nov 1570
• i664	<u>Bennett, Elizabeth</u>	7 Oct 1571			0	0	
• i665	<u>BENNETT, William</u>	16 May 1573	<1603	Alice Bennett(m)	1	5	
			see next page for their children				
• i666	<u>BENNETT, Reginald</u>	17 Dec 1575			0	0	
			mentioned in the Court Records for 1586-1618				
• i667	<u>Bennett, Jane</u>	1 Apr 1578			0	0	
• i668	<u>BENNETT, John</u>	14 Feb 1580			0	0	
• i669	<u>BENNETT, Nicholas</u>	22 Apr 1582			0	0	
• i670	<u>Bennett, Marie</u>	1 Nov 1584	twin		0	0	10 Mar 1585
• i671	<u>Bennett, Awdrie</u>	1 Nov 1584	twin		0	0	13 Feb 1585

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i665	<u>BENNETT, William</u> ----- 	16 May 1573	<1603	Alice Bennett(m)	1	5	
i672	<u>Bennett(m), Alice</u> -----	<1582		"wife of William Bennett" at her burial	1	5	26 Aug 1632
• i673	<u>BENNETT, William</u>	30 Jan 1603			0	0	25 Oct 1635
• i674	<u>BENNETT, John</u>	24 Mar/14 Apr 1605			0	0	
	The register shows two Johns, sons of William Bennett, baptised in the spring of 1605, one on 24 March and the other on 14 April; perhaps there was an error in the recording? If not, who was the father of the other John?						
• i675	<u>BENNETT, Thomas</u>	18 Jan 1607			0	0	
• i676	<u>BENNETT, Reginald</u>	19 Feb 1609			0	0	
• i686	<u>Bennett, Elizabeth</u>				0	0	3 Mar 1625
	"daughter of William Bennett"						

A William Bennett, junior was buried in 1635; if i662 had still been alive, he would have been approaching 90 so that it is more likely that, by that time, i665 (by then in his sixties) had become William Bennett, senior with **his** son, i673 being the William who died in 1635.

John Bennett's Possible Family

In the Bing v Hooper case described in *Excerpts from the Ightham Court Rolls*, a **John Bennet** is recorded as being the occupant of **Bourne Croft** sometime before 1564.

The father of the following children could have been i668, one of William Bennett's sons or he could have been the son of John of Bourne Croft.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i668	<u>BENNETT, John</u> -----	14 Feb 1580			1	2	13 Jun 1633
• i677	<u>Bennett, Marie</u>	7 Jan 1611			0	0	
• i678	<u>Bennett, Katherine</u>	19 Jul 1614			0	0	27 Jul 1614
• i683	<u>Bennett, Grace</u>	29 Nov 1618			0	0	
• i684	<u>Bennett, Margery</u>	26 Aug 1621			0	0	

No father is given in the register for the baptisms of "Marie Bennett" or "Katherine Bennett"; nor is a father given for Katherine's burial. Marie's is the only baptism on the particular page which does not have a father given but five of the eleven children baptised in 1614 are so recorded. They could have been elder sisters of

Grace and Margery. This could also have been the John who was buried on 13th June 1633 when he would have been 53. He could also have been the **John Bennet, ale taster and husbandman**, mentioned in the Court Records 1586-1618.

Other Bennetts

There is an isolated mention of James Bennet who had a daughter, Jane, baptised on 21st January 1571.



There was also an "**Alice Bennett, widow**" buried in 1647 but it is not possible, with the present information, to say who was Alice's husband.

The Court Records

Reginald Bennett who was mentioned between 1586-1618 could have been one of William's sons. William himself appeared a number of times:

 William Bennett and John Burroughs were each fined 12d in 1588 for fighting together. These were probably i662 above and i1354. Over two years earlier, in

April 1586, William Bennet was one of those fined 20d for "[breaking the peace within the view of frankpledge](#)" (CRI 1938, p.4,p.35).

William Bennett, senior, assaulted **Nicholas Barret** (i95) in 1602. was this i662 with i665, his son, at that time being William Bennett, junior?

On 11th April 1597, **John Bennett, senior**, husbandman was presented to the Court with a number of others for cutting down trees in the lord's wood - see *Excerpts from the Ightham Court Rolls* for details. A John Bennett was buried on 13th August of the same year and these could have been the same man. But who, at this time, was John Bennett, junior?

William Best of Horton Kirby

There are a number of interesting items regarding this will. The date of writing is given in the will as 22nd January 1583 which, given that at that time the year started on 27th March, would have been 22nd January 1584 in modern terms. But the date of probate is given as 26th April Anno dm 1583.

At the time of writing his will, William was keeping Margaret and Thomas Hunte, his brother's children. But, why was their name Hunte if they were his brother's children? William owned the lease of some land and on his wife's death, if this was before the lease expired, it was to go to his godchild William Browne who was to provide twenty shillings a year for the Hunte children until they reached the age of sixteen.

Will of William Best of Horton Kirby

written 22nd January 1583/4

transcript from probate copy: CKS: Drb/Pwr 16.220

- 1 In the name of god Amen. I, William Best
- 2 of the parish of Horton Kirby in the county of Kent, **yeoman,**

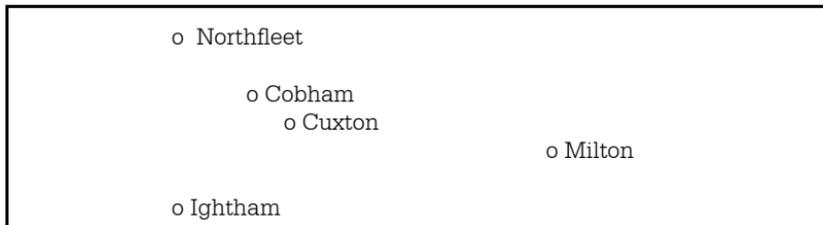
3 being sick of body but yet of good remembrance, thanks be unto
4 god, do ordain and make this my last will and testament in
5 manner and form following: the 22 day of January in the year of Christ
6 1583. **First** I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty
7 god in the name of his son Jesus Christ, my saviour and redeemer,
8 and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Horton Kirby.
9 **Imprimis:** first I give to the poor man's box of Horton Kirby 12d.
10 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **William Browne, the son of**
11 **Allen Browne, my godchild,** the lease of my lands
12 after my decease and after the decease of **Johane, my wife** if
13 the lease be not then out of the years so that the said
14 William Browne shall give to the bringing up of **Margaret**
15 **Hunte and Thomas Hunte, my brother's children,** 20s between
16 them yearly till the youngest be of sixteen years of age
17 which children I do now keep. All manner of goods whatsoever,
18 moveables and unmoveables, known or hereafter to be known ??
19 I give and bequeath unto Johane, my wife, whom I make my sole
20 executrix of this my last will and testament. In witness hereof
21 are **John Orchin?**, vicar of Horton Kirby and **Margaret, his wife.**

William & Thomas Beverley, Sheep Stealers

At the Assizes held on 25th February 1585, **William Beverley**, husbandman, of Cuxton was indicted for grand larceny with his brother, **Thomas, husbandman of Ightham** being indicted as an accessory. Both William and Thomas were found guilty of stealing the following sheep; they were sentenced to hang ¹³⁰.

date	broke into close of:	at:	and stole:	1 sheep	belonging to:
26 Dec 1583	Edward Harvey	Milton	20 sheep (£4)	£0.20	
14 Apr 1584	Nicholas Wade	Cobham	14 sheep (£5)	£0.36	
6 May 1584	Thomas Mahuge	Milton	12 sheep (£3)	£0.25	John Wakelyn of Chalk, yeoman
6 Nov 1584	William Raynes	Northfleet	28 sheep (£10)	£0.36	John Swann
8 Nov 1584	John Parson	Denton	17 sheep (£5)	£0.29	
8 Nov 1584	Thomas Broke	Milton	15 sheep (£3)	£0.20	
5 Feb 1585	Thomas Burde	Northfleet	15 sheep (45s) a ram (5s)	£0.15 £0.25	

The value of one sheep ranged from £0.15 to £0.36, the average being £0.27. The places where William and Thomas stole these sheep cover quite an area with Northfleet about twelve miles north of Ightham and Milton about eleven miles east of Cuxton. The only Denton found in Kent is between Canterbury and Dover. Perhaps there was a small place of this name in the Cuxton area.



On 7th February 1585, the son of Thomas Beverley was baptised. Was he the son of the sheep stealer?

On 2nd October 1587, **Widow Beverly** was fined 6d because she had "[corrupted and contaminated with her geese the common water necessary for the daily use of the inhabitants, to their damage.](#)" (CRI 1938, p.11) She could have been the widow of the sheep stealer.

Three years earlier than the indictment, on 11th January 1582, **Clemence Beverly** was buried. Nothing other than her name was given in the register.

Katherine Biggenden, widow, of West Peckham

Katherine's will (CKS: Drb/Pw 21) was written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618. It was proved on 4th February 1608/9.

Katherine must have been married twice since the surname of her sons was "Sutor". Her three daughters were all married and only their married names were given so that it is not possible to tell whether they were by her first or second husband. It is the only will for a Biggenden which has survived but there are wills for Sutors from the area.

Will of Katherine Biggenden, widow, of West Peckham

written, on 25th October 1608

transcript from original

1 **In the name of** god Amen, the five and twentieth day of
2 October in the year of our lord God, On thousand, six hunddreth and
3 eight, I, Katherine Biggenden of West Peckham in the county
4 of Kent and Diocese of Rochester, widow, sick, feeble and weak in body,

5 but strong in faith and of perfect remembrance, thanks be¹³¹ to the lord, do
6 make my last will in manner following¹³², willing my soul to my lord
7 and good God, hoping to be saved only by the mercies and merits
8 of my lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. And my body to the Earth
9 to be buried where it shall please god, not doubting but that my son and
10 executor hereafter named will see me honestly and commendably brought
11 to the grave. And to bestow something of my poor hability to the poor
which

12 I refer to his discretion. **Item:** whereas I have remaining in the hands
13 of **Agnes Sutor, widow, late wife of my son Richard Sutor, deceased,**
14 a debt of twelve pounds, my will is that she shall pay and give
15 Six pounds thereof to mine executor hereafter named. And the other Six
16 pounds residue, I will that she shall give and pay to **her three**
17 **daughters, viz. Elizabeth, Silvester and Marie,** to each of them forty
shillings
18 a piece of lawful money to be paid to them, or their said mother, at their
19 several ages of twenty years or several days of their marriage which shall
20 first happen. And mine executor not to be charged with any part of the
21 same. **Item:** I give unto the said Agnes, their mother, the bedstead

131 "bee", "mee", "shee", etc. throughout including "shalbee"; this is usual for Nicholas Hooper

132 "folowing" which was usual for Nicholas Hooper

22 of mine which is remaining in her house and such other stuff as is there
standing
23 of mine except such as she bought of me or the price she oweth for them.
24 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Ellinor Pattenden, Elizabeth Glover** and
25 **Johane Miller, my three daughters**, to each of them forty shillings a piece
26 to be paid to them , and every of them, within one whole year next after my
decease.
27 And I give and bequeath to my daughter, Ellinor, my best gown and best
petticoat.
28 And to my said daughter Johane Miller my next gown and petticoat. And
29 I give to **Dorothy, the daughter of my son Thomas**, my russet petticoat
30 and waistcoat. **Item:** all the residue of all my goods, debts, credits and
31 chattels and all other my moveable goods whatsoever, I wholly, fully and
with good
32 effect and intent, give and bequeath to my loving son Thomas
33 Sutor in regard of the great charge that he is daily at. And I
34 ?? ?? shalbe ?? ?? it may please
35 ?? ?? {bottom of the page decayed}

page 2:

36 legacies as are by him appointed to be paid by virtue of this my
37 will. Which Thomas Sutor, my son, I make and

38 ordain to be my whole and sole executor of this my will.
39 And I do hereby revoke and renounce all the former wills by
40 me heretofore made and do pronounce and declare this only
41 to be my true and last will. **In witness** whereof I, the said
42 Katherine Biggenden, to this my last will have set my hand and
43 seal, yeven the day and year first above written.

Read, Sealed, Signed
and declared in the presence of
me, **Nicolas Hooper**, writer hereof
and of

Abacuck Tompson
George Johnson
Signm Habacuck
Tompson

Signm
¹³³
Biggenden

Katherine

133 mark, vertical cross; the mark of Habacuck Thompson is a "T" on its side. Although there is no mark for George Johnson, his name was written by Nicholas Hooper.

The Birds of Shipbourne, Ightham & Kemsing

Alternative spellings including Byrd and Birde. (\$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database, "i" for Ightham and "k" for Kemsing)

The earliest recorded family is that of Robert Bird of Shipbourne:

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
\$762	<u>BIRD, Robert</u> -----				2 5	
	<i>Marriage 1</i>			Elizabeth Bird(m)	1 4	
\$763	<u>Bird(m), Elizabeth</u> -----				1 4	7 Apr 1609
• \$764	<u>BIRD, George</u>	11 Apr 1603		Jane Bird(m) \$2200	0 0	30 Aug 1648(I)
• • \$2201	<u>BIRD, Benjamin</u>		6 Mar 1636(I) son of George Bird and Jane		0 0	
• \$765	<u>Bird, Katherine</u>	23 Jun 1605			0 0	
• \$930	<u>Bird, infant</u>				0 0	3 Apr 1609
• \$931	<u>BIRD, Thomas</u>	3 Apr 1609			0 0	
	<i>Marriage 2</i>		14 Aug 1609	Margaret Holbourne	0 0	\$943

Robert's first wife died at the birth of her twins, one of which "an infant not baptised" was buried four days before her burial with Thomas, the other twin being baptised on the same day his twin was buried. Robert married again four months later.

Robert's son George could have been the father of Benjamin, baptised in Ightham, and the George who was buried in Ightham in 1648.

The Birds of Ightham

Daniell and John Bird were baptised in Ightham in 1611 and 1614 but the father was not recorded for either of them. Why should such an unusual omission occur for the same name? They are shown as brothers in the following tree on the next page.

Records were not kept (or have not survived) for most of the 1640s; from the summer of 1642 to the beginning of 1646, nine baptisms were recorded but with the date of birth being noted without any date for the baptism; of these nine, three were Daniell Bird's children - thus the dates given for #2481, #2482 and #2483 are birth dates.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i2083	<u>BIRD, --</u> -----					1	2
•	i2087 <u>BIRD, Daniell</u>	27 Oct 1611		Joanna Bird(m) i2480		1	4
•	• i2481 <u>Bird, Maria</u>	17 Aug 1642				0	0
•	• i2482 <u>Bird, Elizabeth</u>	17 Mar 1644				0	0
•	• i2483 <u>BIRD, John</u>	19 Apr 1645				0	0
•	• i2484 <u>Bird, Joane</u>	12 Feb 1649				0	0
				"daughter of Daniell Bird and Joanna"			
•	i2088 <u>BIRD, John</u>	27 Mar 1614				0	0

On 20th July 1624 William Bird married **Edie Watkins**.

The Birds of Kemsing

The baptisms of four children of Henry Bird of Kemsing were recorded between 1614 and 1625 and of three children of Nicholas in the 1640s. Nicholas could have been another of Henry's sons.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
k254	<u>BIRD, Henry</u> -----				1	5	
• k256	<u>BIRD, Henry</u>	4 Sep 1614					0 0
• k257	<u>BIRD, Thomas</u>	7 Dec 1616					0 0
• k258	<u>BIRD, John</u>	5 Mar 1620					0 0
• k260	<u>BIRD, Nicholas</u>	<1624		Jean/Jane Bird(m) k261	1	3	
• • k262	<u>Bird, Elizabeth</u>	23 Dec 1645					0 0
• • k263	<u>BIRD, Thomas</u>	8 Jan 1648					0 0
• • k264	<u>BIRD, Nicholas</u>	5 May 1650					0 0
• k259	<u>BIRD, Richard</u>	13 May 1625					0 0

The Bishops of Tonbridge and Hadlow

A large number of Bishop wills from the Tonbridge, Brenchley, Hadlow area have survived but only three have been transcribed:

Tonbridge:

Robert Bishop	1534d	CKS: Drb/Pwr 9.144	
Robert Bishop	1553p	CKS: Drb/Pwr 11.22	
Thomas Bishop	10 Jun 1584	CKS: Drb/Pw 14; Drb/Pwr 17.18	page 2.b.149
John Bishop	10 Apr 1601	PCC: Woodhall 26; Prob 10/201	page 2.b.153
George Bishop	11 Aug 1612	CKS: Drb/Pw 24	yeoman, see next page

Hadlow:

William Bishop	1456d	CKS: Drb/Pwr 2.103	
Robert Bishop, senior	1461p	CKS: Drb/Pwr 2.199	
John Bishop, senior	1483d	CKS: Drb/Pwr 5.23	
John Bishop (Buschop)	1512d	CKS: Drb/Pwr 6.324	
John Bishop (Buschop)	1515	CKS: Drb/Pwr 7.35	yeoman, see next page
Joane Bishop	1530d,1541p	CKS: Drb/Pwr 9.380	widow of John
Richard Bishop	1559p	CKS: Drb/Pw 6; Drb/Pwr 12.25	
Robert Bishop	1634	CKS: Drb/Pw 29; Drb/Pwr 22.34	page 2.b.157

Brenchley:

Thomas Bishop	1593	PCC: Nevell 55	
William Bishop	1644/5	PCC: Rivers 43	will proved by son William

Leigh:				
William Bishop	1594	PCC:	Dixy 85	
Wrotham:				
John Bishop	1638p	CKS:	Prs/w/1/225	yeoman

In his will of 1515, John Bishop (Buschop), yeoman, left to the church of Hadlow a surplice “[to be occupied there to the intent that God’s service there may be better maintained](#)”.¹³⁴

Thomas Bishop's will of 1584 was written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne. John Hooper, Nicholas's son and a notary public, wrote three of the above wills:

- John Bishop's of 1601
- George Bishop's written 11th August 1612 but not proved until 1618; it has not been transcribed
- Robert Bishop's of 1634

The Hoopers wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1650 and beyond.

134 Testamenta Cantiana, London 1906, A Series of Extracts from 15th and 16th Century Wills, p. 33

Thomas Bishop, yeoman of Tonbridge

Thomas's bequest of a platter, a pewter dish and a brass pot to his wife whose name he does not give are typical of those to his daughters except for Elizabeth who receives some more substantial items and Marie, who was married, who was left two bullocks. His son George was appointed executor but Richard, the other son was given just three lambs.

t193 Thomas - wife t194					
will: 10 Jun 1584					

t195	t196	t197	t198	t199	t200
Marie - ?? Chatfield	Geoge -	Elizabeth	Richard	Martha	Dorothy
	Thomas				

1 In the name of god Amen¹³⁵. The tenth day of June . .
2 one thousand five hundredth four score and four. And in the six and 20th
year of the reign
3 of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God Queen of . .
4 . . Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. I, Thomas Bishopp of Tonbridge in
5 the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being¹³⁶ sick and weak of body but yet of
perfect mind and remembrance,
6 thanks be given to almighty God , do ordain and make this my present
testament and last will
7 in manner and form following¹³⁷: And **First** and principally, I give,
commend and bequeath
8 my soul to Almighty god, my maker, saviour and redeemer Jesus Christ by
whose merits

135 the left hand side of the will is damaged but, from what can be seen of the "I", it was decorated in the "Hooper style"

136 "beeing", "bee", throughout

137 "folowing" - Hooper's usual spelling

9 ?? death and bloodshedding¹³⁸ I trust to be saved. And my body to the
Earth to be buried in
10 the churchyard of Tonbridge aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath to the
box or chest of the
11 poor in the parish of Tonbridge aforesaid 3s 4d. **Item:** I give and bequeath
to **Elizabeth**
12 **Bishop, my daughter**, one featherbed, a joined bedstead, a bolster, a
coverlet, a blanket and a pair
13 of sheets, a brass pot, the best save one, one pewter dish and a platter.
Item: I will to **Martha, my**
14 **daughter**, a brass pot, a platter and a pewter dish. **Item:** I will to **Dorothy,**
my daughter, a
15 brass pot, a platter and a pewter dish. **Item:** I give to **my wife** a brass pot
(the 3rd¹³⁹) a platter
16 ?? a pewter dish. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my daughter Marie**
Chatfield, 2 bullocks
17 ?? and 2 ?? **Item:** I give to **Thomas, the son of George Bishopp**,
18 and **Thomas, the son of Thomas Myles**, to either of them a lamb and to **my**
son Richard Bishopp

138 "bludshedding"

139 the ijth

19 three lambs.

20 The residue of all my goods and cattall, as well moveable as unmoveable, I
wholly, fully and with

21 ?? intent and purpose, give and bequeath to **George Bishopp, my son,**
which George I

22 ordain and make my whole and sole executor of this my will to see my
debts paid, my legacies paid

23 and discharged and my body honestly brought to the earth. And I desire
my trusty friend

24 **Richard Aleyn** to be overseer of this my will to whom I give for his pains,
over and above

25 ?? about this my will to be laid out, 5s. In witness whereof I, the said
Thomas Bishopp

26 ?? present testament and last will, have set my hand and seal yeven the
day and year

27 first above written in the presence of **William Davies, sen., Cuthbert Aleyn,**
John Parker,

28 **Nicholas Hooper** and others.

John Bishop of Tonbridge

In 1594 John Bishop had acquired a three hundred year lease for an orchard and tenement in Salehurst n Sussex¹⁴⁰, the details being given in a “pair of indentures”; this lease was left to his daughter Anne and her husband Phillip Turner who was appointed executor of his father-in-law’s will.. John also owned a messuage with a barn and two gardens in Robertsbridge in the parish of Salehurst, which he also left to Phillip and Anne.

The 1601 will of John Bishop of Trewe Lodge was proved only four days after it was written. When he wrote his will John was living at Trewe Lodge in the parish of Tonbridge but he does not mention Trewe Lodge in his will. This must, however, have gone to the Turners since the will of Phillip Turner of Trewe Lodge, also written by John Hooper only four months later, has survived - see [Phillip Turner in XT](#)

140 Salehurst, about four miles south of Hawkhurst

1 In the name of god Amen. The tenth day of April in the year of our Lord
God
2 one thousand, six hundred and one. And in the three and fortieth of the
reign of our Sovereign lady
3 Elizabeth, by the grace of god Queen of England, France and Ireland,
defender of the faith,
4 etc. I, John Bishopp¹⁴¹ of **Trewe Lodge** within the parish of Tonbridge
within the county
5 of Kent and the Diocese of Rochester, being sick in body but yet of good
and perfect remembrance,
6 thanks therefore be given to Almighty god, do ordain and make this my
present will and testament
7 touching only the premises hereunder mentioned in manner and form
following, that is to say, **First:**
8 I will, give and bequeath to **Phillip Turner, my son-in-law**, and to **Anne
Turner, his wife**,

141 "Bushopp" here and on line 26 but "Bishopp" on line 14

9 **my daughter**, one lease which I have and hold of **John Levett of Salehurst**
in the county of
10 **Sussex, gent.** of one orchard with th'appurtenances in Salehurst aforesaid,
parcel of a certain
11 tenement called **Emans** containing by estimation half an acre more or less,
for the term of three
12 hundred years as by a pair of indentures thereof made bearing date the
three and twentieth day
13 of May in the six and thirtieth year of her Majesty's reign above written
appeareth. And I
14 the said John Bishopp, do hereby constitute and appoint the said Phillip
Turner
15 my sole executor only for the probation of this my will.

16 This is the last will and testament of me, the said John Bishopp, made and
declared the day and year
17 abovesaid touching and concerning only the willing, devising and
disposing of the lands and tenements hereafter
18 presently mentioned (that is to say) I give, will and bequeath to the
foresaid Phillip Turner and Anne now
19 his wife, my daughter, all that one messuage, one barn and two gardens
with th'appurtenances, lying and being

20 in **Robertsbridge** in the parish of Salehurst abovesaid called or known by
the name of Emans which
21 I have bought and purchased, to me and my heirs, of **Thomas Some of**
Benenden¹⁴² in the county of Kent as by a deed
22 thereof made bearing date the four and twentieth day of May in the six and
thirtieth year of her Majesty's
23 reign above written at large appeareth, to have and hold the said
messuage, barn and garden with
24 th'appurtenances unto the said Phillip Turner and Anne his wife and their
heirs and assigns
25 to the only use and behoof of the said Phillip and Anne, their heirs and
assigns, forever.
26 In witness whereof I, the said John Bishopp, to this my present testament
and last will have set
27 my hand and seal yeven the day and year first above written. Sigmin **John**
Bishopp, present
28 at the publishing, declaring and subscribing of this present will and
testament **John Dive** and **John**
21 **Hooper**, sigmin John Dive

142 Benenden is about three miles north east of Hawkhurst

Robert Bishop of Hadlow

Robert was the only son of Thomas Bishop, late of the Stayer in Hadlow, deceased, and Mary but he had seven sisters, one of whom was married with four children. He was a wealthy bachelor able to leave his married sister £100; he owned a large amount of land some of which was inherited from his father since it was called Stayer Place. Robert had, however, purchased land himself and some of his estate was mortgaged. He gives a long description of the types of land he owned which included osierbeds.

He appointed Mary, his mother, to be his executrix and she was to have his land, etc. for life or until she married again. It was then to be divided between his six unmarried sisters.

Robert left £5 to “[John Hooper, scholar of Cambridge](#)”; John Hooper, the parish clerk of Tonbridge and the writer of Robert’s will, had a son John, born in 1613 who would thus have been twenty-one when Robert wrote his will. A John Hooper, jun. was witness to the will.

1 In the name of god Amen. The three and twentieth day of June
2 in the year of our lord Christ one thousand, six hundred, thirty and four,
3 I, Robert Bishop of Hadlow in the county of Kent, **bachelor**, the only son
and
4 heir of **Thomas Bishop, late of the Stayer** in the said parish of Hadlow,
yeoman,
5 deceased, do ordain and make this my testament and last will in manner
6 following: **First** recommending my soul to the sweet merits of God and
7 his gracious acceptance thereof through the merits, precious death and
passion
8 of Jesus Christ, his beloved son, my loving saviour and redeemer. And my
body
9 to the earth in decent manner to be¹⁴³ buried. I will to the poor people of
10 Hadlow aforesaid forty shillings to be distributed amongst them within one
11 month next after my decease. **Item:** for the portion which I mean to my
12 **sister Marie, the wife of Edward Sharpe** or to his children, in or to my

143 "bee" throughout, including "shalbee" but 2he" and "she"

13 goods, lands or tenements, I will and give to the said Mary¹⁴⁴ the sum of
14 one hundred pounds of lawful english money, whereof fifty pounds to
15 be paid her within one year next after my decease. And fifty pounds, the
16 residue thereof, before the end of the next year following after the end of
the
17 said first year by (**Mary, my mother**¹⁴⁵) mine executrix hereafter named.
18 And to **John Sharpe, her son**, my godson, if he shall attain to his age of
19 twenty and one years, I will the sum of fifty pounds of lawful english
20 money to be paid him within thirty days next after the accomplishment of
21 his said age by my said executrix if she shall then be living. But if she shall
22 then be deceased, to be paid him out of all my lands and tenements which
I will it
23 shall be lawful for him, the said John, for default of payment to hold and
enjoy until
24 payment of the said fifty pounds, according to my mind herein declared,
shalbe¹⁴⁶
25 fully and truly made. And my will is that the said Edward Sharpe and

144 this must be his sister whose name was written "Marie" on line 12

145 in brackets but it his mother whom Richard, on line 36, appoints as his executrix but on the next line here, John Sharpe must be the son of Richard's sister, Mary/Marie

146 "shall bee" at beginning of line 23 whilst her and on line 34 where "shalbee" is used

26 Mary Sharpe shall give acquittance to mine executrix for the several sums
27 aforesaid appointed to be paid to the said Mary, upon the payments
thereof.

28 And that if the said John, their son, shall live to be capable of his said
legacy¹⁴⁷

29 of fifty pounds that, upon payment thereof, he likewise shall make and give
30 a sufficient discharge in the law for the same. **Item:** I give to **my kinsman**
31 **John Hooper, scholar of Cambridge**, five pounds of lawful english money.
32 **Item:** I will to **Edward, Robert and Marie, the children** of Edward Sharpe
before
33 named, twenty shillings a piece to be paid to their father for their use.
34 And he to give his acquittance therefore which shalbe a discharge to mine
executrix.

35 The residue and all other my goods and chattells, I wholly give, leave and
bequeath
36 to Mary, my loving mother, whom I make and ordain the full and sole
executrix
37 of this my testament and last will.

147 a strange way of saying "if he lives to be twenty-one"

38 This is also the last will of me, the said Robert Bishop, made and declared
the day
39 and year first before written, touching my lands and tenements which I do
dispose of
40 in manner following: I give, will and devise to Mary, my mother, during her
41 natural life, if she shall so long keep her self a widow, and after her
42 decease or next marriage, which soever of the said times shall first happen,
to
43 **Margaret, Anne, Elizabeth, Martha, Patience and Katherine, my sisters.**
And
44 to their heirs and assigns forever: all that messuage or tenement in
Hadlow

page 2:

45 aforesaid, commonly called the **Stayer Place**, wherein I now dwell. And all
the
46 barns, outhouses, buildings, closes, yards, gardens, orchards and lands,
47 arable, meadows, pastures, woods, woodgrounds, buddles and low
grounds,
48 ways, waters, commodities and appurtenances whatsoever to the said
messuage
49 or tenement belonging by what name or names soever they, or any of
them, are

50 called or known. And also the little house, orchard and ground thereto
belonging
51 now in the occupation of **Thomas Bishop**. And also all those lands arable,
52 meadows, lowground and osierbed which I late purchased of **William**
Constable
53 and **Mary, his wife**. And the meadow which I bought of **Mr. George Rivers**.
And
54 all other my lands and tenements in Hadlow aforesaid. And if my said
mother
55 shall marry again after my decease, then I will that she shall be paid out of
56 all my said lands and tenements during her natural life, from the time of
her
57 such marriage, the yearly sum of twenty pounds of lawful and good english
58 money quarterly by equal portions. And for default of payment thereof, I
will
59 that it shall and may be lawful for her and her assigns to enter and distrain
60 upon all or any of my lands or tenements before mentioned. And the
distress and
61 distresses thereso taken to hold, detain and keep until payment thereof
62 shall be made to her, from time to time, withall her reasonable charges¹⁴⁸
63 thereby sustained. And farther I will that my said mother shall redeem all

148 "chardges"

64 my lands that are now by me mortgaged and shall ??¹⁴⁹ the same to be
65 conveyed to her own use for term of her natural life. (if she shall so long
66 remain a widow). And after her decease or next marriage, which shall first
67 happen, to the use and behoof of the said Margaret, Anne, Elizabeth,
Martha,
68 Katherine and Patience, my sisters, their heirs and assigns, for ever. In
69 witness whereof I have to this my testament and last will set my hand and
70 seal, dated the said 23rd day of June Ao dm 1634. A? Regin dm
71 ?? Regis Caroli Anglie etc. Decimo¹⁵⁰.

Robert Bishop

Sealed, published and declared
in the presence of **David Harrys**
John Hooper, notary pbq. and **John**
Hooper, jnr.

29th October 1634

indecipherable note,
possibly in Latin

John Hooper, notary public

149 "poure"? expected word would be "cause"

150 a very unusual way of saying in the tenth year of Charles I

John Bishop of Wrotham

The will of John Bishop of Wrotham (CKS: Prs/w/1/225) was written on 14th January 1637 but not proved until 30th April 1638. The writing is very small and therefore difficult to read.

He makes his brother-in-law, George Elphick and George's father, two of his three overseers, describing George, the elder, as his "uncle-in-law".

George Elphick -	-----				
George - sister	John - Johan	Jane - ?? Hubbard			
will:	14 Jan 1637				

	Thomas	Margaret	John		

John had some "ready money now lying by me and appointed for the purpose" of discharging an annuity of 30s which was currently being paid from some of his land. His land included cherry gardens, a fruit which is not mentioned in any other transcribed will.

Johane was given the “power and authority . . . to take down (the) oasthouse belonging to my now dwelling messuage . . . and set the same up upon the said tenement and orchard . . . and to make a dwelling house thereof (in lieu of the house that was hereupon lately burned down)”.

The will gets very complicated in that besides his son Thomas and daughter Margaret, there was “the child my wife now goeth with, if she be now with child” and this possible child is mentioned many times in the arrangements John makes for the inheritance of his property.

His overseers were to sell his “tan, hides and leather at the best rate they can” and the proceeds “put forth . . . upon land or other good security . . . for the uses, intents and purposes following.” It would seem that this money was thought to be sufficient to pay his daughter Margaret £200 when she reached the age of twenty and £100 to the possible child.

Although Thomas was not yet fourteen he was made joint executor with his mother. When he attained the age of fourteen he “shall and may choose his guardian or guardians who may from henceforth receive the rents and profits of such lands and hereditaments as shall by force of this present will come unto him”. During his minority, they were to use the money for Thomas’s welfare rendering an account to Thomas “as guardians . . . ought to do”.

1 In the name of God Amen. I, John Bishop of Wrotham in the county of
Kent, **yeoman**, ??
2 of body and perfect ? remembrance ?? ?? the fourteenth day of January
?? ??
3 in ?? year of our sovereign lord Charles, by the grace of god, king of
England, Scotland, France and Ireland, ??
4 defender of the faith, etc. Ann.. Dom. 1637, make and ordain this my last
will and testament in manner and form following
5 and **First:** I commend and ?? (my soul) into the hands of Almighty God,
my maker and redeemer, my ?? and ??
6 through the merits and passions of Jesus Christ, my only saviour, to have
remission and pardon f all my sins. And as considering
7 my body, ?? ?? ?? to be decently buried. **Item:** I give and bequeath
8 unto ?? ?? of the parish church of Wrotham aforesaid twenty
shillings. **Item:**
9 I give and bequeath unto the poor of the parish of Wrotham aforesaid forty
shillings to be distributed amongst
10 them. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Margaret ??, widow, my sister-in-**
law, ten shillings. **Item:**

11 I give and bequeath unto my two godchildren **Thomas Miller** and **Dorothy**
12 **Claggat** five shillings apiece.
13 **Item:** If **my sister Jane Hubbard** shall survive and ?? ?? her now husband,
14 then I give and bequeath unto
15 her, the said Jane, from and after the said husband's decease, for and
16 during the time of her natural life, yearly
17 the sum of twenty shillings to be paid unto her at two feasts of the year,
18 viz. St. Michael's Th'archangel
19 and Th'annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, by equal portions. **Item:** If
20 **my cousin**¹⁵¹ **John Hubbard** shall ??
and overlive the said Jane, his mother, the I give and bequeath unto him,
the said John Hubbard, from and after his
said mother's decease, for and during his natural life, twenty shillings to be
paid likewise at the said two feasts
by equal portions. **Item:** I do make and ordain my lovng **brother-in-law,**
George Elphick, the younger, and my loving **uncle-in**
law, George Elphick, the elder, and my loving **friend and neighbour, John**
Brattle, overseers of this my last will and testament
desiring them to see the same in all things performed. And for their pains
and care herein I give and bequeath unto them ten

151 actually his nephew

21 shillings a piece (over and besides all charges and expenses by them
22 herein to be discharged. **All** which legacies before mentioned to be paid
23 by my executors hereafter named. **Item:** my will and meaning is that **my**
24 **loving wife Johane** shall have the use of all my
25 household stuff in my now dwelling messuage during her natural life in
26 reasonable and fitting manner to be used within
27 the same messuage. And I give and bequeath the same, after her decease,
28 to **my son Thomas Bishop** forever. **Item:** my will and
29 meaning is that my executors, hereafter named, shall from and after my
30 decease (if it may be) purchase, buy in and cause
31 to be discharged with the ready money now lying by me and appointed for
the purpose, from ?? **Cooke, th'elder** and ?? such
as shall claim under him, one annuity or yearly rent charge of thirty
shillings issuing and going out of her
messuage or tenement wherein the widow ?? now dwelleth and every
garden and lands hereto belonging or some ??
hereof for the good benefit and bettering the same messuage for such of my
said children ?? as hereafter herein liveth.
Item: my funeral and expenses performed, my debts and legacies paid and
the said annuity be as aforesaid purchased, I give and bequeath
all the rest and residue of my goods and chattells (except all my tan, hides,
leather hereafter by my overseers appointed to be sold)

32 unto the said Johane, my wife, and the said Thomas, my son, to be equally
divided between them. **Item:** I do make and ordain the
33 said Johane, my wife, and the said Thomas, my son, executors of this my
last will and testament. **Item:** I do hereby ?? and give full
34 power and authority unto my said three overseers, or to any two of them,
and to be survivors or survivor of them, to sell all my said
35 tan, hides and leather at the best rate they can after my decease. And to
place, put forth and put to ?? ?? upon land or
36 other good security, all such money as they shall ?? or raise by sale hereof,
for the uses, intents and purposes following. ?? for the
37 use and behoof of the said Thomas, my son, so as he, the said Thomas, pay
unto **my daughter Margaret**, and the child my wife
38 now goeth with, if she be now with child, the portions hereafter to and for
being appointed. And in default hereof made by my said son,
39 then to the intent my overseers may pay or ?? so much hereof to the
Margaret and the said child my wife goeth with ??
40 as hereafter to ?? limited. And the overplus only then to the said
Thomas, my son. **This** is also the last will and testament
41 of me, the said John Bishop, made and declared the day and year above
written touching the disposition of my message,
42 lands, tenements and hereditaments. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the
said Johane, my wife, and her assigns (for and in such

43 recompense and satisfaction of all such jointures and dower and ?? of
dower, all she may or might have or shall ?? to
44 have of in, to or out of all the messuages, lands and tenements wherein I,
the said John, were ?? during the coverture between us)
45 the message or tenement wherein I now dwell with the gardens, orchard
and four pieces of land thereto belonging, which I
46 purchased of **John Curd**, **Anthony Curd** and **Thomas Curd** or some or one
of them, to hold to her, the said Johane, during
47 the term of her natural life. And also I do give and devise unto her, the said
Johane, the message, barn and orchard now in the
48 occupation of **William Dure**, situated in Wrotham aforesaid, to hold to her if
she be with child (then only) during her widowhood.
49 But if she be not with child, then only during the term of her natural life.
And I do hereby give power and authority unto
50 her, the said Johane, to take down the oast or oasthouse belonging to my
now dwelling message or tenement and
51 set the same up upon the said tenement and orchard now in the
occupation of the said William Dure and to make a dwelling house
52 thereof (in lieu of the house that was hereupon lately burned down), she,
the said Johane, doing nor committing
53 no wilful waste, spoil nor other destruction unto nor upon the said
premises hereby to her devised or bequeathed.

54 **Item:** my will and meaning is that she, the said Johane, my wife, shall have
?? and take the rents, issues and
55 profits of all my messuages, lands, tenements and premises whatsoever
until my son Thomas attains his
56 full age of fourteen years, for and towards the bringing up of my children
without any other account
57 thereof to be rendered (she committing no wilful waste). **Item:** my will and
meaning is that he, the said
58 Thomas, my son, (out of the estate ?? and ?? hereby to him given) shall give
and pay, or cause to be paid,
59 paid unto my daughter, Margaret, her executors or assigns, the sum of two
hundred pounds of lawful
60 english money to be paid within one month next after she shall or should
attain the age of twenty years.
61 **Item:** (my said wife receiving the profits of my lands as aforesaid) I give and
devise unto my said son
62 Thomas, and to his heirs and assigns, the said messuage or tenement
wherein the **widow Croft** now dwelleth,
63 the barns, stables, edifices, buildings, cherry gardens, orchard and other
the appurtenances thereof belonging together with a
64 little messuage and cherry garden where on **Terrell?** now dwelleth
adjoining to the said barn situated at ??

65 Wrotham aforesaid until ?? he, the said Thomas, my son, his heirs,
executors, administrators and assigns shall ??
66 and make default unto my said daughter, Margaret, her executors or
assigns, the said sum of two
67 hundred pounds at or within one month next she shall or should attain her
said age of twenty
68 years as aforesaid. Provided always that if and when the said Thomas, my
son, his heirs, executors,
69 administrators and assigns, shall refuse or fail or make default of payment
of the said sum of two hundred

page 2:

70 pounds, or any part thereof, to the said Margaret, my daughter, her
executors or assigns, at the time before ??
71 for payment hereof, contrary to the true meaning hereof, then I give and
devise all the said message or tenement
72 wherein the said widow Croft and the said Torrell now dwell, with the
barn, closes, cherry gardens, orchard
73 appertaining thereto, belonging unto the said Margaret, my daughter, her
heirs and assigns, absolutely forever.
74 And further I will that from any other such default of payment shall be
made of the said two hundred pounds to

75 my said daughter as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful to and for the
said Margaret, my daughter, and her heirs, into and
76 upon the same last mentioned messuage, tenement, cherry gardens in the
occupation of the said widow Croft
77 and Torrell, with their appurtenances, to enter, and the same to have, hold
and enjoy, to her and her heirs for ever. And ??
78 also I give and bequeath unto her, the said Margaret, my daughter, the
sum of forty pounds more
79 towards the augmenting of her portion, to be delivered, ?? and paid her, the
said Margaret, her executors
80 and assigns, presently after default shalbe of payment to her of the said
sum of two hundred pounds as
81 aforesaid, out of and ?? the money to be raised by the said sale of my said
tan, hides and leather
82 by my said overseers, or else out of the land or such other security, estate
or other hereditaments as my
83 said overseers shall previously have purchased or procured as aforesaid,
any thing herein contained
84 to the contrary hereof in any wise notwithstanding. **Item:** if my said wife
be now with
85 child, I give and bequeath unto such child the sum of one hundred pounds
of lawful english

86 money to be paid unto such child at his or her age of twenty years by the
said Thomas, my
87 son, his heirs, executors or assigns, out of the money raised by the sale of
my leather, tans and
88 hides as aforesaid. But if my said son shall not pay the said sum of one
hundred pounds
89 accordingly, then my will and meaning is that such child shall have the
said one
90 hundred pounds deducted, levied and paid out of the said money so raised
by the said sale of my
91 leather, tan and hides by my said overseers or out of the land, security,
estate or hereditaments
92 ?? the said overseers shall previously have purchased or procured. **Item:** I
give and devise unto my said
93 son Thomas, his heirs and assigns, forever, the lesser of the messuages in
my occupation with the
94 edifices, lands and appurtenances thereto appertaining which was my
father's. And also the mead called **Ward**
95 **Mead**, also **Worrall Mead** which I lately purchased of **John Callatt** situated
in Wrotham
97 aforesaid (my wife receiving the profits thereof until my said son Thomas
attain his age of

98 fourteen years as aforesaid. And also I give and devise unto him, my said
son Thomas, his
99 heirs and assigns, for ever, the messuage or tenement and premises which
I purchased of the Crudds as
100 aforesaid from and after my said wife's decease. And likewise, the said
messuage or barn and orchard
101 in the said William Dure's occupation from and after my said wife's
decease (if she be not now with
102 child) And also all other my lands, tenements and hereditaments nor
hereby before given, limited or devised.
103 And my will and meaning is that my said son Thomas, when and after he
shall attain his age of
104 fourteen years shall and may choose his guardian or guardians who may
from henceforth receive the rents and
105 profits of such lands and hereditaments as shall by force of this present will
come unto him, the said
106 Thomas, my son, during his minority, to his proper use (except of my said
wife's estate) who shall
107 render and give an account to my said son Thomas of the profits by him
received as other guardians in ?? ought
108 to do. **In witness** whereof to this my last will and testament, written in two
large sheets of paper, signed

109 with mark at the lower edge hereof. And to the top hereof ?? together, I
have set my seal the

110 day of the ?? above written. Revoking all former wills by me heretofore
made.

Published, declared, signed and signed John Bishop
sealed in the presence of

Josua Swayner Nicholas Squibble¹⁵²

Robert his mark
Croft

152 stylised but very small signature; possibly the scriptor

The Boghursts of Seal and Shipbourne

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#2280 ¹⁵³	<u>BOGHURST, Nevell</u> -----		20 Oct 1600	Joane Skye #2281 "of this parish"	1	1	
• #2282	<u>BOGHURST, Nevell</u>	2 Jan 1602			0	0	22 Apr 1602
• #2284	<u>BOGHURST, Roger</u> Roger could be son of #2280 but he is known only by his marriage		8 Dec 1623	Sara Walker #2285	1	0	

Henry Boghurst (**\$2117**) married Elizabeth Whiffen (**\$2123**) in Shipbourne on 7th December 1647; nothing more is known about them.

Robert Bold of Horsmonden

One of the witnesses to this will (CKS: Drb/Pw 29; Drb/Pwr 22.168) was George Salmon who wrote a number of wills, the earliest one found being in 1612 and this the latest. The style of this one is very different from other wills he wrote, at least at the beginning where it is referred to as a "writing".

The Writing/Will of Robert Bold of Horsmonden

written 14th January 1634/5;
transcript from original

1 To all Xtian¹⁵⁴ people to whom this present writing shall come,
2 Robert Bold, senior, of Horsmonden in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, sendeth
greeting
3 in our lord God Everlasting. Know ye that, if the said Robert Bold for
4 certain causes and considerations made by the said Robert before the
ensealing of
5 these present specially moving have herein granted and confirmed and by

6 these present do give, grant and confirm unto **Robert Bold, my son**, all
7 that my messuage or tenement withall buildings to the same with a barn
8 and land to the said messuage belonging which of late I purchased of
9 **William Mehin** called **Brambles** situated, lying and being in Horsmonden
10 aforesaid. And also by the repute of we hereby, give, grant and confirm
11 unto the said Richard Bold, my son, all that my manor lands with a
12 barn also called **Brambles** and ?? parcel or parcels of land with one
13 orchard and one close to the same belonging, containing five and twenty
14 acres of land more or less with . . .

total 2½ pages, mortgage, indentures, etc.

In witness whereof I, the
- said Robert Bold to this my present writing have hereunto set my
- hand and seal the fourteenth day of the month of January in
- the ninth year of the reign of our most gracious sovereign lord,
- king Charles, by the grace of god king of England, Scotland, France
- and Ireland, defender of the faith, Anno d. 1634, Robert
- Bold sealed and delivered in the presence of **Michael Carpenter** and
- **George Salmon, John Carpenter**. Signed **Michael Carpenter**
signed **John Carpenter**

The Booths of Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#1258 ¹⁵⁵	<u>B00TH, John</u> -----				1	4	
• #4013	<u>Booth, Elizabeth</u>	22 Jun 1582		baptised in Sevenoaks	0	0	
• #1260	<u>Booth, Alice</u>	8 Mar 1584			0	0	
• #1399	<u>B00TH, William</u>	2 Oct 1586		see page 2.b.181 for his family	1	8	
• #1616	<u>Booth, Sylvester</u>	14 Feb 1591			0	0	
• #2202	<u>B00TH, John</u> ¹⁵⁶	<1600		Elizabeth Booth(m) #2203	1	2	
• • #1827	<u>Booth, Elizabeth</u>	31 Oct 1623			0	0	5 Nov 1623 <1 wk
• • #2204	<u>Booth, Margaret</u>				0	0	29 Oct 1637

155 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

156 John is only known from his children; he may not have been a son of #1258

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
#1611	<u>B00TH, Richard</u> -----					1 2
• #1613	<u>B00TH, Richard</u>	29 Nov 1590		born at Kemsing		0 0
• #1823	<u>B00TH, Edmund</u>	30 Jun 1594				0 0

A **William Randoll alias Booth** had children between 1612 and 1627; he could have been William Booth, son of John on the previous page, with his first recorded child born when he was 26. William was not the only Booth/Randoll: "[Katherine, wife of John Booth alias Randoll](#)" was buried 21st December 1628 and there were others..

In the tree given on the next page, Sara, Jane and Mary were recorded as the daughters of William Randoll and William and Francis as the son and daughter, respectively of "William Booth alias Randoll". George and Edward were both recorded as the sons of William Booth. Thomas is known only from his children but he could be #1399's son. A William Booth was buried 26 July 1639 and a Sarah Booth, widow on 27 March 1647. These could be #1399 and his wife.

The Sarah Booth whose bastard son John was baptised on 21st April 1642 could have been William's eldest daughter.

See also [Randolls in More Families & Transcripts](#)

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
#1399	<u>BOOTH/RANDOLL, William</u> -----	2 Oct 1586	<1612	Sara Booth/ Randoll(m)	1 8	26 Jul 1639? aged 52
#3323	<u>his wife, Sara</u> -----				1 8	27 Mar 1647 about 60
• #3324	<u>Randoll, Sara</u>	4 Oct 1612			0 0	
• #3325	<u>Randoll, Jane</u>	29 Jan 1615			0 0	
• #3326	<u>Randoll, Mary</u>	30 Aug 1618			0 0	
• #3327	<u>BOOTH/RANDOLL, William</u>	30 Sep 1621			0 0	
• #3697	<u>BOOTH, George</u>	14 Sep 1625			0 0	
• #3329	<u>RANDOLL, Thomas</u>	<1628	<1649	Isabell Randoll(m) #3330	1 3	
• • #3331	<u>RANDOLL, Thomas</u>	6 May 1649				0 0
• • #3332	<u>RANDOLL, Frances</u>	19 Apr 1652				0 0
• • #3333	<u>RANDOLL, James</u>	4 Dec 1655				0 0
• #3328	<u>Booth/Randoll, Francis</u>	13 May 1627			0 0	
• #3698	<u>BOOTH, Edward</u>	6 Jan 1630			0 0	

William Borowgh, vicar of Tonbridge

In his will of 1529 (PCC: **Jankyn 8**), William Borowgh, vicar, left to the church his “spoons of silver to make a pair of cruets” and two of his “best coverlets, the one to hang behind the sepulchre and the other afore the high altar”.¹⁵⁷

157 Testamenta Cantiana, London 1906, A Series of Extracts from 15th and 16th Century Wills, p. 80

The Boswells of Shipbourne

John Boswell (\$177¹⁵⁸) and his wife **Margaret** (\$178) had three children baptised in Shipbourne:

- | | | | |
|---|----------|-------|--------------|
| - | William | \$179 | 18 Feb 1581 |
| - | Jane | \$269 | 5 May 1583 |
| - | Margaret | \$348 | 28 Dec 1585. |

John was buried on 16th May 1586 and Margaret, his wife, a week later on 25th May.

The burial of Margaret Boswell took place on 28th December 1608; if this was John's daughter, she was twenty-two.

158 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

The Bournes of Speldhurst and Tonbridge

The following wills have survived for Bournes of Speldhurst and Tonbridge:

Tonbridge:

Margaret Bourne	1456	CKS: Drb/Pwr 2.72	widow of Thomas
Thomas Bourne	1536	CKS: Drb/Pwr 9.224	
William Bourne	1561	PCC: 22 Loftes	
Thomas Bourne	18 Dec 1599	CKS: Drb/Pw 19; Drb/Pwr 19I.380	page 2.b.186

Speldhurst:

George Bourne	1605	CKS: Drb/Pwr 19I 9.445	
Thomas Bourne	1 Jul 1614	CKS: Drb/Pw 23; Drb/Pwr 20.587	page 2.b.191
Nicholas Bourne	1616d	CKS: Drb/Pw 23	
John Bourne	1627/8	CKS: Drb/Pw 27; Drb/Pwr 21.305	

The 1599 will of Thomas Bourne was written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618. The will of Thomas, the elder, of Speldhurst was written by John Hooper, notary public, the son of Nicholas Hooper.

and daughter-in-law, Thomas and Johane. His will is concerned only with a sum of forty pounds for which complicated arrangements had been made "by virtue of a writing indented" in which the conditions "more fully and at large" appeared. Because this will only deals with the forty pounds, only the sons Thomas and William are mentioned but, from the will of Thomas in 1614 (son of the Thomas who had died in 1599), there were three other brothers, Nicholas, George and John whose wills have also survived but they have not been investigated.

Will of Thomas Bourne of Tonbridge

written 18th December 1599

transcript from original with left hand side supplemented from probate copy

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

- 1 In¹⁶⁰ the name of god Amen. The eighteenth day of December in the year
2 of our lord god one thousand, five hundredth four score and nineteen and
in the two and

3 fortieth year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of
God, Queen of
4 England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. I, Thomas Bourne,
the elder, of
5 Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being¹⁶¹ aged and thereby put in
mind of my last end, do
6 make my will only touching the sum of forty pounds, hereafter specified:
That is to say That
7 whereas I, the said Thomas, have before the day of the date hereof, given
all my goods, corn, cattell, plate,
8 leases, debts and all other my goods whatsoever unto **Thomas Bourne, my
son, and Johane, his wife,**
9 to hold to them, their executors, administrators and assigns forever, as in
and by a writing bearing date
10 the tenth day of the month of December above written at large appeareth,
And whereas
11 also the executors of me, the said Thomas, by virtue of a writing indented
bearing date the

161 "beeing", "mee", etc.

12 above day of the month of June in the eighth year¹⁶² of the reign of the said
sovereign lady Queen,
13 ?? from me made, sealed and delivered to **William Coyff** of Speldhurst and
Thomas Rolfe of
14 Tonbridge, yeomen, to certain uses, are to receive of **William Bourne, my
son**, now deceased
15 and of the heirs of his body lawfully begotten, the sum of forty pounds of
good and lawful
16 money of England, in such manner as in the said verited writing indented
is specified, viz. every
17 year five pounds during eight the next years next after the decease of me,
the said Thomas
18 Bourne and **Elizabeth, then my wife**, now deceased. And that if it should
happen the same or
19 some parcel thereof to be unpaid, in any year contrary to the form of the
same writing, indented,
20 specified, then it should be lawful to my said executors to enter and
distrain in and upon
21 all the lands and tenements devised in and by the said verited writing
indented and the distress

162 this is definitely "eight" in the will but that would have been 34 years previously; perhaps it should have been the "eight and thirty"

22 or distresses so had and taken from there to carry away and withhold until
the said yearly payment
23 so due to be paid, be fully satisfied, contented and paid. As in and by the
said verited writing
24 indented, more fully and at large it doth and may appear. More, I, the said
Thomas Bourne,
25 the elder, do ordain and make this my present testament and last will in
manner and form
26 following¹⁶³, that is to say, I will and bequeath all the said fourty pounds
unto my **two sons**,
27 that is to say, Thomas Bourne and **Nicholas Bourne**, which Thomas and
Nicholas, my
28 sons, I make and ordain my whole and joint executors. In witness whereof,
to this my
29 present last will and testament I, the said Thomas Bourne the elder, have
set my hand and
30 seal yeven the day and year first above written.

Nicholas Hooper's
mark
with initials

163 "following"

Read, published and declared,
ratified and confirmed in the
presence of **Nicholas Hooper**
writer hereof and of

John Jeffry

Sign **X** Thom.

Bourne, senior

Thomas the elder of Speldhurst

Thomas, the elder, of Speldhurst left legacies to a large number of nephews and nieces but mentioned no children of his own; since he would be expected to have land in Speldhurst as well as that in Marden and Staplehurst left to his wife, perhaps he devised his land to a son Thomas before he wrote his will in a similar way to his father. This would solve the question of who was Thomas Bourne the younger in 1614.

Thomas specified that those beneficiaries who were underage at the time their legacy was to be paid were to “[receive the same before the minister or churchwardens of Speldhurst aforesaid for the time being and the payment thereof to be entered into the register book there for the poor or the like book](#)”

which shall be a sufficient discharge and acquittance to mine executrix for the same”.

Will of Thomas Bourne of Speldhurst

written 1st July 1614
transcript from original

1 In¹⁶⁴ the name of god Amen. The first day of July in the twelfth year of the
2 of our sovereign Lord, King James of England, France and Ireland defender
3 and of Scotland the seven and fortieth; Ao dm 1614 I, Thomas Bourne,
4 Speldhurst¹⁶⁵ in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being¹⁶⁶ aged and sickly and
5 ples, put in mind of my last end, do therefore, in my perfect remembrance,
having a desire that those

164 decorated "I"

165 originally Tonbridge, changed to Speldhurst

166 "beeing", "bee" etc. throughout

6 transitory possessions which god hath blessed me withall should be
enjoyed according to my mind
7 hereafter expressed (through God's permission) both peaceably and quietly,
make and ordain this my
8 present testament and last will in manner and form following: **First** and
principally, yielding
9 my soul to Almighty god, my maker, with an assured hope of salvation
through his mercy
10 with mediation and redemption of his dear son Jesus Christ. And my body
to the earth from
11 whence it was taken with like assurance of resurrection to eternal life
through the same Jesus Christ,
12 my redeemer. **Item:** I will to the poor of Speldhurst aforesaid forty shillings
and to the poor
13 of **Tonbridge** ten shillings to be paid within one year next after my decease.
Item: I will
14 to **Stephen Bourne**, to **Clemence Grombridge** and **Marie**, her sister, children
of **William Bourne**,
15 **deceased**, my late brother¹⁶⁷, five shillings a piece of lawful english money.
Item: I will to

167 William had died before 1599 when his father wrote his will so that Clemence could have been married - these children would probably be at least in their forties since Thomas, their uncle, was "aged"

16 **John, the son of my brother Nicholas Bourne**, ten shillings and to **Thomas,**
17 **William, Nicholas, Robert**
18 and **Edward, sons also of my said brother Nicholas**, five shillings a piece of
19 lawful english money. **Item:** I will to **Elizabeth, Johane, Isabell and Margaret, children of John**
20 **Latter deceased**, ten
21 shillings a piece of lawful english money. **Item:** I will to **John and William,**
22 **the sons of**
23 **John Bourne, my late brother, deceased**, ten shillings a piece of lawful
24 english money. **Item:**
25 I will to **Johane Saxbees, now my servant**, five shillings. And my will is
26 that all these
legacies severally before willed (except those to the poor) shalbe paid
within two whole years next
after my decease. **Item:** I will to **Elizabeth and Alice, two of the children of**
my late brother
George Bourne, deceased, twenty shillings a piece of lawful english money
to be paid to them
at their several ages of eighteen years. And th'one of them to be th'others
heir thereunto. **Item:** I
will to all my Godchildren 12d a piece to be paid them upon reasonable
demand to be made

27 thereof in their own person of mine executrix. **Item:** I will that whosoever
28 shalbe under age
29 at the time when any legacy formerly given is to be paid, shall receive the
30 same before the minister or
31 churchwardens of Speldhurst aforesaid for the time being and the payment
32 thereof to be entered into the
33 register book there for the poor or the like book which shall be a sufficient
34 discharge¹⁶⁸ and acquittance
35 to mine executrix for the same.

32 The residue¹⁶⁹ of all and singular my goods, cattels, chattels, utensils,
33 household stuff,
34 eights? and implements, I wholly and fully give and will to **Johane, my**
35 **loving**
36 **wife** whom I make, ordain and appoint my sole and only executrix to see
37 this my
38 will proved, my debts and legacies truly paid. And my body decently
39 brought
40 to the earth.

168 "dischardge"

169 spelled "reasidue" - see *hooper.txt* for other wills where this occurs

37 This is also the last will of me the said Thomas Bourne, the elder,
38 made and declared the day and year abovesaid touching the ordering,
disposing,
39 willing and devising of all my lands and tenements situated in the parishes
of **Marden**
40 and **Staplehurst**¹⁷⁰ in the said county of Kent or in both or in either of the
same
41 parishes. **Item:** I will and devise to the said Johane, my loving wife, all my
42 Messuages, Lands and Tenements withall and singular lanes, ways,
members and
43 appurtenances thereunto belonging containing in the whole, by
estimation, twelve acres¹⁷¹
44 whether more or less thereof be had, situated, set, lying and being in the
said parishes
45 of Marden and Staplehurst or in either of them and now in the occupation
of **Mathew**
46 ?? or his assigns. To hold to the said Johane, my wife, and her assigns for,
by

170 two adjacent parishes, in the diocese of Canterbury, about twelve miles east of Speldhurst

171 twelve acres represents a square with a side of 240 yards and, if it was one piece of land, must have been on the border of the two parishes.

47 and during the whole term of her natural life without impeachment of or for
any
48 manner of waste. And after the decease of the said Johane, my wife, I will
and
49 devise all the said messuages, lands and tenements with th'appurtenances
to **William**
50 **Chapman of Wadhurst** in the county of **Sussex, carpenter**, to hold to him
and his
51 assigns during the whole term of his natural life upon condition that the
said
52 William (if he happen to over live my said wife or else **Johane, his daughter**,
hereafter
53 named or her heirs) do pay to **George, William and Nicholas Gardenbess,**
sons of
54 **William Gardnbess, deceased**, equally between them, three pounds of
lawful
55 english money, or to the survivors or survivor of them, all the said three
pounds
56 within two whole years next after the decease of the said Johane, my wife,
they,
57 the said George, William and Nicholas Gardenbess or their Guardian or
Guardians of
58 such of them as are within age, upon payment thereof making, sealing and

59 delivering an acquittance for the same to him or her who shall make
payment thereof. And
60 after the decease of the said William Chapman (my said wife being then
also deceased)
61 I will and devise all the said messuages, lands and tenements with
th'appurtenances unto
62 the said Johane Chapman¹⁷², the daughter of the said William Chapman,
and to the
63 heirs of her body lawfully to be begotten forever. And for default of such
64 heirs, I will and devise all the said messuages, lands, tenements, lanes,
members
65 and all other their and every of their appurtenances unto **Edward**
Chapman, brother of
66 **the said Johane** and son of the said William Chapman. And to the heirs
and
67 assigns of the said Edward Chapman, the son, for ever. **In witness**
68 whereof I, the said Thomas Bourne, th'elder¹⁷³, have to this my present
testament and

172 was Johane Thomas's granddaughter?

173 Thomas mentions no children at all. Who was Thomas Bourne, the younger? Perhaps a son who had already had his inheritance in the same way as the testator had received his from his father in 1599.

69 last will set my hand and seal yeven the day and year first above written.
And I
70 do hereby revoke all other wills formerly by me made.

Seal, published and The mark of Thomas Bourne
declared in the presence of the elder
Edward Jeffrey
Henry Ugten and
John Hooper, notary public

- I, Alice Bowles of Hoo, St. Marys in the county of Kent, spinster¹⁷⁴
- Touching that little
- substance that God hath blessed me with I thus bestow it. **First** I give unto
- **Alice Ruff, my grandchild**, the daughter of **John Ruff**, my son-in-law, ten
- pounds of lawful english money to be paid to her when she has
- accomplished
- the age of one and twenty years or at the day of her marriage if it shall first
- come. The rest of my substance, goods whatsoever, I give to be equally
- divided between **Mary and Elizabeth Ruff, my grandchildren**,
- to be paid unto each of them at the like
- time wherein the elder sister's portion is to be paid to her . .
-
- And I do make my loving friends, **Thomas Ward of St. Mary's Church** and
- **Thomas Ruff of High Halstow** in the county of Kent, husbandman,
- executors.

174 since Alice had a number of grandchildren she was obviously someone who spun thread as distinct from an unmarried woman

- . . . I have set my hand
- and seal November 16th 1620

Alice Bowles, her mark

The Bowles of Seal, Kemsing, Ightham & Shipbourne

The first mention of the Bowles - or **Boull(e)** - is in **Kemsing** where George Bowle was buried on 25th April 1584, his wife having been buried on 6th September 1580. The George Bowle below (#1048¹⁷⁵) was probably their son given the same first name (which was not particularly common) and with his first two children baptised in Kemsing. He married in Seal but the name of his wife is not given; two of his children were married, in Seal, to people from Seal.

The Samuel Bowles family seems to have been particularly unfortunate. Whilst, the burial of less than one child in ten born in Seal was recorded during its first year, out of seven Bowle children, only Amy and George survived this critical period.

Contrast this with the Booths, the Bramptons and the Broughtons who, between them, had seventeen children (including a pair of twins) without a burial being recorded for any of them.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#1048	<u>BOWLE, George</u> -----	<1562	21 Oct 1582	- -	1	2	
• #2061	<u>Bowle, Annes/Agnes</u>	20 Jun 1585(K)	13 May 1617	William LAWRENCE married at 31	#1280	1 0	16 Apr 1620 no children recorded
• #2047	<u>BOWLE, Samuel</u> 	30 May 1587(K)	23 Apr 1615	Elizabeth Barnaby ¹⁷⁶ married at 28		1 7	9 Dec 1639
• #1513	<u>Barnaby, Elizabeth</u>	21 Jul 1588		married at 26		1 7	
• • #2286	<u>Bowle, Amy</u>	15 Oct 1615				0 0	
• • #2287	<u>Bowle, Jane</u>	7 Feb 1619				0 0	18 May 1619 3 mnths
• • #2288	<u>BOWLE, Samuel</u>	10 Dec 1620				0 0	22 Feb 1621 2 mnths
			no father given for the burial but taken as #2288				
• • #2289	<u>BOWLE, John</u>	27 Apr 1623				0 0	Sep 1623 5 mnths
• • #2290	<u>BOWLE, Reginald</u>	13 Mar 1625				0 0	28 May 1625 2 mnths
• • #3750	<u>Bowle, - -</u>	16 Sep 1627				0 0	16 Jan 1628 4 mnths
• • #2291	<u>BOWLE, George</u>	03 Apr 1630				0 0	

176 see [Barnaby](#) (earlier in this section) for details of Elizabeth

Richard Bowles, clerk, married in Ightham where both his children were baptised but the Shipbourne parish register has an entry for each of them:

- Francis, son of Richard Bowles, born 18 October 1627 baptised 1 November at Ightham;
- Sarah, daughter of Richard Bowles, born 11 July 1629 baptised 16 July at Ightham.

It looks, therefore, as if Richard and his family lived in Shipbourne; perhaps Sara Bowyer came from Ightham. Richard and Sara's daughter, Sara, married on 6th March most probably 1649 but possibly 1650. No year is given but it is the next recorded marriage after the one on 7 September 1648 but on a new page followed by several baptisms; the next marriage recorded is one on 11 Aug 1651. The record includes "maritati in ecclia de Stansted" - were they married in Stansted in Essex? See the next page for the children of Sara and James.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
i2281	<u>BOWLES, Richard</u> -----	clerk	1 Jan 1627	Sara Bowyer i2282	1 2	
• i2283	<u>BOWLES, Francis</u>	1 Nov 1627	(son)		0 0	29 May 1628 at 6 mnths
• i2318	<u>Bowles, Sara</u>	16 Jul 1629	6 Mar 1649	James HICKFORD i2611	1 2	

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i2611	<u>HICKFORD, James</u> -----		6 Mar 1649	Sara Bowles	1	2	
i2318	<u>Bowles, Sara</u> -----	16 Jul 1629			1	2	
			married at 19/20				
• i2612	<u>HICKFORD, Richard</u>	21 May 1650					0 0
			baptised 3 Jun when 13 days old				
• i2613	<u>Hickford, Elizabeth</u>	30 Jul 1651					0 0
			baptised 11 Aug when 12 days old				

The Ightham parish record gave the date of birth and baptism for these entries.

The Bowndes of Ightham

The first Bowndes appear in the Court Records between 1490 and 1508: **Agnes Bownde, Jane Bownde, brewer, John Bownde and William Bownde**. During the second half of the sixteenth century there were a large number of Bowndes in Ightham, some of them being referred to as yeomen in the Court Rolls. However, although over twenty baptisms were recorded during this time, the last recorded event was the burial of Anne? Bownde on 12 February 1604. What happened to all of them?

The John Bowndes

There are problems sorting out the various **John Bowndes** (at least one of whom was mentioned in the Court Records for 1553-74) and their children. In the 1560s there were:

- John Bownde with sons Nicholas (i191) and Robert (i192) baptised 1561 and 1563 respectively, taken as the **John Bownde, senior** (i188¹⁷⁷) and also

177 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

the father of Margerie (i195), baptised in 1566. The burial of John Bownde, smith, took place on 9th June 1582; this could have been i188.

- John Bownde who married in 1563 who was John Bownde, junior when Nicholas was baptised:

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
i190	<u>BOWNDE, John</u> -----	<1543	26 Sep 1563	Alice Knight i198	1 7	
• i199	<u>BOWNDE, Nicholas</u>	21 Jan 1564				0 0
• i200	<u>Bownde, Marie</u>	7 Jul 1566				0 0
• i201	<u>BOWNDE, Thomas</u>	17 Oct 1568				0 0
• i215	<u>BOWNDE, George</u>	23 Mar 1572				0 0
• i220	<u>Bownde, Joane</u>	20 Mar 1575				0 0
• i221	<u>Bownde, Frances</u>	7 Dec 1578				0 0
• i222	<u>BOWNDE, Lambard</u>	15 May 1581	daughter of John Bownde, smith			0 0

Was i190 a son of i188, born before the register of baptisms was started? He could have been the "[John Bownde, ironsmith, yeoman](#)," mentioned in the Court Records 1586-1618, a smith like his father. A George Bownde appeared in the Court Records in 1602 when John's son would have been thirty.

William Lambarde who wrote “A Perambulation of Kent” published in 1576, married Jane, the daughter of George Multon, in 1570. Although Jane died three years later, William lived in Ightham for some time. The John Bownde whose youngest son was called Lambarde may have given him this name because of some connection with William Lambarde who travelled a large amount and could often have needed the services of a blacksmith..

This still leaves two daughters of a John Bowndes:

- Johane i218 baptised 2 Sep 1571
- Margaret i219 7 Dec 1578, “daughter of John Bownde, tailor”

Thus another **John Bownde** (i216) has been introduced as the tailor with Johane possibly also his daughter.

Other Bowndes

The only mention of Marie Bownde (i194) is as the mother of Jeremie baptised on 6th March 1566. There is no mention of him being a “base child”.

Other isolated baptisms (some without fathers being given) and burials are:

- Nicholas Bownde (i191) baptised 13th August 1561
- Robert Bownde (i192) baptised 27th December 1563

- Margerie Bownde (i195) baptised 29th September 1566
- Anne (i209), daughter of Arthur Bownde (i206), baptised on 7th July 1577 and buried, five days later, on 12th July.
- Mabill (i228), daughter of Thomas Bownde (i226), baptised on 13th December 1579
- Margaret Bownde, widow, buried 22nd November 1594. Although the second wife of Robert (i191) was Margaret, this widow cannot have been Robert's wife since she, "[Margaret, wife of Robert Bownde](#)" was buried on 15th September 1593.

Two other families can be assembled but without any known connections between them:

		born	see page
Robert	i193	<1545	2.b.142, 209
Wombwell	i207	<1556	2.b.210

Elizabeth baptised 23 Jul 1592 and Anne baptised 18 Apr 1596 have been taken as the daughters of **Robert Bownde's son, John** (i204 - see page 2.b.142, 209) who could have been the John Bownde buried in 1599. These are the only second generation children recorded.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
i193	<u>BOWNDE, Robert</u> -----	<1545			2 5	
	<i>Marriage 1</i>		14 Oct 1565	Alice Bowton	1 3	
i202	<u>Bowton, Alice</u> -----	<1545			1 3	29 Dec 1572 about 30
• i203	<u>BOWNDE, William</u>	28 Jul 1566			0 0	29 Jul 1566 <1 wk
• i204	<u>BOWNDE, John</u>	5 Oct 1567			1 2	
• • i185	<u>Bownde, Elizabeth</u>	23 Jul 1592				0 0
• • i2865	<u>Bownde, Anne</u>	18 Apr 1596				0 0
• i205	<u>Bownde, Marie</u>	15 Jul 1571				0 0
	<i>Marriage 2</i>		1572-1580	Margaret Bownde(m)	1 2	
i223	<u>Bownde(m), Margaret</u> -----				1 2	15 Sep 1593
						"Margaret, wife of Robert Bownde" when she was buried
• i224	<u>BOWNDE, Robert</u>	19 Mar 1581				0 0
• i225	<u>Bownde, Anne</u>	30 Apr 1584				0 0

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
i207	<u>BOWNDE, Wombwell</u> ----- 	<1556			1 4	
i210	<u>wife of Wombwell Bownde</u> ----- Wombwell's wife died a day or two after their fourth child was baptised.				1 4	9 Jul 1585 in her 30s
• i211	<u>Bownde, Lucy</u>	15 Sep 1577			0 0	
• i212	<u>Bownde, Parnell</u>	4 Dec 1580			0 0	
• i213	<u>Bownde, Alice</u>	7 Apr 1583			0 0	
• i214	<u>BOWNDE, Nicholas</u>	4 Jul 1585			0 0	

Marie (i205) could have been the Marie Bownde who married Richard Hunter (i877) on 2nd November 1600 - see [Hunter in More Families & Transcripts](#).

Thomas Wombwell, gent had a son, Sampson, baptised in Ightham in 1581; perhaps Wombwell's father had been connected with the Wombwells and called his son after the family.

An infant of Nicholas Bownde of Ightham was buried at Shipbourne on 9th February 1606. If the father of this infant was a Nicholas whose baptism was recorded in Ightham, he is most likely to have been Wombwell's son shown above.

The Bowndes and the Court Records

John Bownde, ironsmith, yeoman, was mentioned in the Court Records for 1586-1618; he was one of the residents within the View of Frank-pledge in October 1597 who made default but was pardoned because he had not been sufficiently summoned to the Court. (CRI 1938, p.33) This could have been i190.

On 10th March 1602, **George Bownde** was assaulted in the highway at Ightham by **Thomas Castleton** (see **Excerpts from Ightham Court Rolls in Section Z of Families & Transcripts**) and **Robert Averill** who "drew blood". They were each fined 3s 4d by the Court held on 1st April. "The said George Bownde then and there assaulted the said Thomas and Robert. Fined 12d." (CRI 1938, p.7). This could have been i190's son George who, in 1602, would have been 30 years old - see page 2.b.206. In the list of names (CRI 1938, p.57) he is referred to as "**George Bownde of Wrotham, husbandman**".

A **Robert Bownde**, who was probably i193 - see page 2.b.142, 209, appeared in the Court Records 1553-74 and a number of times in the later period:

- On 2nd October 1587 his wife, together with **John Burghe's wife**, were each fined 6d for being "**common hedge-breakers**" (CRI 1937, p.217). This must have been Margaret (i223). Eighteen months later she was again

presented to the Court, this time with the **wife of Richard West** (i895). This time their husbands were each fined 3s 4d and higher penalties were introduced for future offences of the same type - see *Excerpts from the Ightham Court Rolls*.

- On 3rd October 1588, **Robert Bownde and Robert Balden** were presented to the Court for having "**fought together with their hands. Fined 12d each.**" (CRI 1938, p.4). Robert Balden married in 1583 so that, if the above reconstitution is correct, there could have been nearly twenty years between the two contestants. But, instead of one Robert Bownde marrying twice, there could have been two.
- On 2nd September 1591, **Robert Launder** (see **Launder in More Families & Transcripts**) "**assaulted Robert Bownde, and struck him, drawing blood. Robert Bownde then and there assaulted Robert Launder.**" The October Court fined Launder 3s 4d and Bownde 6d. (CRI 1938, p.4)

Other Bowndes\Boundes mentioned in the Court Records are:

1553-74 **William Bownde, tithing man**

1586-1618 **Alice Bownde** - could not have been Robert's first wife since she died in 1572

Elizabeth Bownde

Jane Bownde

Margery Bownde - was this the Margery born in 1566 (i195)?

Or was Robert's wife, the "common hedge-breaker", referred to once as Margaret and another time as Margery?

Richard Bownde

Thomas Bownde of **Yalding**, husbandman

William Bownde yeoman

The Bramptons of Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#334 ¹⁷⁸	<u>BRAMPTON, William</u> -----	<1547	20 Jul 1567	Elizabeth Averell #335	1	6	
• #416	<u>BRAMPTON, Reginald</u>	2 Apr 1568	<Feb1596 at <28 years		1	1	
• • #1873	<u>BRAMPTON, Moses</u>	24 Oct 1596					0 0
• #478	<u>Brampton, Alice</u>	11 Mar 1570					0 0
• #776	<u>Brampton, Margery</u>	13 Jun 1574					0 0
• #836	<u>BRAMPTON, Keelynge</u>	24 Jan 1577					0 0
• #914	<u>BRAMPTON, Allen</u>	12 Apr 1579					0 0
• #1417	<u>BRAMPTON, John</u>	19 Jan 1587					0 0

178 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

There are no records of any Brampton deaths. However, the burials of two children nursed at "Bramptons" are recorded:

Ann	(no details given)	24 Aug
1577		
- - Fletcher,	daughter of Fletcher of Kingsdown	31 Oct 1577

Kingsdown is about four miles to the north of Seal.

On 5th April 1592, **William Brampton** was fined 12d for allowing "his son to cut down and carry away a tree called a 'byrche' lately growing on the common of Ightham". (Court Rolls, Ightham, p.207). No Bramptons were recorded in the Ightham parish registers.

The Brattles of Shipbourne

John Brattle (\$873¹⁷⁹) married **Joane Heath** (alias Baker, \$879) on 8th February 1608 by a licence from Rochester. Two children were baptised in Shipbourne:

- Jeane \$928 5 Mar 1609
- Nicholas \$1006 29 Dec 1610.

On 4th June 1632 **Jane Brattle** married **Thomas Laxby** (\$1571). Jane could have been John Brattle's daughter who would have been twenty-three in 1632.

179 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

The Brett/Breets of Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
#55 ¹⁸⁰	<u>BRETT, John</u> -----				1 2	
• #57	<u>BRETT, William</u>	28 Sep 1562			0 0	15 Oct 1562
• #121	<u>Brett, Elizabeth</u>	7 May 1564			0 0	
	This may be the end of a family with earlier births before recording started					
#3708	<u>BREET, Samuel</u> -----			Gertrude Breet(m) #3709	1 3	
	expected to be in the Kno1e MS of 1648 but he is not included					
• #3710	<u>BREET, Nicholas</u>	13 Jul 1645			0 0	
• #3711	<u>Breet, Mary</u>	28 May 1648			0 0	
• #3712	<u>BREET, Samuel</u>	1 Jun 1652			0 0	

180 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

The Brights from Seal, Ightham and Kemsing

There were two Bright families, one in Seal and the other in Ightham with, in addition, a few isolated occurrences of the name including a marriage and baptism of a child of the marriage in Kemsing. None were recorded in Shipbourne.

James Bright, who was mentioned in the Court Records for Ightham between 1586 and 1618, had a **daughter, Joane**, baptised in Ightham on 26th December 1602. **Johane Bright** died from the plague in 1603 and was buried, in **Seal**, on 29th September.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
k122 ¹⁸¹	<u>BRIGHT, Matthew</u> of Kemsing -----	<1590	30 Nov 1610	Anna Hodley k123	1 1	>1625
k123	<u>Hodley, Anna</u> -----				1 1	20 Aug 1625(S) in her 40s
• k124	<u>BRIGHT, Matthew</u>	26 Jun 1614			0 0	

¹⁸¹ "k" indicates a reference in the Kemsing database, # in Seal and "i" in Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
#2333	<u>BRIGHT, William</u> of Seal -----	<1604			2	7
	<i>Marriage 1</i>		listed in Knole MS 1648 - Chart			
			22 Sep 1624	Elizabeth Pickenden	1	6
#2334	<u>Pickenden, Elizabeth</u> ¹⁸² -----	<1604			1	6 25 Oct 1639
• #2335	<u>Bright, Elizabeth</u>	23 Nov 1625			0	0
• #2336	<u>Bright, Dorothy</u>	10 Feb 1628			0	0 25 Nov 1638
• #2337	<u>Bright, Susanna</u>	1 Jan 1630			0	0
• #2338	<u>Bright, Ann</u>	29 Feb 1632 ¹⁸³			0	0 29 Feb 1632
• #2339	<u>BRIGHT, Richard</u>	29 Mar 1634			0	0 02 Apr 1634
• #2340	<u>BRIGHT, William</u>	25 Oct 1635			0	0
	<i>Marriage 2</i>		1640	Anne Bright(m) #2341	1	1
• #2342	<u>Bright, Mary</u>	14 Nov 1641		daughter of William and Anne	0	0

182 see [Pickenden in More Families & Transcripts](#) for Elizabeth's family

183 a stillborn child of William Brights's was buried (according to the register) on 29th February but the baptism of Ann was also recorded for this date ; perhaps Ann was a surviving twin

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i1132	<u>BRIGHT, Thomas</u> ----- 		11 Nov 1632	Elizabeth Millis 11111	1	4	
			mentioned in the Court Records 1586-1618				
i1111	<u>Millis, Elizabeth</u> -----	13 Sep 1607		married at 25	1	4	
•	i1133 <u>Bright, Joane</u>	13 Mar 1636			0	0	
•	i1134 <u>BRIGHT, Thomas</u>	14 Jan 1638			0	0	16 Feb 1638
•	i1135 <u>Bright, Jana</u>	25 Mar 1650		buried the day after she died	0	0	22 May 1650
•	i1136 <u>Bright, Jane</u>	16 Nov 1651			0	0	

All four children were described as "[of Thomas Bright and Elizabeth](#)" even though there is a gap of 12 years between the second and third.

John Brightling, Blacksmith of Tonbridge

The first and last (fifth) pages of John Brightling's will (CKS: Drb/Pw 32; Drb/Pwr 23.100) have been transcribed. It was written by George Hooper. This "original" was actually a copy made by George Hooper but, since he witnessed the original, he most probably also wrote that. The note at the end saying it was a accordance with the original was signed by another notary public whose name looks like P.Stone. This note says that the original was "left with the estate".

The sheets of the original will were "filed . . . together with a label of parchment" to which John set his seal.

John was married but does not seem to have had any children. Although the middle of the will had not been transcribed it seems that some of his property was given to the Town of Tonbridge for almshouses.

Three of the beneficiaries of his will were "Gartred, my kinswoman, the daughter of John Hills of Seal, husbandman, now the wife of Nicholas Wheeler" and Gartred's sister, "Elizabeth, my kinswoman, now wife of Robert Hammon" and brother "Robert Hills, my kinsman". John Hills of Seal married Rachel Briteling in 1609 and Gartred, Elizabeth and Robert could have been their children, Elizabeth

being baptised on 1st March 1612, Robert on 11th October 1612¹⁸⁴ and Gartred on 25th February 1616. Elizabeth's marriage was recorded in 1635. On the death of the testator's wife, Jane, Gartred and Elizabeth were both to come into some of John's property. Briteling and Brightling could be different spellings of the same name and Rachel could have been the testator's sister or aunt. See [Hills of Seal in Families & Transcripts](#) for more details.

Will of John Brightling of Tonbridge

written 10th May 1648

transcript from original

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The tenth day of May, one thousand six
- 2 hundred forty and eight, Anno. regni. ?? ?? Caroli Regis Anglia de ??
- 3 quarto, I, John
- 4 Brightling of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **blacksmith**, being at this
- present sick and weak in
- body but of sound and perfect mind and memory (for which I praise God)
- for the order and disposing of

184 perhaps Elizabeth was a few months old when she was baptised

5 the temporal estate which God hath lent me here on earth, do therefore
6 make and ordain this to be my
7 testament and last will in manner and form following: that is to say, **First**
8 and principally I will and resign my soul to the
9 gracious acceptance of Almighty god hoping and assuredly trusting to
10 have the remission and pardon of all my
11 sins and eternal salvation by th'only merits, death and passion of his dearly
12 beloved son Jesus Christ,
13 my alone saviour and redeemer and my body to the earth in decent manner
14 to be buried as the discretion
15 of mine executrix hereafter named. I will and give to **Thomas Brightling,**
my brother, one shilling
of lawful english money. **Item:** I will and give to **Margaret, the daughter of**
my said brother Thomas
Brightling, the sum of ten shillings lawful money of England. **Item:** I will
and give to **John**
Mills, John Manser, John Betts and the **daughter of George Barnabye,** all of
them being my godchildren,
twelve pence a piece. **Item:** I will and give to **Gartred, my kinswoman, the**
daughter of John Hills of
Seal, husbandman, now the wife of **Nicholas Wheeler,** the sum of five
pounds lawful money of

16 England. **Item:** I will and give to **Elizabeth, my kinswoman,** now **wife of**
17 **Robert Hammon, daughter**
18 also of the said John Hills, the like sum of five pounds of like lawful money.
Item: I will and
19 give to **Robert Hills, my kinsman, son of the said John Hills,** the like sum of
20 five
21 pounds of like lawful money. **Item:** I give to **Anne, the wife of John**
Burrows, my wife's sister, in token of
22 my love, ten shillings. **Item:** I will and give to my good friend **Richard**
Chowning five
23 shillings. All which said several legacies aforesaid I will shalbe paid by
24 mine executrix hereafter named
25 within one year next after my decease. The residue of all other my goods,
26 stock and tools belonging
to my trade and all my household stuff, debts and chattles of what nature
or kind soever, I wholly leave
to **Jane, my dear and loving wife,** and I make and ordain her, the said Jane,
to be the sole executrix
of this my testament and last will, to see the same proved, my debts and
legacies paid and my body decently to be
brought to the earth and buried. And I do earnestly entreat and desire my
neighbours and loving friends

page 5:

- from and after my decease shalbe paid the sum of five shillings lawful money of England out of my said five dwelling houses appointed
- as aforesaid for Almshouses by the churchwarden or overseer for the poor of the said Town of Tonbridge from time to time
- upon demand and made thereof by the said Thomas Brightling, my brother. And my will is that if the said quarterly payment
- shalbe behind and unpaid by the space of ten days next after any time wherein the same shall grow due, it being
- demanded as aforesaid, that then it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Thomas, my brother, into the said dwelling house or
- tenement wherein **Edmond Johnson** and **widow Clarke** now dwell to enter and the same from thence forth during the natural life of
- the said Thomas, to have, hold and enjoy to his proper use and benefit, anything herein contained to the contrary hereof notwithstanding.
- And after the death of the said Thomas, my brother, the sum to return and be to the use and benefit of the said poor of Tonbridge
- Town as as Almshouse forever. **Item:** my will and mind is that from and after my decease, during the natural life of

- the said Jane, my wife, the rents, issues and profits of all that dwelling
- house and tenement situated between the said two dwelling houses
- or tenements appointed for almshouses in **Mill Lane** als. **East Lane** in
- Tonbridge aforesaid wherei **George Sharlock** now dwelleth
- and the backside or garden plot thereunto belonging and the two
- backsides or garden plots usually belonging to the said tenements
- appointed for almshouses shalbe had, holden, received and enjoyed by and
- between the said Gartred, my kinswoman, now wife of
- Nicholas Wheeler, and the said Elizabeth, now wife of Robert Hammon, ??
- the said Gartred and her heirs shall or may have, hold
- and enjoy the moiety or one half thereof and the said Elizabeth and her
- heirs shall or may have, hold and enjoy the other
- moiety or half thereof. **Item:** from and after the decease of the said Jane,
- my wife, I wholly will, give and devise the said dwelling house
- or tenement wherein George Sharlock now dwelleth and the said several
- backsides or gardens as well to the same as to the said two
- tenements appointed for almshouses belonging with th'appurtenances
- unto the said Gartred, my kinswoman, her heirs and assigns, for
- ever, to hold to th'only use and behoof of the said Gartred, her heirs and
- assigns, forever. **Item:** from and after the death of the said Jane,
- my wife, I will and devise and give to the said Elizabeth, my kinswoman,
- now wife of Robert Hammon, her heirs and assigns, all my said

- message or tenement wherein **David Harris** now dwelleth and the garden and backside with th'appurtenances thereto belonging, situated and being also in Mill Lane als. East Lane aforesaid, to hold to th'only use and behoof of the said Elizabeth, her heirs and assigns, forever.
- In witness whereof I, the said John Brightling, have to this my testament and last will set my seal and have filed all the said sheets together with a label of parchment whereto I have set my seal the day and year first before written. Signed John Brightling
- Read, sealed, published and declared by the said John Brightling to be his testament and last will in the presence of **Thomas Brasier**
- **George Mare** and **Geo. Hooper**.

The Brissendens of Ightham and Shipbourne

Towards the end of the sixteenth century there were a number of Brissendens (sometime spelled Brisenden) in Ightham.

A Richard "Bresyndeyn" is mentioned in the Court Records for 1553-74 and in 1589 Thomas Brissenden was fined for fighting - see page 2.b.299.

On 5th April 1592, the Court heard that Robert Brisenden had "**assaulted Ralph Shelden, servant of Robert Wade, at Ightham, and hit him with a stick, drawing blood. Fined 3s 4d each.**" (CRI 1938, p.4).

A **William Brissenden** was buried in Seal on 4th June 1576; this is the only mention of Brissendens in Seal.

In Ightham **William Brissenden, potter**, had a number of children:

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i739 ¹⁸⁵	<u>BRISSENDEN, William</u> -----	potter			1	3	
• i1186	<u>BRISSENDEN, Thomas</u>				0	0	3 Jan 1571
• i741	<u>BRISSENDEN, John</u>	26 Jan 1573			0	0	28 Jan 1573
		no father given for burial so may not have been William's new born son who died in January 1573					
• i2157	<u>BRISSENDEN, William</u>				1	1	
		the father of James could have been a son of i739					
• • i2159	<u>BRISSENDEN, James</u>	5 Sep 1619				0	0

At the March 1580 Assizes William Bryssnden, labourer, of Ightham was indicted for grand larceny. On 31st January 1580, at Ightham, he stole a gun (10s), a sword (10s) and a dagger (5s) from William Terry. He was found guilty but allowed clergy¹⁸⁶. This William could have been i739 even though the above William was described as a potter in the parish register as these descriptions often differ even when it is known that they refer to the same man.

¹⁸⁵ "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

¹⁸⁶ Cockburn (Eliz.I) 1006

There was one family of Brisendens in Shipbourne:

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
\$1438 ¹⁸⁷	<u>BRISSENDEN, James</u> -----				1	11	
• \$2104	<u>Brissenden, Dorothy</u>		19 Sep 1647	Thomas GYLES \$2105	1	0	
• \$1440	<u>Brissenden, Susan</u>	29 Jul 1627			0	0	
• \$1441	<u>BRISSENDEN, James</u>	2 Nov 1628			0	0	
• \$1442	<u>Brissenden, Elizabeth</u>	15 Aug 1630			0	0	
• \$1443	<u>BRISSENDEN, George</u>	22 Apr 1632			0	0	
• \$1444	<u>Brissenden, Alice</u>	30 Mar 1634			0	0	
• \$1677	<u>BRISSENDEN, Thomas</u>	14 Apr 1636			0	0	30 Apr 1639
• \$1746	<u>BRISSENDEN, Henry</u>	13 Jan 1639			0	0	8 Dec 1642
• \$1678	<u>BRISSENDEN, Edward</u>	13 Sep 1640			0	0	26 Jan 1650
• \$1679	<u>BRISSENDEN, Robert</u>	24 Oct 1642			0	0	24 Mar 1644
• \$1922	<u>Brissenden, Anne</u>	25 Mar 1645			0	0	

¹⁸⁷ "\$" indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

The Broades of Ightham and Seal

Margaret Brode (i428¹⁸⁸), baker and brewer, was mentioned in the Court Records for 1553-74. There were two Broade families in the area, that of Nicholas and Joane in Ightham and that of Peter who moved to Seal in the late 1570s.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
i375	<u>BROADE, Nicholas</u> ----- 			Joane Broade(m) i376	1 4	25 Feb 1598
				mentioned in the Court Records 1553-74 and 1586-1618		
i376	<u>Broade(m), Joane</u> -----				1 4	2 Mar 1598
				Joane Broade, buried March 1598, has been taken as the wife of Nicholas buried a week earlier		
• i377	<u>BROADE, John</u>	30 Nov 1562				0 0
• i378	<u>BROADE, Peter</u>	29 Apr 1565				0 0
• i379	<u>Broade, Margery</u>	5 Sep 1568	6 May 1604	Thomas WILLIAMSON married at 35 see below	1 4	
• i380	<u>Broade, Jane</u>	20 May 1571				0 0

188 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database and # in that for Seal

Nicholas's daughter could have been the Margery Broade who married Thomas Williamson on 6th May 1568. She would ,however, have been thirty-five, rather late to marry and have at least three children - see [Williamson in More Families & Transcript.s](#).

Ann Broade (i1382) married Thomas Lyne (i381) on 7th July 1588. Ann could have been another daughter of Nicholas, born before 1562.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#895	<u>BROADE, Peter</u> -----				1	7	26 Jul 1586
• #3833	<u>Broade, Marie</u>	1 Jul 1565(I)			0	0	
• #3834	<u>BROADE, William</u>	28 Sep 1567(I)			0	0	22 Oct 1567(I)
• #3835	<u>Broade, Awdrie</u>	28 Oct 1568(I)			0	0	
• #3836	<u>Broade, Agnes</u>	26 Nov 1570(I)			0	0	
• #3837	<u>BROADE, Andrew</u>	1 Jan 1576(I)			0	0	
• #897	<u>BROADE, Peter</u>	25 Jan 1579			0	0	
• #1133	<u>Broade, Margaret</u>	12 Nov 1581			0	0	

Peter Broade was mentioned in the Court Records for 1586-1618. After moving to Seal they appear to have taken in nurse children with the burial of **John Price** from London, nursed at Peter Broades, being recorded for 3rd June 1580, that of **Savell Stocker**, nursed at "Broades", on 26th April 1581.

Thomas Brodnax, gentleman of Ightham

<u>Num</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Married</u>	<u>Spouse</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Died</u>
i2218 ¹⁸⁹	<u>BRODNAX, Thomas</u> ----- gent				1	3	
• i2220	<u>Brodnax, Jane</u>	12 Mar 1626			0	0	
• i2221	<u>BRODNAX, Thomas</u>	18 Mar 1628			0	0	
• i2222	<u>BRODNAX, William</u>	30 Aug 1629			0	0	

189 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

The George Brookers of Speldhurst

The will of George Brooker, carpenter of Speldhurst (CKS: Drb/Pw 18; Drb/Pwr 19I.58) has survived; it was written in January 1599 by John Denton. It is the only surviving will for Broke, Brook, Brooke or Brooker from Speldhurst other than that of John Broke written in 1492 (CKS: Drb/Pwr 5.211). George left ten shillings to be spent amongst his “[honest neighbours](#)” at his burial.

Only the first and last pages have been transcribed. George left his “[instuff and implements of household stuff whatsoever](#)” to be divided equally by his three children: John, Agnes and Sara. Such a division must have been difficult to do and George specified that it was to be carried out by three men, one to represent the interests of each child.

No other children are mentioned in the two pages transcribed but George describes himself as “[George Brooker, the elder](#)”. He could thus have had a son George who was mentioned in the central section of the will.

1 In the name of god Amen. The 23rd day of January and in
2 the one and fortieth year of the reign of our most gracious
3 sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of god of
4 England, France and Ireland Queen, defender of the faith, etc.
5 I, George Brooker of the parish of Speldhurst in the county
6 of Kent, **carpenter**, being visited with sickness, old age
7 and impotent, am hereby put in mind of my last end, notwithstanding
8 of good and perfect remembrance, thanks therefore be given to
9 Almighty God. Therefore I do ordain and make this my present
10 testament and last will in manner and form following: viz: **First**
11 and principally I give and bequeath unto my soul to the hands of
12 Almighty God trusting to be saved by the death and passion of our
13 lord Jesus Christ and my body unto the earth to be buried in
14 the churchyard of Speldhurst aforesaid. **Item:** I give unto the
15 poor resorting unto my burial 3s 4d. And to be spent amongst my
16 honest neighbours ten shillings. **Item:** I give and bequeath all
17 my instuff and implements of household stuff whatsoever unto
18 **my three children, John, my son, and Agnes** and
19 **Sara, my daughters**, to be equally divided between them by three

- 20 men indifferent between them to be chosen for either of them.
21 **Item:** I give unto Agnes, my daughter, five
22 pounds of good and lawful money of England to be paid by mine

last page:

- forever. Anything herein mentioned to the contrary hereof notwithstanding.
- In witness whereof I, the said George Brooker, the elder, to this
- my last will and testament have set my hand and
- seal yeven the day and year first above written in
- the presence of Thomas Chisman¹⁹⁰, **James Young** and **William**
- **Bevis** with others.

Thomas Chisman his mark¹⁹¹
James Young
William Beauvis¹⁹²

190 was this the Thomas Cheeseman whose will of May 1621 has survived? (see [Cheeseman in XC](#))

191 "X" inside a circle

192 whilst "Thomas Chisman" is written here exactly as it was in the will, both the names of James Young and William Beauvis (as it is spelled here) are completely different and are, therefore, probably signatures written by the two witnesses.

by me **John Denton, scriptor**

George Brooker his mark

George Brooker, scriptor

At the beginning of the seventeenth century there was a George Brooker in Spelhurst who was the scriptor of a number of wills including that of Walter Fry of Speldhurst in 1605 and Anne Lucke of Penshurst in 1610. In 1605 he was one of the witnesses to Thomas Curd's will and probably also wrote it.

A George Brooker was the only witness to the will of Richard Curd written in 1637. Was he the same George Brooker as the one who wrote thirty years earlier? Since Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, wrote wills for parishioners in a large number of villages from 1574 to 1618 and his son, John Hooper, parish clerk of Tonbridge and a notary public, did the same from 1601 to 1641, George Brooker writing wills for thirty-two years seems quite possible.

The carpenter whose will has survived could have been the father of the scriptor.

The Broughtons of Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#207 ¹⁹³	<u>BROUGHTON, Thomas</u> -----				2	4	
	<i>Marriage 1</i>		23 Jun 1563(K)	Agnes Watts	1	1	
#598	<u>Watts, Agnes</u> -----				1	1	16 Mar 1567
• #209	<u>Broughton, Elizabeth</u>	23 Jun 1566				0	0
	<i>Marriage 2</i>		1567/8		1	3	
• #468	<u>BROUGHTON, Robert</u>	28 Oct 1569	twin			0	0
• #469	<u>Broughton, Joane</u>	28 Oct 1569	twin			0	0
• #545	<u>BROUGHTON, Thomas</u>	28 Jan 1573				0	0

193 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#510	<u>BROUGHTON, William</u> -----	<1551	<1571	Margaret Broughton(m) #1040	1	1	<1582
• #512	<u>BROUGHTON, John</u>	27 May 1571					0 0

The name of William's wife is not known but a Margaret Broughton, widow of Otford, married **Richard Cripps, (#1039)**, on 21st February 1582. If this was #510's wife, she was called Margaret and #510 died before 1582. No children were recorded for the Cripps marriage but, since she lived in Otford as a widow, children of both marriages could have been born there.

There was (and still is) a house called Broughtons in Otford - see [The Polhills in More Families & Transcripts](#)..

Alice Browne of Seal & her two Families

John Browne and his wife Alice had two children baptised in Seal, the second one dying when only nine months old. In July 1626, Alice Browne, widow, married William Guy. Although the burial of John was not recorded, William Guy's wife could have been John's widow.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#2723 ¹⁹⁴	<u>BROWNE, John</u> ----- 			Alice Browne(m)	1	2	<Jul 1626
#2728	<u>his wife, Alice</u> -----				2	4	
• #2729	<u>BROWNE, George</u>	29 Sep 1616				0	0
• #2730	<u>Browne, Denise</u>	22 Aug 1619		recorded as "Dennis, da."		0	0 29 May 1620

See the next page for Alice's second family

194 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#2731	<u>GUY, William</u> -----		25 Jul 1626	Alice Browne(m) #2728	1	2	-- --- 1648
• #2744	<u>GUY, William</u>	14 May 1627					0 0
• #2745	<u>GUY, Robert</u>	31 May 1629					0 0 24 Nov 1638

The Brownes of Seal

Brown is a common name and it is unlikely that all of the following are related.

Thomas Browne married Alice sometime before 1640 and his wife is another Alice who could have married twice. Thomas was listed in the **Knole MS 1648** - Seal village.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
#2724 ¹⁹⁶	<u>BROWNE, Thomas</u> -----			Alice Browne(m)	1 2	
						#2732
• #2733	<u>BROWNE, John</u>			31 Jan 1641		0 0
• #2734	<u>BROWNE, Thomas</u>			7 Oct 1644		0 0

If Thomas died at the end of 1648/beginning of 1649, it could be his widow who married **John Windgate (#587)** on 1 May 1649. No children were recorded up to 1650. John who was also listed in the Knole MS for Seal village, had six children by his first marriage - see **Windgate in More Families & Transcripts**.

195 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

Robert Brown (#2720) was buried on 10th March 1615 and his widow on 8th September 1616. He was one of the members of the jury which investigated the alleged infanticide of Benedicta Sherman in 1611 - see [Sherman in More Families & Transcripts](#).

Anne (#2727), daughter of **William Browne** (#2721) was baptised on 26th May 1605.

John Browne (#2722) was buried on 12th March 1618

The Brownes of Shipbourne

Only isolated events were recorded for the Brownes of Shipbourne.

Francis Browne (\$1396¹⁹⁶) married **Joan Pococke** (\$1395) on 10th January 1623.

Richard Browne (\$1398) married **Elizabeth Walter** (\$1401) on 26th January 1626.

Anne Browne (\$2020) married **John Taylor** (\$2015) on 20th February 1645.

No children were recorded, in Shipbourne, for any of these marriages.

Francis (\$1448), son of **Thomas Browne** (\$1446), was baptised on 16th September 1627.

196 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

Thomas Browne, weaver of Tonbridge

Only the first page of Thomas Browne's will (CKS: Drb/Pw 22; Drb/Pwr 20.293) has been transcribed. It was written by John Hooper who wrote many wills for people in the Tonbridge locality.

Thomas had two young daughters who were each to receive £20 when they reached the age of twenty-one or married. He also said that they were to receive a “reasonable . . . allowance . . . from their ages of 16 years” until they received their legacy.

The Will of Thomas Browne of Tonbridge

written 1st May 1612
transcript from original

1 In¹⁹⁷ the name of god Amen. the first day of May in the tenth year of the
2 reign of our Sovereign Lord King James of England, France and Ireland and
3 of Scotland the 45th. 1612, I, Thomas Browne of Tonbridge in the county

4 of Kent, **weaver**, being¹⁹⁸ at this time sick in body and hereby as by many
other
5 examples put in mind of my last end, notwithstanding of good memory and
??
6 thanks be to God, do ordain and make this my present testament and last
will in
7 manner and form following: And **First** and principally I commend my soul
8 to Almighty god, my maker, with an assured hope of salvation through his
??
9 in his dear son Jesus Christ, my saviour and redeemer, and my body to
10 the earth from whence it was taken. **Item**: I will and give to the¹⁹⁹ poor of
11 the parish of Tonbridge fifteen shillings to be paid by mine executrix
hereafter
12 named to my overseers, or one of them, hereafter named to be at her and
their ??
13 distributed in the day of my burial. **Item**: I will and give to **Elizabeth**,
14 **my daughter**, the sum of thirty pounds of lawful english money to be
15 paid her by mine executrix hereafter named within one year next after my
16 decease or, if she marry within the said year (with my executrix consent) ??

198 "beeing", "bee", etc. including "beefore", throughout

199 from here onwards, "the", "their", "they", etc. is nearly always written without the "t"

17 time and in the day of her such marriage. **Item:** I will and give to **Jane** and
18 **Martha, my daughters**, twenty pounds a piece of of lawful english money
19 to be paid to them at their several ages of twenty and one years or the day
20 of their marriage respectively which shall first happen with some
reasonable ??
21 allowance herefore from their ages of 16 years a piece till they shall receive
??
22 same in virtue of this my testament. And if either of my said daughters,
Elizabeth
23 and Martha, decease before the times aforesaid when their legacies shall
grow due
24 I will one of them shalbe the other's heir. If they both die before the said
??
25 then **John, George and Walter, my sons**, I will shall have their portions
26 equally between them and the survivors of them

The Brungares of Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i39	<u>BRUNGARE, John</u> -----				1	1	25 Sep 1593
i40	<u>wife of John Bungare</u> -----				1	1	20 Jan 1592
• i41	<u>Brungare, Susan</u>	18 Jan 1562				0	0

Was #39 the **John Brongger** who was fined 3s 4d on 14th April 1586 for allowing his boy to spoil, break down and carry away the Lord's wood? (CRI 1938, p.35)

The Bryans of Seal and Shipbourne

There were Bryans in Shipbourne in the 16th century and in Seal in the 17th but how they were connected (if at all) is not known.

\$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database, # in the Seal database.

On 26th January 1575, **Rachel (\$117)**, daughter of **George Bryar, citizen**, nursed at **William Marten's**, was buried. Where George was a citizen of is not given but Bryar could be a misreading of Bryan. See [Martens of Seal & Shipbourne in More Families & Transcripts](#).

When John Bryan of Seal (#2262) married in 1643, he was described as "[John Bryan, junior](#)"; it is therefore assumed that his father was also John Bryan (#2274). The Alice, wife of John Bryant, who died in 1652 is taken as #2274's wife - see page 2.b.251 for details.

A John Bryan was listed in the Knole MS of 1648.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
\$432	<u>BRYAN, Rowland</u> -----	<1563			2	1	3 Oct 1598
	<i>Marriage 1</i>			Anne Bryan(m)	1	2	
\$433	<u>Anne, his wife</u> -----	<1563			1	2	4 Aug 1594
• \$489	<u>Bryan, Mildred</u>	7 Jan 1589			0	0	4 Apr 1595
• \$556	<u>Bryan, Lydia</u>	25 Apr 1591			0	0	18 Dec 1594
	<i>Marriage 2</i>		7 Sep 1595	Alice Lany \$557	1	2	
• \$558	<u>Bryan, child</u>				0	0	28 Sep 1595
• \$458	<u>Bryan, Elizabeth</u>				0	0	30 May 1599

The first two children recorded for Rowland Bryan of Shipbourne died as children and only the burials are recorded for the other two. In 1595 Rowland Bryan's child was buried three weeks after his marriage to Alice and Elizabeth was buried only 8 months after burial of Rowland Bryan; but when was she born?

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#2274	<u>BRYAN, John</u> -----	<1598		Alice Bryan(m)	1	1	
#2270	<u>Alice, his wife</u> -----				1	1	17 May 1652
• #2262	<u>BRYAN, John</u>	<1619			2	7	
	<i>Marriage 1</i>		24 Feb 1639	Ann Adlington	1	2	
• #2256	<u>Adlington, Ann</u>				1	2	24 Feb 1643
• • #2263	<u>BRYAN, John</u>	14 Mar 1640			0	0	26 Mar 1640
• • #2264	<u>Bryan, Judith</u>	4 Jul 1641			0	0	
	<i>Marriage 2</i>		23 Nov 1643	Joane Style #2265	1	5	
• • #2266	<u>Bryan, Anne</u>	12 Dec 1644			0	0	
• • #2267	<u>Bryan, Rachel</u>	3 Mar 1646			0	0	
• • #2268	<u>BRYAN, John</u>	30 Jan 1648			0	0	
• • #2269	<u>Bryan, Margaret</u>	14 Apr 1650			0	0	
• • #2271	<u>Bryan, Elizabeth</u>				0	0	11 May 1653

Richard Buckley, Vicar of Seal

Richard was inducted Vicar of Kemsing and Seal 9 Jan 1603; he died leaving four sons, the eldest not yet five. The short interval between births might have been because a wet nurse was employed.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
#2344	<u>BUCKLEY, Richard</u> ----- Clerk			Catherine	1 4	17 Mar 1608
• #2353	<u>BUCKLEY, George</u>	4 Sep 1603			0 0	
• #2354	<u>BUCKLEY, Edward</u>	4 Jul 1605			0 0	
• #2355	<u>BUCKLEY, James</u>	14 Aug 1606			0 0	
• #2356	<u>BUCKLEY, Richard</u>	17 Dec 1607			0 0	

On 24th March 1608, only seven days after Richard was buried, Catherine, as his relict, was given a Grant of Administration²⁰⁰ so, presumably, Richard had not made a will.

²⁰⁰ Lelland L. Duncan, Kentish Administrations 1604-1649; A.C. Vol.20

The Budds of Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i2095	<u>BUDD, John</u> -----				1	3	
• i2097	<u>BUDD, Thomas</u>	10 Sep 1620			0	0	
• i2092	<u>Budd, Susan</u>	1 Dec 1622			0	0	
• i2098	<u>Budd, Jane</u>	<1628	known only from son		0	1	
• • i2100	<u>BUDD, George</u>	3 Dec 1648			0	0	20 May 1650
	"son of Jane Budd"; no mention of him being a base child it is possible he was the son of Jane below, perhaps born after George died						
i2093	<u>BUDD, George</u> -----		19 Apr 1635	Jane Cary	1	1	
i2091	<u>Cary, Jane</u> -----	27 Feb 1614			1	1	
			married at 21; see Cary in More Families & Transcripts				
• i2094	<u>Budd, Anne</u>	23 Jan 1639			0	0	

Mary Budd (i2103) was buried on 9th January 1624 but no other details were given. For details of Christopher Budd see [Section Z in Families & Transcripts](#)

The Budgeons of Shipbourne and Seal

John Budgen of Shipbourne had two children in the 1590s and John Budgeon of Seal had five children in the 1640s and 1650s. In addition, there were two Budgen marriages in Shipbourne. What relationship there was, if any, between these Budgeons and the Budgens of Tonbridge, Leigh and Pembury whose wills are given below, is not known. (\$ indicates number in Shipbourne data base, # in Seal).

<u>Num</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Born</u>	<u>Married</u>	<u>Spouse</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>Died</u>
\$390	<u>BUDGEON, John</u> -----	<1572			1	2	
• \$392	<u>BUDGEON, John</u>	25 Jun 1597			0	0	
• \$444	<u>Budgeon, Susan</u>	11 Mar 1598			0	0	

In addition, there were two Budgen marriages in Shipbourne:

- **Thomas Budgen** (\$959) married **Alice Sanders** (\$960) on 14th November 1609 "[by a licence from Rochester](#)"
- **Hester Budgen** (\$1856) married **John Hawkes** (\$1844) on 5th February 1643.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#2343	<u>BUDGEON, John</u> -----	<1620		Jane Budgeon(m) #2345	1	5	
•	#2346 <u>BUDGEON, John</u>	11 Apr	1641			0	0 <Aug 1643
•	#2347 <u>BUDGEON, John</u>	6 Aug	1643			0	0 <Oct 1644
•	#2348 <u>BUDGEON, John</u>	27 Oct	1644			0	0
•	#2350 <u>BUDGEON, Thomas</u>	24 Jul	1653			0	0
•	#2351 <u>BUDGEON, Edward</u>	5 Aug	1655			0	0

When his fifth child was baptised John was given as of Godwin (Godden) Green. He was listed in the Knole MS of 1648 for Godden and Fawke. Since there is a nine year gap between his third and fourth children, it is possible that Jane (name from baptism of first two children) died sometime between 1644 and 1652 and that John remarried. Since the first three sons were all baptised John, probably the first two each died before the next one was born.

William Budgen of Tonbridge

The introduction to William's will is unusual; it is the only part of the will transcribed. It was proved in Tonbridge by the vicar, John Stockwood.- see [Section Z in More Families & Transcripts](#) for more details of Wills Proved Locally.

The Will of William Budgen of Tonbridge

written 22nd May 1589; proved 24th June 1589

transcript from original

In the name of god the father,
god the son and god the
holy ghost²⁰¹

- 1 I, William Budgen, of the parish of Tonbridge in the county of Kent,
- 2 **yeoman**, in perfect remembrance, commit my body to the earth to be
buried in
- 3 the churchyard of Tonbridge and bequeath my soul into the hands of the

²⁰¹ written as a heading to the will

4 Almighty who hath created both body and soul of nothing, redeemed them
from
5 the pains of Hell, regenerated them by that ordinary means the preaching
6 of his words and I trust will satisfy them in his kingdom at his
7 good time there to remain with him in perfect bliss for ever, amen.
8 I distribute likewise my goods in this sort:

people mentioned

son Thomas Budgen

wife Amy

"Amy Budgen, the widow of John Budgen of Penshurst, lately deceased"²⁰²

Items bequeathed include: one acre of barley
my peas growing upon the said **Thomas Law**, his ground

overseer **brother, Edward Rivers**²⁰³

202 no will has survived for John Budgen of Penshurst; John's and William's wives both seem to have been called Amy

203 was Edward Amy's brother making her a Rivers? No Amy was recorded in the River will which have been investigated.

John Budgin of Leigh

The bottom of both pages of John's original is damaged and, because of the tight binding of the book containing the probate copy, the end of the lines of its second page are not shown on the photocopy. Details of the marks, etc. which were at the end of the will have been taken from the probate copy which has been used to fill in other gaps in the original.

John asked “to be buried in the high chancel of Leigh close by the body of Johane, my late wife, deceased, or else where it shall please god”. On 18th April 1594 “the wife of John Budgin named Joane was buried in the vicar's chancel, paid 10s for lying there”. On 18th March 1596, “was buried the body of **Mr. Richard Waller, Esquire**, in the vicar's chancel”.

Hellen Budgen married Richard Johnson on 6th November 1587; her husband, mentioned in John's will, was probably the Richard Johnson of Pembury who wrote his will in 1610 - see **More Families & Transcripts** for details of his will. One of the items left to Hellen was a bedstead “standing in the guesting²⁰⁴ chamber next to the bay window”.

204 “guestlinge” or “guesling” or “quesling” (probate copy)

Although his other two daughters, Joan and Susan, were married, John did not give the names of their husbands. **Jane Budgen** married **Robert Caringhurst** on 4th April 1575 and it is possible that Jane was John's eldest daughter Joan, the two names Jane and Joan often being used interchangeably. A tentative tree for the family of John Budgen is given on page 2.b.264.

The Will of John Budgin of Leigh

written 29 December 1595

transcript from original supplemented by probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. In the 29th day of December in the
2 year of our Lord 1595 and in the 38 year of the reign
3 of our most gracious sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the grace
4 of god of England, France and Ireland, defender
5 of the faith, etc. I, John Budgin of **Haseden** within the
6 parish of Leigh next Tonbridge in the county of Kent,
7 **yeoman**, being at the time of the making hereof
8 (thanks be to god Almighty) in good and perfect mind and
9 memory but not very well in body, do ordain and
10 make my present will and testament in manner and form
11 following: And **First** and chiefly I commend my soul
12 into the hands of Almighty god, trusting only by the

13 merits, precious death and blood shedding of his son,
14 Jesus Christ, my only redeemer, to be saved. And my
15 body to be buried in the high chancel of Leigh
16 close by the body of **Johane, my late wife**, deceased or else
17 where it shall please god. **Item:** I will that there
18 shalbe bestowed at my burial among poor people
19 thither resorting, the sum of 40s to be divided
20 in this manner, viz. to ten of the poorest 2s a piece
21 and the rest of the said 40s to be distributed at the
22 discretion of my executor. **Item:** I give besides to
23 **old Durrant, Mother Sparrow, John ??, Lawrence Humfries,**
24 **with James ??, William Harris, Abraham Knells's**
25 **wife, old Knells widow, Mother Latter, Dorothy Latter,**
26 **Nicholas. his widow and Mother Thomas** 12d a piece
27 to be paid them by my executor. **Item:** I give and bequeath
28 to **my three daughters, Joan, Hellen and Susan**, and
29 to every of their husbands and children 10s a piece. **Item:** To Hellen, my
30 daughter, **Richard Johnson's**
31 **wife**, the bedsteddle which standeth in the guesting
32 chamber next to the bay window with the ?? or bed
33 lying there upon, a feather bolster, 2 pillows
a pair of pillow coats, five pairs of sheets, ?? blankets and a coverlet. The
residue of all

- my goods and cattells, moveable an unmoveable,
- leases and debts to me owing,

page 2:

- I wholly, fully and with good effect, intent and purpose, give
- and bequeath to **Oliver Budgin, my son**, which Oliver I
- make and ordain my whole and sole executor of this
- my will, to see the same proved, my debts paid and my
- body honestly brought to the earth.

- This is the last will of me, the said John Budgin, made
- and declared the day and year first above written
- concerning the order and disposition of all my lands and
- tenements whatsoever with the appurtenances, severally
- situated, lying and being within the parishes of Leigh
- aforesaid, **Tonbridge** and **Bidborough** in the said county
- And I will and bequeath all that my messuage or
- tenement called Haseden house with all the lands thereto
- being, together with all the rest of my lands and
- tenements with th'appurtenances wheresoever the same do
- lie unto the said Oliver Budgin my son, his heirs
- and assigns forever. In witness whereof I, the said John
- Budgin to this my present last will and testament have set

- my hand and seal, the day and year first above
- written in the presence of us, **John Chart, the writer**
- hereof.

The mark of John Budgin. Sealed, ??
subscribed in the presence of us James O....

Richard Bennat

The Family of John and Oliver Budgen

Oliver Budgen married Elizabeth Goldsmith, in Leigh, on 6th May 1594 and they had three daughters baptised in the late 1590s who would have been old enough to have had children by 1626 but Oliver gives only the names of his sons-in-law so we do not know which daughter married which son-in-law.

The tree on the following page has been built up from the wills and the Leigh parish records but some of the relationships are very tentative.

```

                                x1254205 John   - Johane   x1255
will :                          29 Dec 1595 |
bur :                          17 Oct 1597 | 18 Apr 1594
-----
x1256 |                          |          x668 |          x669   | x1257 |          x1259 x1258 |
      Joan - Richard      Katherine  Oliver   - Elizabeth Solomon Helen - Richard  Susan - ??
      /Jane  Caringhurst                | Goldsmith                Johnson
bap:                          10 Sep 1560 5 Sep 1563 |          6 Jan 1565
mar: 4 Apr 1575                6 May 1594 |
will:                          21 Jan 1626 |
-----
x671 |          x674          x672 |          x676   x673 |          x678   x670 |
      Joan   - William Chapman Elizabeth - William Luck  Mary   - Henry Silcock  John
bap: 11 May 1595 |          1 Nov 1596 |          31 Dec 1598 |
-----
      |          | x675 |          x677 |          x679 |          x680 |
      son   son   Mary                Elizabeth                Elizabeth   Anne

```

There was also a John, son of John Budgen, baptised on 25th January 1561. Unless Katherine was some months old when she was baptised²⁰⁶, she and this John cannot both have been children of x1254 who does not mention Katherine, Solomon or John in his will.

205 "x" indicates a reference in the database covering a number of parishes

206 or there has been an error in the original parish records or in their copying

Oliver Budgen of Leigh

Oliver Budgen left twenty shillings to the poor of each of the parishes of Leigh, Tonbridge and Bidborough and a number of legacies to his grandchildren and neighbours with each of his four granddaughters being left £10.

Oliver Budgen's Legacies

To:		Total
William Chapman, William Luck and Henry Silcock, sons-in-law	10s each	£1 10s
two sons of William Chapman, grandchildren	10s each	£1
Mary Chapman, Elizabeth and Anne Silcock, Elizabeth Luck, granddaughters	£10 each	£40
all his household servants	10s each	
Edmund Tindley, a poor neighbour; widow Goodhew, poor woman of Bidborough	£5 each	£10
Anthony Merchant's daughter, goddaughter	40s	£2
widow Hollinden of Speldherst	20s	£1

all children of kinsman Goard	20s each	
Mary Brooke, servant	40s	£2
TOTAL		£57 ²⁰⁷

The "original" will at the Public Record Office is a copy made at the time the will was proved with a note on it "[Received the original will of my father to my own use John Budgen](#)". Thus it is not the will actually written by John Hooper.

The Will of Oliver Budgen of Leigh

written 21st January 1625/6

transcript up to line 31 from the probate copy; the rest from the "original"

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The one and twenty day of January
- 2 in the first year of the reign of our sovereign Lord Charles, by the grace of
God, king of England,
- 3 Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. Anno dm. 1625. I,
Oliver Budgen, of

²⁰⁷ excludes legacies to servants and Goard's children

4 Leigh next Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being of good memory
but weak and sickly,
5 do ordain and make this my testament and last will in manner and form
following: **First:** and
6 principally yielding my soul to Almighty god, my maker, with an assured
hope of salvation through
7 his mercy in the merit and mediation of his dear son, Jesus Christ, my
saviour, and my body
8 to the earth in decent manner to be buried. **Item:** I give and bequeath to
the poor of Leigh afore
9 said forty shillings; to the poor of **Tonbridge** aforesaid twenty shillings and
to the poor of
10 **Bidborough** twenty shillings of lawful english money. **Item:** I will and give
to **William**
11 **Chapman** and **William Luck** and **Henry Silcock**, my three sons-in-law, ten
shillings a piece
12 and to the **two sons of William Chapman**, my grandchildren, ten shillings a
piece. **Item:** I will
13 and give to **Mary**, the daughter of the said **William Chapman**, my
grandchild and to **Elizabeth** and
14 **Anne Silcock**, my grandchildren, daughters of the said **Henry Silcock** and
to **Elizabeth**

15 **Luck, my granchild, daughter of the said William Luck**, ten pounds a piece
of lawful and
16 good english money to be paid at their several full ages of twenty and one
years or days of
17 marriage which shall first happen to such and so many of them
respectively as shall accomplish
18 their said age or be married and not otherwise. **Item:** I will and give to all
and every my household
19 servants that I shall have at the time of my decease ten shillings a piece of
lawful english
20 money. **Item:** I give to **Edmund Tindley, my poor neighbour, of Haseden**²⁰⁸
five pounds of lawful
21 english money. **Item:** I give unto **widow Goodhew**²⁰⁹, a poor woman of
Bidborough, other
22 five pounds of like money. **Item:** I give to **Anthony Merchant's daughter,**
my goddaughter, forty
23 shillings to be paid to her said father to her use. **Item:** I will and give to
widow Hollinden

208 there is Lower Hayesden and Upper Hayesden about a mile and a half to the southeast of Leigh village

209 spelled "Goodhugh"

24 of **Speldhurst** twenty shillings. **Item:** I will and give to all the children of
my kinsman **Goard**
25 of **Ch..ckhatch**, late deceased, that shalbe living at the time of my decease,
twenty shillings
26 a piece. And my will is that my executor hereafter named shall have two
years next after my
27 decease for the payment of all and every the legacies by me before willed
not set to any certain
28 time of payment thereof and I will that the parents' acquittance for such
children as
29 shalbe within age by them given for their children's legacies shalbe a
sufficient discharge
30 to my executor for the same against their said children. **Item:** I give to
Mary Brooke, sometimes
31 my servant, forty shillings. **Item:** I will and give to

- **Anne Latter, the widow of William Latter**, late of Haseden, deceased, five
pounds of lawful english money. The residue and all other my goods,
cattell, chattells and credits, I wholly will, give and bequeath to
- **John Budgen, my son**, whom I make and ordain the full, sole and
- only executor of this my testament and last will upon condition that he
take
- upon him the execution of this my will and do pay all my debts and

- legacies and do see my body decently brought to the earth.

- This is also the last will of the said Oliver Budgen made
- and declared the day and year first above written touching the disposition
- of all my
- lands and tenements. **Item:** I will, give and devise to the said John
- Budgen, my
- son, and to his heirs, all that messuage or tenement wherein I now dwell
- situated
- in Leigh aforesaid and also all other my houses, lands, tenements, rents,
- soebine?
- and hereditaments whatsoever and wheresoever, to hold to the said John
- Budgen, my
- son, his heirs and assigns, to his and their sole and only use and behoof
- forever. In witness whereof I have to this my testament and last will set
- my hand and seal yeven the day and year first above written. Oliver
- Budgen.
- Read, sealed, published and declared in the presence of **William Latter**²¹⁰,
- **Edmund**
- **Tindley** and **John Hooper**, notary publique.

210 presumably the son of widow Anne Latter and her husband, William, deceased

Sixteenth Century Budgens in Leigh

Nicholas Budgen had three children baptised in Leigh:

- Elizabeth 7 Apr 1561
- Anne 14 Mar 1563
- Mary 4 Mar 1564

This was at the same time as Oliver and Elizabeth Budgen were having their family.

There were three burials in **Penshurst**:

A Nicholas Budgen was buried on 30th December 1572; he could have been the father or grandfather of these children. In the same year, on 2nd August 1572, **Thomas Budgen** was buried.

Anne Budgen, widow, was buried on 14th May 1603.

John Budgen of Pembury

John left ten shillings to the poor of Pembury and the same amount to the poor of Frant in Sussex. He left five shillings each to two of his servants : John Mills and Susan Chown. John appears to be one of a family of seven brothers and sisters but he mentions no children of his own nor any nephews or neices. He made one of his brothers and his wife's brother joint executors of his will.

x683 ²¹¹	x684	x685	x690	x686	x687	x688	x689
Thomas	Nicholas	John - Mary	Raynes	Alice	William	Joane	Edward
will:							
4 May 1636							

An indication of how a husband owned even a wife's personal belongings is shown by his bequest to "[Mary, my loving wife, all her wearing apparel and riding furniture](#)". He also left her all his "[instuff of household, otherwise called household stuff of what nature or kind soever](#)". This was to be shown separately from the other items in "[in the inventory that shall be taken of my goods and chattells after my decease](#)". The total thus arrived at for the household stuff was then to be made up to £100 so that Mary was to be paid "[so much ready money as shall in the whole extend to the sum of](#)" £100.

211 "x" indicates a reference in the database covering a number of parishes

Until she was paid the balance of the £100, Mary was to have “liberty for the removing or standing of the said household stuff” and also “free liberty for her dwelling in some convenient rooms of my now dwelling house”. Also until the balance was paid she was to have “a meet share of the corn and victuals provided or that shall a rise upon any farm for her own diet and supportation without paying anything for the same.”

The Will of John Budgen of Pembury

written 4th May 1636

transcript from original

1 In²¹² the name of god Amen. the fourth day of May in
2 the year of our Lord Christ one thousand, six hundred, thirty and six,
3 I, John Budgen of **Pepingburie alias Pembury**, in the county of Kent,
4 **husbandman**, being²¹³ of good and perfect memory (thanks be given to
Almighty god) do ordain

212 decorated "I"

213 "beeing", "bee" etc. throughout

5 and make this my testament and last will in manner and form following:
6 **First:** recommending
7 my soul to the gracious acceptance of Almighty god, my maker, through
8 Jesus Christ, my
9 saviour and redeemer. And my body to the earth in decent manner to be
10 buried. I will to the
11 poor of Pepingburie aforesaid ten shillings. And to the poor of **Frant in**
12 **Sussex**
13 another ten shillings. And to **John Mills** and **Susan Chowne, my servants,**
14 five shillings a piece²¹⁴. **Item:** I will to **Mary, my loving wife,** all her wearing
15 apparel and
16 riding furniture. And also all my instuff of household, otherwise called
17 household stuff of what
18 nature or kind soever²¹⁵, the which I will shall be in differently priced in the
19 inventory that
20 shall be taken of my goods and chattells after my decease. And my will is
21 that to the sum
22 that the said household stuff shall amount unto, my said wife shall be paid
23 so much ready

214 this sentence inserted

215 the normal phrase would be "of whatsoever nature and kind"

14 money as shall in the whole extend to the sum of one hundred pounds of
lawful english
15 money. The said household stuff to be to her immediately from and after
my decease. And the said money
16 to make up the sum for which the same shalbe apprised one hundred
pounds, to be paid to her by my
17 executors before the feast day of Saint Michael Th'archangel next coming
after the date of
18 this my will. And my will is that my said wife shall have liberty for the
removing or standing of
19 the said household stuff until she shall be paid the said money. And free
liberty for her dwelling
20 in some convenient rooms of my now dwelling house until that time. And I
will also that til that
21 time she shall also have a meet share of the corn and victuals provided or
that shall a rise
22 upon any farm for her own diet and supportation without paying anything
for the same.
23 For and towards the pay.. and e. .ney of moneys to pay and discharge²¹⁶
all the legacies before

216 discharge id spelled "dischardge" throughout which, whilst it is not unknown for other writers to use this form occasionally, it is used very frequently by John Hooper.

24 mentioned (that are to be paid in money) and to pay and discharge all my
debts owing by
25 speciality or otherwise (which I earnestly desire my executors to discharge)
I will and give to **Andrew**
26 **Raynes, my wife's brother,** and to **Thomas Budgen, mine own brother,** such
and so much of my
27 ready money and of any other goods, cattell and chattells, as shall and will
extend to pay the said
28 legacies and all my said debts. And do make the said Andrew Raynes and
Thomas Budgen the
29 joint executors of this my testament and last will. And do further ordain
and will that after
30 all my legacies aforesaid and debts and funeral charges, and all charges
which my said executors,
31 and either of them, shalbe occasioned to expend, dispurse or lay out by
reason of this my will. And also
32 the sum of ten shillings a piece which I give to my overseers, shalbe
deducted and allowed out of my
33 said ready money and my goods, cattell, chattells and debts to me owing.
?? say and do ordain and will that the
34 remainder of all my said ready money, goods, cattell, chattels and debts
shalbe and remain to my

35 said executors. And to **Nicholas, William, Edward, Alice and Joane, my**
36 **brothers and sisters** portion and
37 portionly? to be divided between my said executors and my said brothers
38 and sisters. And I intend
39 my good friends (which are my wife's godfathers) viz: **Willim Hunt and**
40 **William Spencer**, to be
41 two ?? that shall be prisers at the making of mine inventory. And to be
42 overseers (what in
43 them shaall lie) that this my will may take effect and be performed
44 according to my mind to them declared.
45 Provided always, if . . . shall not extend to pay my said wife's money,
46 the legacies
47 to the poor and all my debts (my household stuff not being herein received)
48 then my will is that ?? that shall
49 want to pay my debts shalbe abated out of her legacy of money. And that
50 my said brothers and sisters shall
51 have only 1 shilling a piece (any thing herein contained to the contrary
52 thereof notwithstanding). In witness whereof
53 I have to this my testament and last will set my hand and seal, the day and
54 year above written ²¹⁷

217 there appears to be a Latin phrase here

by me John Budgen

Read, sealed, published and declared in the presence of

Steven²¹⁸ Denton and John Hooper, notar. pbq.

218 mark: a vertical cross

The Bullens of Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i1258	<u>BULLEN, Robert</u> -----		13 May 1582	Ann Parker i1259	1	1	
• i1260	<u>BULLEN, Paul</u>	20 Aug 1592		"son of -- Bullen"			0 0
i1261	<u>BULLEN, Thomas</u> -----				1	2	
• i1264	<u>BULLEN, Arthur</u>		5 Jun 1631				0 0
• i1263	<u>BULLEN, Thomas</u>		10 Mar 1633				0 0 22 Mar 1635

The Burgeis Family of Shipbourne

The will of William Burgeis, labourer, has survived:

dated: 13th July 1584 CKS: Drb/Pw 14; Drb/Pwr 16.271 page 2.b.283

Two “originals” of this will have survived both written by Nicholas Hooper, one with the seal attached; neither have any marks or signatures of the witnesses. The probate copy has not been examined.

When the will was written William was “[very sore sick and full of ages and bruises in my body](#)” and he was buried two days later; his family can be constructed from the parish records.

There was a John Burgeis (\$25²¹⁹) who had a daughter, Margaret baptised on 19th April 1562 and this John could have been the testator’s brother. William, the testator, had a grandson Andrew born before 1584 and he could have been the Andrew who married Mary Hurst.

219 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

	\$25				\$291			\$26						
<i>will:</i>			John -					William - Julian						
<i>bur:</i>					13 Jul 1584									
					15 Jul 1584		16 Feb 1585							
	\$27				\$339									
<i>bap:</i>			Margaret				Thomas -	Margery						
<i>bur:</i>			19 Apr 1562											
			4 Jan 1600											
	\$773		\$774	\$844		\$855	\$341		\$496		\$579		\$654	
<i>bap:</i>			Agnes - John Gammon	Andrew - Mary Hasnet		Elizabeth	Thomas		William		James			
<i>mar:</i>			20 Aug 1603	24 Feb 1606		21 Nov 1585	10 Aug 1589		1 Apr 1593		10 Feb 1600			
<i>bur:</i>									28 Feb 1602		7 Apr 1600			

John's daughter Margaret could have been the Margaret Burgeis who was a servant of Johane Swan in 1593 - see [Johane Swan in Families and Transcripts](#). If she was the Margaret Burgeis buried in 1600 she was thirty-seven.

On 2nd December 1586 Cristia Crouch, "a child at nurse with Thomas Burgeis's wife" was buried - see [Nursechildren of Shipbourne in Section Z of More Families & Transcripts](#)

It is not known where Robert Burgeis (\$664) who married Susan Pickerell (\$665) on 3rd August 1600 or Richard Burgeis (\$840) who was buried on 26th January 1606 "fit into" the Burgeis family.

William Burgeis's Will

William's will contains an unusual phrase describing his physical condition:

“being very sore sick and full of ages and bruises in my body”

It also includes Nicholas Hooper phraseology, for example:

“Jesus Christ, by whose merit, precious death and bludshedding I trust only to be saved”

“yeven the day and year first above written”

“yeven”, meaning “given”, was often used by the Hoopers.

William's wife, Julian, was his executrix with his two children, Thomas and Margery, sharing his goods on her death. Before she died, however, she was sell sufficient of them to provide £1 to be given to Andrew, Thomas's son. When the rest was divided into Margery, Margery's share was to be £1 more than Thomas's, presumably to make up for the money given to Andrew.

1 In the name of god Amen. The thirteenth day of July in the year of our lord
2 god one thousand, five hundred, four score and four. And in the six and
twentieth year
3 of the reign of our sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of god, Queen of
England,
4 France and Ireland, defender of the faith etc. I, William Burgeis of
Shipbourne in the
5 county of Kent, **labourer**, being²²⁰ very sore sick and full of ages and bruises
in my body
6 But yet of perfect mind and remembrance, thanks therefore be given to god
almighty,
7 do ordain and make this my present testament and last will in manner and
form following²²¹:
8 And First and principally I give, commend and bequeath my soul to
almighty god, my

220 "beeing", "bee" throughout

221 "folowing"

9 maker, saviour and redeemer, Jesus Christ, by whose merit, precious death
and
10 bludshedding I trust only to be saved. And my body to be buried in the
churchyard of
11 Shipbourne aforesaid. **Item:** I will and bequeath to **my brother, John**
Burgeis, all my
12 wearing gear and apparel. The residue of all my goods and cattalle, as
well
13 moveable as unmoveable, I fully, wholly and with good effect, intent and
purpose, give and
14 bequeath to **Julian, my well beloved my wife** whom I ordain and make my
whole and sole
15 executor²²² of this my present testament and last will, to see my debts paid,
my funeral discharged
16 and my body honestly brought to the earth. Notwithstanding, my will is
that the said Julian,
17 my wife, before her decease shall sell such portion of her goods as shall
come to 20s, which 20s I will shalbe
18 given by her to **my godson, Andrew Burgeis, my son Thomas, his son,** and
put to some good use to the

222 "executor", not executrix, in both originals

19 preferment of the said Andrew. And the residue thereof then remaining,
shall be equally
20 divided between **my son Thomas and my daughter Margery**. And I will
that my
21 daughter Margery's part shalbe 20s better than my son Thomas his part.
And I do give
22 my **trusty friends Edmond Mills and Nicholas Hooper**, curate of
Shipbourne, to be
23 overseers of this my will and to be aiding, helping and assisting my said
executor in the
24 probation of this my will and the execution of any thing herein contained.
In witness whereof
25 I, the said William Burgeis, to this my present last will and testament have
set my hand and
26 seal, yeven the day and year first above written in the presence of **William**
27 **Blatcher the elder**, the said Edmond Mills and Nicholas Hooper with
others.
28 By me Edmond Mills.

John Hooper was one of the witnesses to this will (PCC: **Cope 12, Prob 11/127**) and it is assumed that he wrote it although the original (if it exists) has not been examined. It is a very short will.

1 In the name of god Amen. The 28th day of
2 August Anno dm 1615, I, Richard Burgess of Tonbridge in the county of
Kent,
3 **shoemaker**, do ordain and make this my testament and last will in manner
following:
4 **First** I commit my soul to Almighty god, my maker, hoping to be saved
through
5 his mercy in the merit and mediation of Jesus Christ. And my body to the
earth.
6 **Item:** I will to the poor of Tonbridge six shillings and eight pence. **Item:** I
will
7 and give to **William, my son**, the sum of twenty pounds of lawful English
money to be paid
8 to him by my executrix at his age of 24 years and if he decease before his

9 said age without issue of his body lawfully to be begotten, then £20
shalbe²²³
10 and remain to my executrix. But if he have and leave such lawful issue, the
11 said issue to have and receive the said £20 at such time as it should have
been
12 paid to him if he had lived. The residue of all my goods and cattells I give
to **Elizabeth,**
13 **my loving wife,** whom I make my executrix to see this my will proved, my
debts
14 and legacies paid and my body decently buried. And I make and ordain
overseers
15 to this my testament, my **brother William Burgess** and my neighbour
William
16 **Stubborne** and they to have for their pains to be taken thereabouts 3s 4d a
piece
17 over and above their charges. In witness whereof I have hereto set my
hand and seal
18 yeven the day and year first above written. Richard Burgess. sealed, pub
19 lished and declared in the presence of **Thomas Everest, Edward Allin** and
John Hooper.

223 "bee" and "shalbee" throughout but this is the probate copy; also "chardges" on line 17, a form usually used by the Hoopers

Thomas Burgeis of East Peckham

The will of Thomas Burgeis (PCC: Meade 109; Prob 10/358) was written by Robert Hooper, another member of the Hooper family. It was proved on 17th November 1618 with Stephen Pattenden, as appointed by Thomas, his executor.

Since Thomas made his father-in-law his executor and left all his land to his mother-in-law for the rest of his life, Thomas had been married but his wife must have died. He does not mention any children and his heirs, on the death of Anne Pattenden, were his three sisters.

	BURGEIS -			Butler -		
e106 ²²⁴	e107	e176		e185	e186	e187
Stephen Pattenden	- Anne	Henry	- ??	John	Richard	Steven
		e179	e180	e181	e182	
	???	- Thomas	Anne	Judith	Elizabeth	
<i>will:</i>		22 Jun 1618				

224 "e" indicates a reference in the database for East Peckham and the other Peckhams

He also had three Butler uncles so that his mother must have been a Butler. Both she and Thomas's father died before he wrote his will. He did, however, have a "wellbeloved and hearty affected friend Anne Femmer" to whom he left £40. Perhaps he had been planning to marry Anne. See also [Butlers in Families & Transcripts](#)

The inheritance of Thomas's land starts as a straightforward bequest for it to be divided equally between his three sisters but then there is a proviso concerning Judith and Elizabeth. It seems that according to the will of their father, Henry, if Thomas died without heirs, Judith and Elizabeth were to inherit six parcels of land called Bowfields. If they were to choose to take this land rather than divide all of Thomas's land equally, then Anne was to have everything except those six parcels. Henry's will has not survived.

The will of a Stephen Pattenden of East Peckham has survived. This was written in 1648 when Stephen's wife was Sara and his children were under fifteen. Thomas's father-in-law, whom he made his executor, could have been the father of the testator of 1648.

One of the many parcels of land which Thomas owned was one of 26 acres which his father had purchased of William Baker and his son Thomas. William Baker wrote his will on 10th April 1619 one of the witnesses being Stephen Butler who was also, in 1623, an overseer to the will of Dorothy Baker who could have been

William's wife. Dorothy's will, but not William's, has been transcribed - see **Families & Transcripts**. Dorothy does not mention a son Thomas.

Will of Thomas Burgeis of East Peckham

written 22nd June 1618

transcript: first page of original; continuation from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. the two and twentieth day of June in the
2 sixteenth year of the reign of our sovereign lord James, by the grace of God
king of
3 England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. And of Scotland
the one
4 and fiftieth. And in the year of our Lord god one thousand six hundred and
5 eighteen. I, Thomas Burgeis of East Peckham in the county of Kent,
6 **yeoman**, being²²⁵ at the time of making hereof grieved with much sickness
but yet
7 of perfect memory (praised be god) do make and ordain this my present last
will and
8 testament in manner and form following, that is to say, **First** and

225 "being" here but "bee" throughout

9 principally I give, commend and bequeath my soul unto God, my most
merciful
10 creator, trusting with an assured and lively faith which I have in the most
precious
11 death and bloodshedding of his dear and only son, Christ Jesus, my only
saviour
12 and redeemer, that the same shall appear in glory before the throne of his
13 heavenly majesty at the great and general day of judgement. And my body
to the earth
14 whereof it was, in sure and certain hope of a Joyful resurrection²²⁶ unto
15 life immortal. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto 30 of the poorest people of
²²⁷
16 East Peckham aforesaid, the sum of thirty shillings lawful money to be
paid and
17 distributed amongst them in the day of my burial at the discretion of my
executor
18 and overseer hereafter named. And in like manner the like sum of 30s on
that day

226 this originally read "of a Joyful resurrection and of a Joyful life" but the later phrase was crossed out

227 "Hadlow" crossed out

19 twelvemonth in like manner to be distributed. And so forth consequently²²⁸
(by that day)
20 yearly the sum of thirty shillings for the term and space of seven years next
21 after my decease. **Item:** Item²²⁹ I give and bequeath unto my two godsons
twenty shillings a
22 piece and to my two²³⁰ goddaughters ten shillings a piece to be paid unto
23 them within two months next after my decease by my said executor. **Item:**
I give and
24 bequeath unto my wellbeloved and hearty affected friend **Anne Femmer**
the
25 sum of forty pounds of lawful money, twenty pounds thereof to be paid
unto
26 her within twelve months next after my decease and the other twenty
pounds within two
27 years next after my decease by my said executor. **Item:** I give and
bequeath unto my

228 "subsequently" would be modern usage

229 repetition in original but not probate copy

230 "godchildren" crossed out

21 tenements and hereditaments whatsoever, set, lying and being within the
parishes
22 of East Peckham, aforesaid, and **Hadlow** in the said county of Kent. My
will
23 and mind is that **Anne Pattenden, my loving and kind mother**²³², shall
have,
24 occupy, possess and enjoy and receive of all and every my lands and
tenements and
25 the revenues, issues and profits of all and every my lands and tenements
26 whatsoever, situated, lying and being in East Peckham and Hadlow
aforesaid.
27 whereof six parcels thereof are called **Bowfields**, two parcels called **Kent**²³³
and
28 one called **Bramblefield**, another **Broadfield** and the other is a parcel of
land
29 heretofore purchased by **Henry Burgeis, my late father** deceased, of **William
Baker**

232 presumably Stephen's wife and therefore his mother-in-law

233 "Kent Farm house" is marked on the 1996 Ordnance Survey map on the boundary between Hadlow and East Peckham

30 and **Thomas Baker, his son**, and contains in the whole, by estimation, six
and
31 twenty acres, more or less. And after the decease of the said Anne, my
mother,
32 then I will, give and bequeath all and every my said lands, tenements and
heredita-
33 ments whatsoever, set lying and being in East Peckham and Hadlow afore
34 said unto the aforementioned Anne, Judith and Elizabeth Burgeis, my sisters,
35 equally between them. To have and to hold all and every my said lands,
36 tenements and hereditaments aforesaid with all and singular
th'appurtenances
37 unto them, the said Anne, Judith and Elizabeth, their heirs and assigns.
To the
38 only use and behoof of them, the said Anne, Judith and Elizabeth, their
heirs and
39 assigns, forever. Provided always, nevertheless, that if the said Judith and
Elizabeth, or
40 either of them, shall and do at any time hereafter enter in and upon the
said six parcels
41 of land called Bowfields before mentioned for any legacy, bequeathed or
willed unto
42 them or either of them by Henry Burgeis, my father deceased, in and by his
last will and

43 testament, then my will and mind is that they, the said Judith and
Elizabeth and either
44 of them so entering shall loose the benefit of this my will as touching all
other
45 my lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever any thing before
herein
46 mentioned to the contrary notwithstanding. And then I give and bequeath
all and
47 every my lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever, except the said
Bowfields,
48 unto her, the said Anne Burgeis, my sister, her heirs and assigns, to the
only use
49 and behoof of the said Anne, her heirs and assigns, forever. **Item:** I do
make and or-
50 dain my loving uncle John Butler, beforenamed, overseer of this my will,
desiring
51 him earnestly, so far as in him shall or may lie, to see the same performed
and accomplished
52 according to the true meaning hereof. In witness whereof, I, the said
Thomas

third page of probate copy

53 Burgeis, have hereunto set my hand and seal, dated the day and year
above writ-

54 ten, acknowledging the same to be my true and last will. Thomas Burgeis.
Read, sealed,

55 published and declared t be the true and last will and testament of the said
Thomas

56 Burgeis in the presence of **John Bell** and **Robert Hooper**

The Burroughs of Ightham

The name Burroughs can be spelled “Buroughes” and “Burrowes.

A Common Quarreller and Alehouse Haunter

John Burroughes/Burrowes appears a number of times in the Court Rolls:

- On 27th April 1587, **John Lovegrove**²³⁴ (i1285²³⁵) was ordered to be fined 3s 4d if the "stranger" **John Borough** was not removed or sureties found for him with John Borough himself being fined a similar amount. (CRI 1938, p.17).
- Later in the same year, on 2nd October, **John Borough** was one of the "unlawful players" fined 6d - see **The Swans of Ightham in More Families & Transcripts** for details.

234 see **The Gardners and Wares of Ightham in More Families & Transcripts** for information on John Lovegrove

235 i indicates a reference in the Ightham database

- On 3rd October 1588, John Burroughes and **William Bennett** (i662) were each fined 12d for fighting together but on the same day **William Petley** (i1045) was fined 3s 4d for having "[struck John Boroughes upon the head with an iron hammer](#)" and drawing blood. (CRI 1938, p.4)
- On 11th April 1589, **Thomas Brissenden** and John Borroughs were each fined 3s 4d for fighting in the village of Ightham, striking each other with sticks and drawing blood. (CRI 1938, p.4)
- On 5th April 1592
 - "[John Borow and Thomas Borow assaulted Thomas Stretfield](#) (i1513) drawing blood. Fines, John and Thomas Borow, 3s 4d each, Thomas Stretfield 4d." (see [Stretfields in More Families & Transcripts](#))
 - "The said John Borow is 'a common quarreller' with his neighbours and 'an alehouse haunter', to the bad example of the inhabitants and his own considerable danger. Fined 12d." (CRI 1938, p.5)

Thus, assuming these are references to the same person, John Burroughs seems to have stayed in Ightham and was perhaps the father of the three children baptised 1588 to 1594 although the father of Elizabeth and Agnes is just given as " --- Burrough".

On 11th April 1597, **Jane Burrowes, wife of John Burrowes, labourer**, was presented to the Court with a number of others for cutting down trees in the lord's wood - see *Excerpts from the Ightham Court Rolls* for details. Was Jane the wife of i1354?

These assumptions give the following family tree:

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i1354	<u>BURROUGHS, John</u> ----- 			Jane Burroughs(m) i1355	1	3	
i1355	<u>Burroughs(m), Jane</u> -----	<1567			1	3	
• i1356	<u>Burroughs, Elizabeth</u>	3 Nov 1588			1	1	28 Aug 1649 died, without marrying, aged 61, if it is the same Elizabeth
• • i2118	<u>Burroughs, Elizabeth</u>	29 Jul 1616					0 0 "filia populi ex matre Elizabeth Burroughs"
• i1582	<u>Burroughs, Agnes</u>	28 Nov 1591					0 0
• i1583	<u>Burroughs, Alice</u>	28 Apr 1594					0 0

BUT:

in Seal, on 16th January 1589 John Burrough married **Agnes Mager** (#1356).
Were Agnes and Alice their children?

Other Burroughs

Other Burroughs in the parish register are:

William, son of Mildred Burroughs, baptised 4th July 1602. Nothing to say he was a “base child”.

On 23rd April 1626, Elizabeth Burroughs married **Richard Thunder**. On 24th August 1651, Richard Thunder was “**dead and buried**”. No children were recorded.

On 7th July 1622 Alice Burroughs, widow, was buried.

The Burtons of Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i690 ²³⁶	<u>BURTON, Richard</u> -----				1	7	
• i692	<u>BURTON, Richard</u>	9 Jan 1572				0	0
• i693	<u>Burton, Joane</u>	9 Jan 1575				0	0
• i694	<u>BURTON, William</u>					0	0 18 May 1579
• i695	<u>BURTON, William</u>	8 Apr 1580				0	0
• i696	<u>Burton, Agnes</u>	2 Apr 1583				0	0
• i697	<u>BURTON, Robert</u>	23 Apr 1587				0	0
• i698	<u>Burton, Awdrie</u>	12 Oct 1589				0	0

236 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

John Busby of Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
i1422 ²³⁷	<u>BUSBY, John</u> ----- 		30 Aug 1586	Anne Shawe #1425	1 0	May 1617
i1425	<u>Shawe, Anne</u> -----			"Agnes, wife of John Busby" at burial	1 0	21 Nov 1616

If the marriage and burials refer to the same man and woman, in 30 years no children were recorded for the couple..

On 11th April 1589, **John Busby** was presented to the Court, with a number of others - **Thomas Brocke, John Sommer, William Milles²³⁸, Chaney's Usmer, Brancon** and the **wife of Smythe of Charte** - as "**common breakers and spoilers of the hedges of the lord around his common. Fined 20d each and ordered to offend no more in this respect, under penalty 3s 4d for each such offence.**" (CRI 1937, p.207)

²³⁷ "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

²³⁸ see #1100 in [Millis in More Families & Transcripts](#)

The Buttresses of Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
#284 ²³⁹	<u>BUTTRESSE, John</u> -----		9 Jun 1567	Johane Woodham #285	1 1	
• #409	<u>BUTTRESSE, William</u>	22 Feb 1568			0 0	21 Jun 1568
#360	<u>Buttresse, Ellen</u> -----				2 0	
	<i>Marriage 1</i>		1 Jun 1572	Robert CLOSE #359	2 1	
	<i>Marriage 2</i>		30 Sep 1574	Robert TOMPSON #369	1 0	

The Ellen Closhe, widow, who married Robert Tompson is taken as #368. If this is correct Robert Close must have died before 1574.

²³⁹ # indicates a reference in the Seal database

Robert Close's marriage to Ellen was his second marriage. **Elizabeth**, daughter of Robert Close, was baptised on 1st November 1564. On 12th July 1565, "**Elizabeth, Robert Close's wife's daughter**" was buried. Why this peculiar description?

		(1)	#359	(2)	(1)	#368	#369
<i>died:</i>	before Jun 1572	??	-	Robert Close	-	Ellen Buttress	- Robert Tompson
				before Dec 1574			
<i>bap:</i>			Elizabeth				
			1 Nov 1564				
<i>bur:</i>			12 Jun 1565				

Joane Bridgin is described as a servant. This extract from her will (**CKS: Drb/Pw 14, Drb/Pwr 17.104**) shows her owning a tenement. which had been bequeathed to her mother and the lines given here are concerned with the legal arrangements under which its ownership will pass to her brother.

- Joane Bridgin, servant to Margery Lyff, of Chatham
- **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Thomas Newin** one tenement situated, lying and being in the parish of
- Chatham in the tenancy of **Agnes Newin, my mother**, given to her, and her heirs and assigns
- **Item:** I will that my tenant who dwelleth in the said tenement at the making hereof
- sealed and confirmed for the time and term . . . whereof two years are expired at the feast of St.
- Michael the archangel next coming and immediately entering the date hereof and the lease stated the same

The main bequests made by Agnes Browne, widow of Erith were:

- to **John Browne, my son** 21s
- all the rest to **Harry Browne and James Browne, my sons**, and to **Margaret Browne, my daughter**, now wife of **Josif Willbe**, equally divided

executors: Harry and James Browne and Josif Willbe

- John Browne to have the house wherein I now dwell
- paying to James Browne, my youngest son, £5 owed to the said James by his father's will
- to **Mary Clarke and Anna Clarke**, the daughters of **Christopher Clarke** of the parish of W?? £10 at the age of eighteen years, which money is now in the hands of **John Browne of Crayford**.