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

John Carley, broadweaver of Brenchley

This will (CKS: Drb/Pwr 21.244, Drb/Pw 26) is very straightforward. The only legacies John specifies, other than two shillings to the poor of the parish, are twenty shillings to be paid to each of his three sons, two daughters and an unborn child to be paid when they reached the age of twenty-one.

Will of *John Carley of Brenchley*

written 14th October 1626
transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The 14th day of
2 October 1626 in the second year of the reign
3 of our most ?? sovereign lord Charles, by the grace
4 of god, king of England, Scotland, France and Ireland,
5 defender, etc. I, John Carley of the parish of Brenchley
6 in the county of Kent, **broadweaver**, make and ordain this my
7 present testament and last will in manner and form following: **First** I
8 bequeath my soul to Almighty god and my body to be
9 buried. **Item:** I give unto the poor of the parish of Brenchley two shillings.
10 **Item:** I give unto my three **sons, John Carley, William**

11 **Carley** and **Thomas Carley**, to every of then twenty
12 shillings to be paid unto them when they shall come to
13 their several ages of twenty-one years. **Item:** I give
14 unto my two **daughters, Sara Carley** and ??
15 Carley, to every of them twenty shillings to be
16 paid unto them when they shall come to their several
17 ages of one and twenty. **Item:** I give unto the child
18 which **Mary, my wife**, is with at the day of
19 making hereof twenty shillings to be paid unto
20 it when it shall come to the age of twenty-one
21 years. All the rest and residue of my moveables
22 goods, cattles and chattels not before given I give
23 and bequeath to Mary, my wife, which Mary
24 I make and appoint to be sole executor of
25 this my testament and last will to pay my debts
26 and legacies and to bring up my children and to see
27 this my will performed according to the meaning
28 thereof. The mark of the said John Carley.
29 Unto this witnesseth **John Stiffende**, his mark
30 and **John Huggett**.

The Carpenters of Ightham and Kemsing

There were a few isolated families of Carpenters in Ightham and Kemsing but Carpenter could have been a common name without there necessarily being any relationship between the families. "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database, "k" in the Kemsing database.

| <u>Num</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Born</u> | <u>Married</u> | <u>Spouse</u> | <u>M</u> | <u>C</u> | <u>Died</u> |
|------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|----------|----------|-------------|
| i2119 | <u>CARPENTER, Paswater</u> ----- | | | | 1 | 2 | |
| • i2121 | <u>Carpenter, Clemence</u> | 6 Apr 1617 | | | | | 0 0 |
| • i2122 | <u>CARPENTER, John</u> | 29 Nov 1618 | | | | | 0 0 |
| i2123 | <u>CARPENTER, Richard</u> ----- | | | | 1 | 5 | |
| • i2125 | <u>CARPENTER, Richard</u> | 13 Oct 1622 | | | | | 0 0 |
| • i2126 | <u>Carpenter, Anne</u> | 27 Nov 1625 | | | | | 0 0 |
| • i2127 | <u>CARPENTER, Henry</u> | 12 Oct 1628 | | | 0 | 0 | 7 Feb 1631 |
| • i2128 | <u>CARPENTER, Henry</u> | 26 Jun 1631 | | | 0 | 0 | 3 Aug 1633 |
| • i2129 | <u>Carpenter, Elizabeth</u> | 31 Aug 1634 | | | 0 | 0 | |

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M | C | Died |
|--------|---------------------------------------|-------------|---------|---------------------------|---|---|-------------|
| k686 | <u>CARPENTER, Roger</u> ----- | | | Jone Carpenter(m) k688 | 1 | 1 | |
| • k689 | <u>Carpenter, Jone</u> | 7 Jan 1650 | | | | | 0 0 |
| k687 | <u>CARPENTER, Thomas</u> ----- | | | Mary Carpenter(m) k690 | 1 | 2 | > Jan 1656 |
| k690 | <u>Carpenter(m), Mary</u> ----- | | | | 1 | 2 | 22 Jan 1656 |
| • k885 | <u>CARPENTER, Thomas</u> | 12 Jul 1649 | | baptised in Ightham | | | 0 0 |
| • k691 | <u>CARPENTER, John</u> | 12 Oct 1651 | | | | | 0 0 |

The Carpenters of Shipbourne

John Carpenter of Shipbourne (\$800¹) and **Agnes** (\$705) had five children between 1585 and 1593. John died on 21st July 1593, the same day his youngest daughter was buried. On 5th March 1595 Agnes became the second wife of **William Blatcher** (\$49) and had two more children. She died on 19th March 1623 and her will has survived. See the [Tonbridge Blatchers in Families & Transcripts](#) for details.

On 21st August 1604 **John Carpenter** (\$809) married **Margaret** (\$810), the record in the parish register being “[John Carpenter and Magrett Carpenter married](#)”. John could have been an elder son of John and Agnes.

On 14th January 1645 **Elizabeth Carpenter** (\$2000) married **Humfrey Hawke** (\$1986).

¹ \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

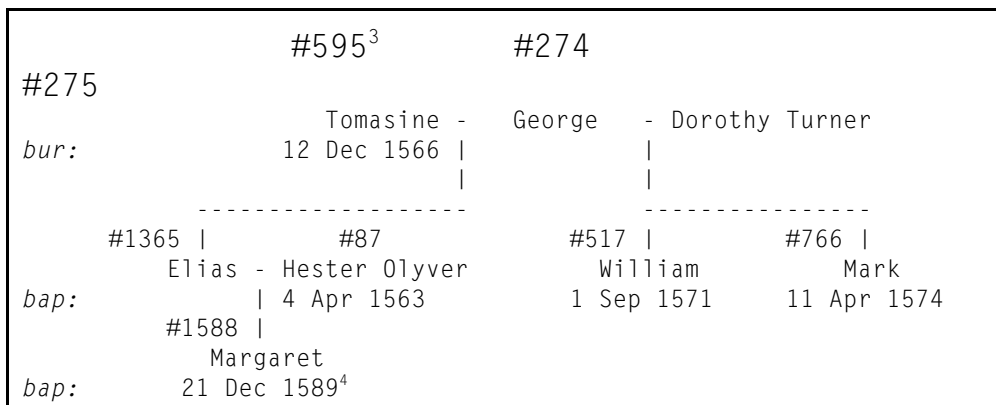
The Carres of Kemsing

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M | C | Died |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|---------|----------------------------|---|---|-------------|
| k540 ² | <u>CARRE, George</u> ----- | | | | 2 | 4 | |
| | <i>Marriage 1</i> | | | Alice Carre(m) #541 | 1 | 2 | |
| k541 | <u>Carre(m), Alice</u> ----- | | | | 1 | 2 | 22 Jul 1632 |
| • k542 | <u>CARRE, Richard</u> | 1 Jul 1621 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • k543 | <u>CARRE, Moses</u> | 27 Apr 1623 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| | <i>Marriage 2</i> | | | Elizabeth Carre(m) #544 | 1 | 2 | |
| • k545 | <u>CARRE, George</u> | 4 Dec 1636 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • k546 | <u>CARRE, John</u> | 13 Jan 1639 | | | 0 | 0 | 7 Sep 1641 |

2 "k" indicates a reference in the Kemsing database

The Carriers of Seal

A very tentative tree can be drawn up from the parish records for George Carryer's family:



In her will of 1556 Margaret Hasell left a kerchief to the wife of George Carryer

3 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

4 baptised four months after the marriage

and this was probably Tomasine - see [Hasell in Families & Transcripts](#).

Elias Carryer married Hester Olyver on 25th August 1589 and was therefore probably born in the early 1560s. He could have been the son of George and Thomasine who might have died as a result of his birth.

George Carryer married Dorothy Turner on 11th June 1569 and this George was most likely Tomasine's husband. They had two children.

Much later, on 21st December 1649, **Joanne Carryer** (#2863) married **Robert Hawes** (#2862).

The only Carrier mentioned locally but outside Seal was **Susan Carrier** (\$550) of **Shipbourne** who was buried on 13th December 1593.

The Carters of Shipbourne

There were a large number of Carters in Seal and Kemsing (see [Families & Transcripts](#)); it is not known if these Carters of Shipbourne were connected to those from Seal and Kemsing.

On 15th June 1606 **John Carter** (\$856⁵) married **Thamar Everest** (\$855). The name “Thamar” does not occur in the Everest families recorded in [Families & Transcripts](#).

On 23rd June 1646 **Thomas Carter** (\$2049) married **Mary Faunt** (\$2052). No children were recorded for either of these marriages.

On 11th August 1648, **John Fenne** (\$2145), “**son of widow Carter**” (\$2144), was buried. John’s mother must have married twice, first to Fenne and then to Carter, both of them dying before her.

The Carys of Ightham

Robert Carey (i892⁶) whose father's name was not given was baptised on 31st March 1577. Benjamin Cary had two daughters whose marriages were recorded:

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M C | Died |
|---------|------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|------------------------|-----|------------------|
| i2089 | <u>CARY, Benjamin</u> ----- | | 2 May 1613 | Anne Parker i2090 | 1 2 | > Apr 1638 |
| i2090 | <u>Parker, Anne</u> ----- | <1593 | | | 1 2 | 28 Apr 1638 |
| • i2091 | <u>Cary, Jane</u> | 27 Feb 1614 | 19 Apr 1635 married at 21 | George BUDD i2093 | 1 1 | |
| • i1120 | <u>Cary, Anne</u> | 17 Feb 1616 | 25 Oct 1635 married at 20 | Steven MILLIS i1119 | 1 2 | 1 Sep 1648 at 32 |

See [Budd and Millis in More Families & Transcripts](#) for details of the Budd and Millis families.

⁶ "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

Hugh Catelyn of West Malling

The will of Hugh Catelyn, Esquire (CKS: Drb/Pw 9; Drb/Pwr 13.356b) is very long with length repetitions of the arrangements for annuities and possible deaths. Some of the phrases used are unusual - for example, "I will, give and grant". None of the witnesses are known as a scriptor but the will, from its length and complexity, must have been written by a professional.

Hugh owned land in Kent and also in the county of Oxfordshire.

Will of *Hugh Catelyn of West Malling*

written 20th November 1566
transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The twentieth day
2 of November in the year of our lord god 1566 and in
3 the 8th year of the reign of our sovereign
4 lady Elizabeth, by the grace of god of England,
5 France and Ireland, queen, defender of the faith, etc.
6 I, Hugh Catelyn of West Malling in the county of
7 Kent, **Esquire**, whole of mind and perfect of

8 remembrance, lauded be god, make this my present
9 testament and last will, in manner and form
10 following: **First** I bequeath mu soul unto Almighty
11 god, my body to be buried in the church of West
12 Malling aforesaid. **Item:** I will that mine
13 executrix shall pay and deliver into the hands
14 of mine overseers within one year next after
15 my decease £10 of lawful money of England
16 and other £10 to my said overseers within two
17 years then next following, to the use of my
18 **sons, Edmond and Hugh**, to be bestowed by
19 my said overseers in the education of my said
20 sons in learning, equally. Also I will that
21 my wife shall have the use and occupying of
22 all my plate, that is to say, two bowls⁷ with a
23 cover parcel gilt, two goblets parcel gilt,
24 containing in all fifty and three untis? and
25 all the rest of my plate during her natural
26 life if she shall live sole and unmarried, and
27 after her decease, or if she shalbe before married,
28 I will the said parcels of plate, and every of

29 them, to **my son George**, if he shalbe then in
30 life, or to his son if any such shalbe then
31 in life and if not to that **my eldest son**
32 **Valentine** only excepted which shalbe then
33 living. **Item:** I will to **Dorothy Hale** and
34 **Johane Mason**, either⁸ of them 30s. **Item:** I will
35 that my wife shall have the profits of my
36 lands in West Malling which I now
37 occupy until Michaelmas next after
38 my decease. Also I ordain and make

page 2:

39 **Margaret, my wife**, my sole executrix of
40 this my testament to the which Margaret, my
41 debts and legacies paid, I give and bequeath
42 all the residue of my moveable goods, And more
43 over, my will is that if my said executrix have
44 not corn, as well upon the ground as other
45 wise, cattells and money enough sufficiently
46 to pay ny debts, bequests and legacies, that then
47 my will is that my said executrix, and my

8 either used to mean "each"

48 supervisors hereunder named, shall sell so much
49 woods⁹ in the parish of **East Malling**, with
50 egress and regress for carrying of the same,
51 to fell, sell and carry away, two years after
52 my decease, as shall amount unto the full
53 ?? of my debts and legacies. Also I
54 ordain and make **George Moulton** and
55 **Henry Brokhull, Esquires**, supervisors of this
56 my present testament and last will, to
57 the said Mr. Moulton I give for his labour
58 and pains in this my present testament and
59 last will 30s and to the said Henry
60 Brokhull, my son¹⁰, 20s.

61 This is the last will of me, the aforesaid
62 Hugh Catelyn, made and declared the day
63 and year above written, of and upon the
64 disposition of all my lands, tenements, meadows,
65 pastures, ?? , rents, ?? , ??

9 it was wood from his trees which was to be sold, not the land itself

10 son-in-law? Hugh does not mention a daughter, perhaps because she was married

66 and ?? withall and singular their
67 appurtenances, severally set, lying and
68 being or going out of my ?? land,
69 tenements or hereditaments within the counties
70 of Kent and **Oxford** or elsewhere within the
71 realm of England. **Item:** I will that the
72 aforesaid Margaret, my wife, shall have
73 the house that I now dwell in, with all the
74 houses, gardens, orchards thereto belonging,
75 and two parcels of meadows and lands,
76 containing be estimation 8 acres of
77 land lying unto the backside of the said
78 house. To have and to hold to her and her

page 3:

79 assigns, during the tenure of her natural
80 life if she live and keep herself sole and
81 unmarried. Also I will, give and grant
82 to the aforesaid Margaret, my wife, one
83 annual rent of £20 yearly going out of
84 all my other lands, tenements and hereditaments
85 aforesaid, to be had to her and to her assigns
86 yearly during the term of the natural life

87 of the said Margaret, at the feasts of
88 saint Michael th'archangel and the
89 Annunciation of our lady, by even portions to
90 be paid. And if and ?? it shall happen
91 the said yearly rent of £20 to my said wife
92 before willed, given and granted or any
93 part thereof to be behind, unpaid after
94 any of the said feasts, in which as is aforesaid
95 it ought to be paid, that then it shalbe
96 lawful to my said wife, and her assigns, into
97 the said land, tenements and other the premises
98 and every or any part or parcel thereof, to
99 enter and distrain and the distresses there
100 found to lead, drive and carry away and
101 the same to withhold until the said yearly
102 rent of £20 so to her willed, bequeathed,
103 given and granted, with all the arrearages of
104 the same, to be fully satisfied and paid. **Item:**
105 I give, will and grant to Hugh, my
106 son, £6 yearly going out of all and every
107 the aforesaid lands and tenements

similar conditions as for Margaret's annuity

page 4:

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127 are paid. **Item:** I will, give and grant
128 to Valentine, my son, £3 6s 8d yearly
129 going out of all and every the aforesaid
130 lands and tenements under conditions hereafter
131 following: to have and to hold to him the
132 said Valentine, during the term of his
133 natural life

similar conditions as for Margaret's annuity

152 paid. Conditionally, my will is that if
153 the said Valentine make any sale of
154 the aforesaid rent of £3 6s 8d to him
155 given and bequeathed, or do hereafter
156 ?? or by any other means, ??
157 craft or subtlety, convey, assure or put
158 away to any person or persons, the said
159 rent of £3 6s 8d, or any part thereof,

160 or do enter into bonds that any other person
161 or persons shall receive or take the said
162 ?? or any part thereof otherwise
163 ?? their own use ??

page 5:

164 that then and from thenceforth, my will is
165 that the said rent of £3 6s 8d before to
166 him given and granted, to cease and be
167 verily void, anything before to the contrary
168 not withstanding. **Item:** I will, give and
169 grant all my lands, tenements, meadows,
170 pastures, ?? , rents, annuities, reversions
171 ?? with all and their ?? severally
172 set, lying and being or going out of any
173 various lands, tenements or other heredita
174 ments within the counties of Kent and
175 Oxford to George Catelyn, my son, to
176 be had and holden to the said George and
177 to his heirs male of the body lawfully
178 begotten. And if it happen the said
179 George to die without heirs male of
180 his body lawfully begotten, then I will all

181 the aforesaid lands, tenements and other the
182 premises aforesaid, with th'appurtenances
183 to the aforesaid lying to my son to be
184 had and holden to the said Hugh and to
185 the heirs male of his body lawfully
186 begotten. And if it happen the said Hugh
187 to decease without heirs male of his body
188 lawfully begotten, that then my will is
189 that all the aforesaid lands, tenements and
190 every the premises aforesaid, with th'appur
191 tenances shall remain to Edmond, my
192 son, to be had and holden to the said
193 Edmond and to the heirs male of his
194 body lawfully begotten. Provided always,
195 and my will is that the said George and
196 his heirs male of his body lawfully
197 begotten and also all other my aforesaid
198 sons and the heirs male of their bodies
199 lawfully begotten ?? ?? only excepted
200 to whom my foresaid lands, tenements and
201 hereditaments, by virtue of this my will,
202 shall come, shall not withstanding my

page 6:

203 foresaid gift to him or them in tail¹¹ made in
204 form aforesaid issue and make jointure for
205 the preferment of his or their marriage or
206 marriages to his or their wife or wives of
207 all or as much of the aforesaid lands,
208 tenements and hereditaments to be had only
209 for term of her or their life of lives as
210 shalbe thought good and meet by my
211 overseers of this my testament. And after
212 the decease of my overseers, as shall be thought
213 good to them, the said George, Hugh and
214 Edmond¹² and their said heirs. In witness
215 whereof to this my testament and last
216 will I have set my seal and subscribed
217 my name yeven the day and year
218 first abovesaid per me Hugonem Catelyn¹³

11 "entail"?

12 was Valentine, the eldest son, already married and already been preferred?

13 this is the probate copy but perhaps this is how the testator spelled his first name.

219 witnesses at ensealing hereof **John Wheler**
220 **John Guiseley** and **Authin Willarde**

John Cayser of East Peckham

In his will of 1491 (PCC: Milles 45), John Cayser of East Peckham, asked to be buried “in the body of the church of Saint Mighell th’archangel in East Peckham”.

He gave to:

- the reparation of Saint Blasys window in the said church 40s
 - the construction of 2 windows in the said church steeple,
that is to say the east window and the north window 10s
- “I bequeath to the making of the south window in the said church” 40s

“Myne executor shall buy a chalice of the price of 40s in the honour of God’s divine service in the said church there to be done. I bequeath to the making of a shaft and a crucifix being at the Stone cross 11s 8d”.¹⁴

14 Testamenta Cantiana, London 1906, A Series of Extracts from 15th and 16th Century Wills, pp. 57-58

The Catts of Ightham & Seal

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M | C | Died |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|-------------|
| i2249 ¹⁵ | <u>CATT, John</u> ----- | | 7 Oct 1621 | Florence Burroughs i2250 | 1 | 2 | |
| | | a long time from marriage to baptism of first child | | | | | |
| • | i2251 <u>Catt, Anne</u> | 16 Nov 1628 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • | i2252 <u>CATT, Richard</u> | 4 Mar 1632 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| i2253 | <u>CATT, William</u> ----- | | | Elizabeth Catt(m) i2254 | 1 | 4 | |
| • | i2255 <u>CATT, John</u> | 2 Oct 1648 | | | 0 | 0 | 29 Apr 1649 |
| • | i2256 <u>CATT, William</u> | 26 Feb 1650 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • | i2257 <u>CATT, John</u> | | baptised the same day he was born | | 0 | 0 | 31 Jul 1651 |
| • | i2258 <u>CATT, Richard</u> | | | | 0 | 0 | 27 Jun 1652 |

In Seal on 7th February 1647, **William Catt** (#3751) married **Elizabeth Symons** (#3756). They had a daughter, **Susan** (#3757) baptised on 3rd October 1647.

¹⁵ "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database and # in that for Seal

Henry Chalklin of Shipbourne

This will (CKS: Drb/Pw 32) is written as if in paragraphs with a space between each one. It was written in 1646 but the month is missing. The name in the parish registers was given as Chalklyn.

The preamble is short but most unusually Henry was “[hoping to rest in endless bliss and happiness](#)”. The style of the rest of the will is also unusual.

Henry made his wife Mercy his executor and left £10 each to his three sons and a daughter, £5 to be paid when they reached the age of twenty-one and the other £5 on the death of his wife. Until the money was paid it was presumably to be “invested” since Mercy was to have “[the interest for the sustentation of the said children and if any of my children die then the said money shall remain in the hand of my executor of that child or children](#)”.

This phraseology is unusual in a number of ways:

- money was usually “put out at a profit” and the profit (rather than the interest, a most unusual term) used for the upkeep/benefit of the children. “Sustentation” (presumably a variation of sustenance) is another unusual word

- does the latter part of the sentence mean that if a child died before receiving his/her inheritance Mercy was to keep the money herself? What if Mercy died before the children reached the age of twenty-one?

The only witness who signed the will rather than making his mark was Henry Williams. Did he write the will?

The Chalklyn and Bassett Families

Henry appointed his brother John Bassett as one of his overseers; was his wife Mercy a Bassett? There were some Bassetts in Shipbourne including a Thomas Bassett who married in 1595 who could have had a daughter of a suitable age to marry in the 1620s and have four children under twenty-one in 1646. There was a Mercy Bassett who married Richard Godwyn in 1632 so that Mercy was a name used by the Bassetts.

Thomas Bassett married in 1595 but Mercy, married in the early 1630s, was more likely to have been his granddaughter rather than daughter. The Elizabeth Bassett who married in 1621 could have been his daughter - see [Ellis in More Families & Transcripts](#) for their children.

A tentative tree for the Chalklyns and Bassetts is shown on the next page.

| | | | | | | |
|-------|----------------|----------------|-------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------|
| | \$602 | Thomas Bassett | - | Agnes Charie(m) | \$588 ¹⁶ | |
| mar: | | 25 Jan 1595 | | | | |
| bur: | | 27 Nov 1625 | | 20 Jan 1611 | | |
| ----- | | | | | | |
| | | | | \$1315 | | \$1316 |
| mar: | | XXX - | | Elizabeth - | William Ellis | |
| | | | | 13 Feb 1621 | | |
| ----- | | | | | | |
| | \$1659 | \$1085 | | \$1857 | | \$1858 |
| | Henry Chalklyn | - | Mercy | John - | Dorothy Norice | Susan - |
| mar: | <1634 | | | 24 Feb 1643 | | 15 Sep 1644 |
| will: | 1646 | | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | | |
| | | \$1661 | | \$1638 | | \$1663 |
| bap: | John | Thomas | | Henry | | Anne |
| | | 22 Nov 1635 | | 5 Aug 1638 | | 12 Jun 1643 |

Also:

- **Alice Chalklyn** (\$1726) married **John Stevenson** (\$1704) on 12th November 1637
- **William Chalklyn** (\$2133) married **Elizabeth Weller** (\$2134) on 24th January 1648.

See page 2.c.41 for the Seal Chalklyns and **Bassetts in More Families & Transcripts** for those from other parishes.

1 In the name of god Amen. ?? the 16 ----- 1646

2 I, Henry Chalklin of Shipbourne in the county of Kent,
3 **yeoman**, do here make my last will and testament being
4 very sick n body but in perfect memory, I praise god.

5 **Item:** first I will and bequeath my soul to Almighty god
6 hoping to rest in endless bliss and happiness and my body
7 to be decently buried in the churchyard of Shipbourne by my
8 executor.

9 **Item:** I do will and bequeath to **my wife Mercy**, making her
10 my whole executor of all my moveable goods, cattell and
11 chattells whatsoever, paying out of it to my children as
12 shall hereafter be mentioned.

13 **Item:** I do will and bequeath to my **eldest son John** ten pounds
14 of lawful english money, the one half to be paid when he accomplish
15 the age of one and twenty years and the other half after the
16 decease of my wife Mercy.

17 **Item:** I do more will and bequeath to my **second son Thomas** ten pounds
18 to be paid to him according as is expressed to my eldest son.

19 **Item:** I do more will and bequeath to my **third son Henry** ten pounds
20 to be paid to him likewise.

21 **Item:** I do more will and give to my **only daughter Anne** ten pounds
22 to be paid to her as above written.

23 **Item:** my will is that my wife Mercy shall have the interest for the
24 sustentation of the said children and if any of my children die then
25 the said money shall remain in the hand of my executor of that child
26 or children.

27 **Item:** I do will and entreat? **my brother John Bassett**¹⁷ and Edward
28 ??erfield to be my overseers of this my will and give them four
29 shillings a piece for a memorial. So I rest committing my soul to
30 Almighty god

17 was Henry's wife Mercy a Bassett?

Henry Williams

Thomas ?alle ¹⁸

the mark of
₁₉

Henry Wood

the mark of

H

Henry Chalklin

18 looks like a mark

19 whilst the mark of the testator looks like an "H" that of the witness Henry Wood looks like and "H" on its side

The Chalklyns of Seal

There is no obvious connection between the Seal and Shipbourne Chawklyns.
indicates a reference in the Seal database.

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M C | Died |
|---------|--|-------------|------------------------------|------------------------|-----|--------------|
| #2474 | <u>CHAWKLYN, Thomas</u> of Seal ----- | | | | 1 4 | |
| • #2476 | <u>Chawklyn, Susanna</u> | 24 Sep 1620 | 17 Feb 1642 married at 21 | Thomas OLYVER #3159 | | 1 2 |
| • #2477 | <u>Chawklyn, Mary</u> | 9 Mar 1623 | | | | 0 0 |
| • #2478 | <u>Chawklyn, Ann</u> | 25 Sep 1625 | | | | 0 0 |
| • #2479 | <u>CHAWKLYN, son</u> | 28 Aug 1629 | | | | 0 0 stilborn |

At the February 1635 Assizes **John Hawes**, labourer of Sevenoaks, was indicted for grand larceny. “[On 10th October 1634 at Seal he stole two sheep \(worth 18s\) from Chalkley](#)”. This could have been Thomas Chalklyn. He was indicted for further thefts at Chiddingstone and Sevenoaks culminating in him and others stealing a large number of items from George Lone in Sevenoaks in March 1642. In this last

case he was found guilty and sentenced to hang.²⁰

Returning to the Chawklyns, there were three women known only from their marriages although all three could have been Thomas's daughters:

- **Elizabeth Chawklyn (#3255)** married **John Porter (#3250)** on 17th May 1636 (see [Porter in Families & Transcripts](#)) She could have been Thomas's eldest daughter.
- **Sarah Chawklyn (#3625)** married **William Swanne (#3626)** on 18th May 1647.
- **Margaret Chawklyn (#2483)** married **Robert Olyver (#2484)** on 19th December 1647

See [Porter and Olyver in Families & Transcripts](#) for details of the husbands of Elizabeth, Margaret and Susanna

The Chambers of Shipbourne

John Chambers (\$1553) married **Alice Pawley** (\$1555) on 14th February 1631. The **Elizabeth** (\$1682), daughter of John Chambers baptised on 1st May 1636 could have been their daughter. The name of Elizabeth's mother is not given but there is no other mention of a John Chambers who might have been her father

Mildred Chambers (\$1147) married **Richard Pulman** (\$1143) on 19th December 1614.

Thomas Chambers (\$2110) married **Elizabeth Hoadley** (\$2106) on 21st September 1647. Elizabeth could have been the daughter of Steven Hoadley (\$1346) - see [Hoadley in More Families & Transcripts](#).

Thomas Chapman, **gent.** of West Farleigh in the county of Kent

- **First** I bequeath my soul to god, my creator and only Redeemer, my body to be buried in the parish church of West Farleigh aforesaid. And as concerning my burial and
- other my funeral charges, I will that **Barbara, my wife**, whom I appoint and make my sole
- executrix of this my present testament and last will, shall bestow at the time of my burial
- in deeds of charity to the sum of four pounds. And a quarter of wheat to be distributed
- amongst the poor people as well in the said parish of West Farleigh as also in the parish of
- **Yalding** at her discretion. And I give and bequeath to **James Busbridge, my son**
- **-in-law**, ten pounds . . . to
- **Jane Busbridge, daughter of the said James**, ten pounds . . . at day of her marriage five pounds. And other
- five pounds within one year following.

- To **Edward Busbridge, one of the sons of the said James,**
- three pounds . . . at age of sixteen years.
- To **Barbara Busbridge, daughter** of the said James, forty shillings
- at her age of 18 years.
- To my **sister Stoane** five pounds ... to be paid
- her yearly by the space of five years next and immediately
- ensuing after my decease, that is 20s . . . (*a year for 5 years*)
- To **Henry Chapman, son of my son Thomas Chapman,**
- deceased, fifty pounds . . . at age of twenty and one years.
- And if my said executrix do fortune to marry
- after my decease then my last will and mind is that my said executrix,
- before the time
- of her marriage shall deliver . . . unto my overseers
- . . . the said fifty pounds to the use of the said Henry Chapman when he
- shall
- come to the said full age of twenty and one years, my said executrix taking
- good and
- sufficient bonds of my said overseers for the good and true redelivery of the
- said fifty pounds to
- the said Henry Chapman at his said age of twenty and one year
- (*if Henry dies before 21, £50 to remain to testator's or son's? wife*)
- I give and bequeath to the said Barbara, my wife, a ring of gold with the
- picture of death's head

- in it to be of the value of 33s 4d in very gold. Also I give and bequeath to every of my daughters
- a ring of fine gold with a death's head in them, every of the said rings to be of the value of twenty
- shillings. . . . I give and
- bequeath to my **son-in-law Anthony Bredams?** and **Susan, his wife, my daughter,** 40s . . .
- to my **son-in-law John Polly and Margaret, his wife, my daughter,** 40s
- to **John Polly, son of the said John Polly,** forty shillings at his age of 21 years
- to **Barbara Polly, daughter of the said John and Margaret,** 40s and to **her sister, Anne Polly,** another 40s . . . at their ages of 16 years.
- to my **son-in-law Avery Giles** and to **Joane, his wife, my daughter,** 40s.
- I bequeath towards the reparation of **Teston Bridge** forty shillings to be delivered into the hands of my
- overseers to the use of the said bridge to be bestowed about the same at such time as the ??
- ?? shall go about to repair the said bridge.
- Also I bequeath to every of my son-in-law

- Bredams children now living 40s . . . And I give to my son-in-law Avery
- Giles's two daughters . . . 40s at sixteen years. And I bequeath to my godson **John Busbridge, son of James Busbridge**, one cow of the best sort . . .
- ...
- overseers . . . my trusty friend **Richard Clarke, Esquire**,
- one of the Queen's majesty's footmen, and my son-in-law Avery Giles.
- I bequeath to **William Manshurst** my playing tables that I had of William Ja??, gent.deceased

written by me **William Mewsherst** - *this is crossed out and various alterations made to the will in another ink; these alterations have been included in the above transcript.*

The will continues:

Item: I will and my meaning is that if it shall happen the persons above said, or any of them (other than the said James and Jane, his daughter) to whom the several legacies and bequests . . . given as afore is expressed, to depart this life before the time of their legacies and bequests to be delivered as before appointed, that then all and singular the ?? legacies and bequests to him or them so departing this world ?? shall be to the ?? use and ?? of my said executrix.

Item: I will and give all my goods and chattels . . . , my debts and legacies above said contented, performed and delivered to my said executrix, her use.

This being witnessed **Richard Crompton** and **Thomas Claye**

by me Thomas Chapman (*in original ink*)

The Chapmans of Ightham

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M C | Died |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|--|--|------|-------------|
| 1990 ²¹ | <u>CHAPMAN, Robert</u> ----- | | 16 Jan 1615 | Joane Emmorie 1989 | 1 6 | |
| 1989 | <u>Emmorie, Joane</u> ----- | 20 Oct 1588 | | married at 26 see Emmorie in More Families & Transcripts | 1 6 | |
| • 1991 | <u>CHAPMAN, John</u> | | 26 Feb 1615 | | 0 0 | |
| | | | baptised 5 weeks after the marriage of his parents | | | |
| • 1992 | <u>Chapman, Margaret</u> | | 10 Sep 1616 | | 0 0 | 10 Sep 1616 |
| • 1993 | <u>CHAPMAN, Thomas</u> | | 28 Nov 1619 | Elizabeth Chapman(m) | 1 1 | |
| | | | son John born when he was not quite 21 | | 1997 | |
| • • 1998 | <u>CHAPMAN, John</u> | | 22 Nov 1640 | | | 0 0 |
| • 1994 | <u>CHAPMAN, William</u> | | 20 Oct 1622 | | 0 0 | |
| • 1995 | <u>CHAPMAN, Robert</u> | | 31 Oct 1624 | | 0 0 | |
| • 1996 | <u>CHAPMAN, Nicholas</u> | | 15 Oct 1626 | | 0 0 | 17 Jun 1628 |

²¹ "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

The Charies of Ightham

There was a John and Elizabeth Charie and a John and Elizabeth Charles both having children in Ightham in the 1620s and 1630s. Fortunately the surnames were written distinctly and the families on this and the next page can be assembled.

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M | C | Died |
|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------|----------|------------------------------|---|---|-------------|
| i2270 ²² | <u>CHARIE, John</u> ----- | | | Elizabeth Charie(m) i2271 | 1 | 5 | 20 Feb 1652 |
| • i2259 | <u>Charie, Truth</u> | 13 Mar 1625 | daughter | | 0 | 0 | |
| • i2269 | <u>CHARIE, Thomas</u> | 6 May 1627 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • i2272 | <u>CHARIE, John</u> | 29 Mar 1630 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • i2274 | <u>CHARIE, William</u> | 23 Mar 1634 | | | 0 | 0 | 25 Oct 1634 |
| • i2275 | <u>CHARIE, William</u> | 14 Apr 1636 | | | 0 | 0 | 23 Feb 1637 |

²² "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

The Charies of Shipbourne

William Charie (\$587²³) and his **wife Agnes** (\$588) had a number of children in the early 1590s but disaster struck the household in the winter of 1593/4:

- Samuel (\$589), their son buried 29 Dec 1593
- Marie (\$590), their daughter 14 Jan 1594
- Margaret (\$591), servant 21 Jan 1594
- Elizabeth (\$592), servant 28 Jan 1594

with William himself being buried 22 Feb 1594.

Agnes escaped without succumbing to the infection and, a year later, married Thomas Bassett - see page 2.c.37 for details of their family.

On 7th May 1609, **Marie** (\$934), daughter of **John Charie** (\$932) was baptised. Nothing else is known about John.

23 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

The Charles of Ightham

See the note at the beginning of the Charies on the previous page.

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M C | Died |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|---------|---------------------------------|-----|------------|
| i2273 ²⁴ | <u>CHARLES, John</u> ----- | | | Elizabeth Charles(m) i2276 | 1 4 | |
| i2276 | <u>Charles(m), Elizabeth</u> ----- | | | | 1 4 | 5 Nov 1652 |
| • i2278 | <u>CHARLES, James</u> | 26 Nov 1627 | | | | 0 0 |
| • i2277 | <u>CHARLES, John</u> | 31 Aug 1634 | | | | 0 0 |
| • i2279 | <u>CHARLES, Robert</u> | 24 Jan 1647 | | | | 0 0 |
| • i2280 | <u>CHARLES, Richard</u> | 25 Jan 1650 | | | | 0 0 |
| | | | | baptised the same day as he was | | born |

There is a very long gap between the baptisms of John and Robert but both Robert and Richard were described as the sons of "[John Charles and Elizabeth](#)".

²⁴ "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

Only the beginning of this will has been transcribed

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 The 26th day of June in the 39th
3 year of the reign of our most sovereign
4 Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of god Queen
5 of England, France and Ireland, defender of
6 the faith, etc. I, Henry Checksill of the parish
7 of Brenchley in the county of Kent, **husband**
8 **man**, being sick in body and perfect of remembrance,
9 thanks be given to Almighty god, make and
10 ordain this my present testament and last will
11 in manner and form following: **First** I
12 bequeath my soul unto Almighty god, my
13 saviour and redeemer, and my body to be buried in
14 the churchyard of Brenchley, aforesaid. **Item:** I
15 bequeath unto the poor of the parish of Brenchley
16 12d. **Item:** I bequeath unto **Stephan Checksill,**
17 **my son**, half my wheat and half my oats

18 which is on the ground. And one flockbed in the
19 chamber over the hall which the boy useth to lie

The Childrens of Tonbridge

Five wills have survived for the Childrens of Tonbridge:

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Robert Children | 10 Jun 1590 ²⁵ | PCC: Harrington 60; Prob 10/140 | page 2.c.59 |
| Roman Children | 17 Apr 1613 proved 1614 | PCC: Lawe 50 | page 2.c.21 |
| John Children | 1 Sep 1618 | PCC: Dale 68; Prob 10/385 | page 2.c.76 |
| Margaret Children | 20 Apr 1630 | CKS: Drb/Pw 28; Drb/Pwr 21.405 | page 2.c.83 |
| George Children | 27 May 1631 proved 1632 | PCC: Audley 75; Prob 10/505 | page 2.c.93 |

The wills of Robert and John Children were both written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618. Both have a version of Nicholas Hooper's mark at the top and decorated "I"s at the beginning, that of Robert's including a face.

Margaret Children was John's wife and mother of his children whom she mentions in her will which was written by John Hooper on 20th April 1630. George's will was also written by John Hooper.

Roman Children was the son of Robert Children and the executor of his father's

25 codicil, 13th March ??; proved July 1592

will but there is no obvious connection between them and John and Margaret. It is not possible, either, to connect George with the other Children.

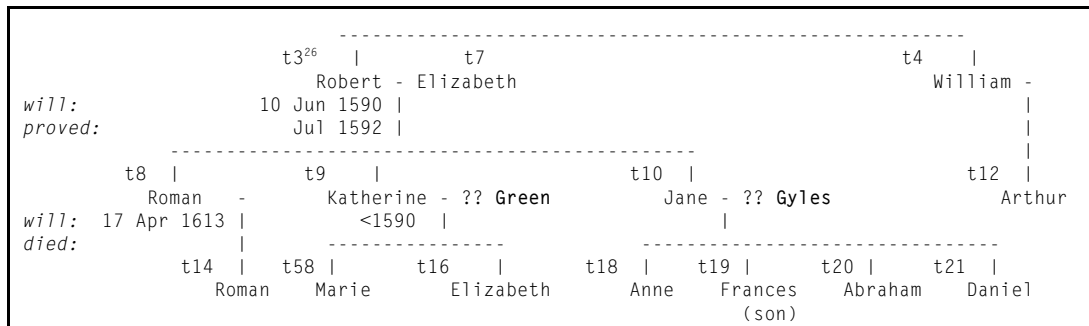
Nicholas Hooper was buried on 23rd December 1618 and John Children's will is the last one written by him to have been found; it was not proved until July 1621. The introduction to this will is much more typical of Nicholas Hooper than is that of Robert Children's. At the end of John's will there is a note written by John Hooper, Nicholas's son who was parish clerk of Tonbridge and a notary public. Perhaps this was written just before John Children died which could have been in the first half of 1621.

George Children's will is unusual in the details given of the farming carried on by George's family and complicated by the arrangements made for his wife's widowhood.

Robert Children, Yeoman of our Sovereign Queen's Crossbowes

Robert's title is impressive and his commitment to his position is shown by the bequest to his grandson of "ten shillings to buy him bow and arrows". All his other grandchildren were to receive ten shillings when they reached the age of

eighteen but his nephew, Arthur, was to receive twenty shillings.



Although his grandchildren were all under eighteen when he wrote his will, Robert “[aged and something grieved with aches and sickness](#)” could have been about seventy with his eldest child born about 1545 and married about 1570.

His mansion house in Tonbridge, called Mountains, sounds impressive with its “[houses, barns, buildings and edifices, thereto belonging, and all closes, gardens, orchards, lands, meadows, pastures, feedings, woods and underwoods, thereto belonging](#)”. He also had other “[lands, tenements and hereditaments](#)” in Kent and

²⁶ t indicates a reference in the Tonbridge database

the lease of some lands in “[St. Martins in the Fields in the county of Middlesex](#)”²⁷ from which his wife was to be paid an annuity.

As so often with these rich testators, their gifts to the poor seem very small - the poor boxes of the parishes of St. Martins and Tonbridge were each to receive 3s 4d (£0.16).

Robert's Will

Robert's will, as noted above, was written by Nicholas Hooper. Whilst phrases such as “[by whose merits, precious death and bloodshedding](#)” occur in many Nicholas Hooper wills, there are other phrases in Robert's will not met with elsewhere. Examples of these are: “[my body to the earth to be buried in honest and decent sepulchre, according to my calling, at the discretion of mine executor](#)” and the request for a sermon to be preached at his burial “[not that I think thereto to benefit my self but that the hearers may be admonished what this life is and thereby may learn to abase themselves and to be more readily prepared to lead lives answerable to the life to come](#)”.

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

1 In²⁸ the name of god Amen. The tenth day of June²⁹ in the year of our lord
god one thousand, five hundredth four score
2 and ten. And in the two and thirtieth year of the reign of our Sovereign
Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of England, France
3 and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. I, Robert Children of Tonbridge in
the County of Kent, **yeoman of our Sovereign**
4 **Queen's Majesty's Crossbowes**, being³⁰ at the making hereof in reasonable
good health of body and of perfect mind and memory, thanks
5 therefore be given to god almighty, notwithstanding aged and something

28 "I" decoration includes a face

29 "February" crossed out and replaced with "June"

30 "beeing"; "mee", "hee", etc. throughout

6 grieved with aches and sickness and thereby put in mind of the ??
and alteration of this mortal and transitory life, therefore do and make this
my present testament and last will in manner and form following:
7 And **First** and principally, I give, commend and bequeath my soul to
Almighty god, my maker. And to Jesus Christ, his dear son, my
8 saviour and redeemer, by whose merits, precious death and
bloodshedding³¹, I trust only to be saved. And my body to the earth to be
buried in ??
9 and decent sepulchre according to my calling at the discretion of mine
executor. **Item:** I will and give to a godly and learned priest ? ?
10 sermon at my burial six shillings and eight pence, lawful money, not that I
think thereby to benefit myself any manner of way ? ?
11 may be admonished what this life is and that thereby they may learn to
abase themselves and to be more readily prepared to leave ? ?
12 to the life to come. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Roming Children, my son,**
all that my lease and leases of all such lands
13 whatsoever which I have situated, lying and being in the parish of **St.**
Martins in the Fields in the county of Middlesex. And also all my ??
14 in, at of and term of years, of, in and to the same. To have and to hold the
same, withall and singular, th'appurtenances, unto the same Roming,
15 his heirs, administrators and assigns, from the day of my decease, during

31 "bludshedding"

all the years then to come, of and in the same, or ? ?

16 expire. Upon condition that he, the said Roming or his executors, shall,
within four months next ensuing after my decease enter
17 into bond of one hundredth pounds, to my overseer hereafter named, his
executors or assigns, with condition thereupon to be endorsed, as well

18 for the yearly payment of all and every the sum and sums of money herein,
hereafter, by me given to **Elizabeth, my wife**. As also for the
19 true payment of all and every the sum and sums of money and other
legacies, gifts and bequests contained in the same, my will. And for the
20 performance of the same, according to the true meaning thereof. **Item:** I
give and bequeath unto the said Elizabeth, my wife the sum of fifty
21 shillings lawful money to be paid to her, or her assigns, every quarter of a
year, during the continuance of my said lease or leases if she
22 so long live and keep herself a widow, viz at the feast of Th'annunciation of
the blessed virgin Mary, midsummer, Michaelmas and Christmas
23 which is £10 a year, or within three weeks next after every of the same
feasts, if she demand the same at my mansion house wherein I now dwell
24 in Tonbridge aforesaid. And also I will that she, the said Elizabeth, shall
have her dwelling and free use and occupation of the chamber over the
parlour
25 in my said mansion house during the said term if she so long live
unmarried, as is aforesaid, and meet and competent meat, drink and ??

26 to her degree and quality, as well in sickness as in health, in the said
27 mansion house with my said son Roming, his heirs, executors and
28 assigns during all the said term if she so long live a widow and will accept
29 and take the same. Provided notwithstanding, and my very
30 will and mind is that, if my said wife shall refuse her such dwelling, finding
31 and payment of the said ten pounds yearly as
32 aforesaid, then I will and bequeath to her, the said Elizabeth, the sum of
33 five pounds lawful money to be paid to her, or her assigns, at every
34 of the feasts aforesaid, or within the space of the said three weeks thence
35 next ensuing, upon like demand which is £20 yearly during the said term
36 from her such refusal, if she so long live unmarried as is aforesaid.
Provided furthermore that if my said wife shall happen at any time and
hereafter to marry again, Then I will that all the said legacies herein afore
to her willed, shall be void and of none effect to all intents and purposes.
And then I will she shall have that she shall have³² only 33s 4d at every of
the same feasts or within the said three weeks upon like
demand during the said term (if she so long live) which is only yearly six
pounds thirteen shillings and four pence. Provided
lastly that if at any time hereafter she, the said Elizabeth my wife, or any
other for her, shall claim, challenge, demand and have any
other jointure, dower or benefit, than is herein before or after mentioned to

32 repetition in original will and in probate copy

be given her by this my will, then I will that the said gift of
37 finding and keeping chamber, 50s a quarter, £5 a quarter and 33s 4d a
quarter shalbe utterly void, frustrate and of none effect to all
38 intents and purposes (any thing herein before mentioned to the contrary
hereof in any wise notwithstanding. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my
godson,**
39 **Roming Children, son of my said son Roming Children,** ten shillings to buy
him bow and arrows. **Item:** I will that the same
40 Elizabeth, my wife shall have the use of the hangings of the chamber
above mentioned without alteration and free liberty to and from the said
41 chamber to go and come at all times during the time abovesaid and under
the conditions abovesaid without denial of the said Roming, his
42 heirs or assigns. The which hanging afterwards, I will to the said Roming
and his heirs. **Also** I give to my said wife one bedstead,
43 featherbed, a bolster, two pillows, two pillowberes, two pairs of sheets, a
pair of blankets and one counterpoint³³ being all in the said
44 chamber over the parlour, also my least brass pot, two pewter platters, two
pewter dishes, a dozen of tin spoons, all her own
45 apparel, gear and wearing linen whatsoever, her side saddle and bridle
furnished and the lesser chest standing at the bed's foot in the
46 above named chamber. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto to **Anne Gyles,**

Francis, Abraham and Daniel

from probate copy:

- **Gyles**, sons and daughter of **my daughter Jane** ten shillings lawful money a piece to be paid to them at their ages of eighteen years a piece.
- **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Marie Green** and **Elizabeth Green**, daughters of **Katherine Green**, **my daughter**, deceased, ten shillings a piece to be paid to them and either of them at their several ages of eight
- teen years. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Arthur Children**, **son of my brother William**, twenty shillings to be delivered within four
- years next after my decease. **Item:** I give to **Panours Harman**, **my servant**, a good cow at my son's appointment to be delivered within
- one whole year next after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath to the box or chest of the poor within the parish of St. Martins aforesaid
- three shillings four pence. And to the box of the poor within the parish of Tonbridge aforesaid other three shillings four pence to
- be paid within one quarter of a year next after my decease. The residue of all my goods, cattells, jewels, plate, money, household stuff
- and debts to me owed and owing at the time of my decease, my debts and legacies being paid and funeral discharged, I wholly and
- fully give and bequeath to the said Roming Children, my son, whom I make and constitute my only and sole executor of this my last will

- and testament. And I ordain and make my loving friend **Miles**
- **Laten** of St. Martins aforesaid, gent, to be supervisor and overseer of this
- my will to whom I will, toward his pains, forty shillings to be paid
- within one whole year next after my decease, desiring him to show
- good will to my said wife, children and other the legators in this my
- will nominated according to the tenor of this my will. This
- is the last will of me, the said Robert Children, made and declared
- the day and year first above written, concerning the order and
- disposition of all my lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever and
- wheresoever.
- **Item:** I will and bequeath to the said Roming Children, my son, all the
- my mansion house called **Mountains** wherein I now dwell with all
- my houses, barns, buildings and edifices, thereto belonging, and all closes,
- gardens, orchards, lands, meadows, pastures, feedings, woods and
- underwoods,
- thereto belonging, situated, lying and being in Tonbridge aforesaid and
- all other my lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever within the
- county of Kent, withall and singular th'appurtenances, unto the said
- Roming
- Children, my son, his heirs and assigns, to have and to hold the
- same, withall and singular th'appurtenances, to him the said Roming, my
- son, his
- heirs and assigns, to the only use and behoof of the said Roming, my

- son, his heirs and assigns forever. In witness whereof to this my
- present last will and testament, I the said Robert Children, have set my
- hand and seal, yeven, the day and year first above written, in the presence
- of me, **Nicholas Hooper**, writer hereof and of **John Stockwood**,
- **vicar of Tonbridge**, **Thomas Everest** and **Henry Amark**, the mark
- of Thomas Everest, Henry Amark.

There is then a codicil or postscriptum which looks also to have been written by Nicholas Hooper:

This same will acknowledged again by me Robert Children in good memory in the presence of **John Stockwood**, vicar of Tonbridge and **John Moores** the 13th day of March An. D. one thousand five hundred and ninety one³⁴. mark of Robert Children

Roman Children, son of Robert

On his death Roman still owned the land in St. Martins in the Field left to him by his father and he passed this on to his son who, in Roman's will, is called Robert. Robert's grandson to whom he had left the money for a bow and arrows was described as "[Roming Children, son of my said son Roming Children](#)". Was "Roman" or "Roming" a version of Robert or had the grandson mentioned by Robert died so that another son of Roman was his heir?

Roman was also still living in the mansion house called Mountains which had been his father's and this was also left to his son.

Roman's Will

When Roman wrote his will in 1613 he was "[in reasonable good health of body and of perfect mind \(thanks therefore be given to god\) notwithstanding aged and somewhat grieved with aches and sickness and thereby put in mind of the sudden alteration of this mortal and transitory life](#)"

This was twenty-three years after his father's will was written with exactly the same description of Robert's state of health. Other sections, including the provisions for his wife, are exact copies of his father's will. Roman must have kept

this will and, when his own came to be written, possibly by Henry Carnell (the only witness who did not make his mark), Robert's will was used for all those items which were not specifically personal to Roman. Although Carnell was described by Roman as his son-in-law, there is no mention of a daughter.

The Will of Roman Children

written 17th April 1613; proved 16th May 1614

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The
2 seventeenth day of April in the year of our Lord God one
3 thousand six hundred and thirteen and in the year of the
4 reign of our Sovereign Lord James, by the grace of god, king
5 of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the
6 faith, etc. viz. of England, France and Ireland the eleventh
7 and of Scotland the six and fortieth, I, Roman Children, of
8 Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being at the making
9 hereof in reasonable good health of body and of perfect mind (thanks
10 therefore be given to god) notwithstanding aged and somewhat grieved
11 with aches and sickness and thereby put in mind of the sudden
12 alteration of this mortal and transitory life, therefore do ordain
13 and make this my present testament and last will in manner and

14 form following: And **first** and principally, I give, commend and bequeath
15 my soul to Almighty god, my maker, and to Jesus Christ, his dear
16 son, my only saviour and redeemer, by whose merits, precious
17 death and blood shedding I trust only to be saved and my body to
18 the earth to be buried in honest and decent sepulchre according to my
19 calling at the discretion of mine executor. **Item:** I will and give to
20 a godly and learned preacher to make a sermon at my burial six
21 shillings eight pence of lawful money, not that I think thereto to
22 benefit my self but that the hearers may be admonished what this
23 life is and thereby may learn to abase themselves and to be more
24 readily prepared to lead lives answerable to the life to come. **Item:**
25 I will and bequeath to **Robert Children, my son**, all that my lease
26 and leases of all such lands and tenements whatsoever I have
27 situated, lying and being in the parish of **Saint Martins in**

page 2:

28 **the Fields in the county of Middlesex**³⁵. And all my right title, interest and
29 term of years of, in and to the same, to have and to hold the same and all
and
30 singular the appurtenances unto the said Robert, my son, his executors and
31 assigns from the day of my decease during all the years then to come

35 left to him by his father

32 of and in the same or any of them and not expired. **Item:** I will and
bequeath
33 to **Marie, my wellbeloved wife**, the sum of fifty shillings good and
34 lawful money, to be paid to her, or her assigns, every quarter of a
35 year during her natural life if she keep herself a widow (viz.
36 at the feast of the blessed virgin, St. Mary, St. John Baptist,
37 St. Michael th'archangel and the Nativity of our lord Christ) which
38 is ten pounds a year, or within one and twenty days next after
39 every of the same feasts if she demand the same at my house
40 wherein I now dwell in Tonbridge aforesaid and the first payment
41 thereof to begin at any of the said feasts that shall first and next
42 happen after my decease. And also I will that she, the said Marie,
43 shall have her dwelling and free use and occupation for herself only
44 of the house wherein I now dwell with the said Robert, my son,
45 during her natural life if she live unmarried as is aforesaid and
46 meet and competent meat, drink and diet and lodging according
47 to her age, degree and quality, as well in sickness as in health. And
48 also a maid to be at her command to help her at all times at the
49 finding and cost of the said Robert, my son, his heirs, executors and
assigns, in
50 the said house wherein I now dwell if she live a widow and will accept and
take the
51 same, provided notwithstanding, and my very will is that if the said Marie,

my wife,
52 shall refuse her such dwelling, finding maid and payment of the said ten
pounds
53 yearly in manner aforesaid, then I will and bequeath to her, the said
54 Marie, the sum of four pounds of lawful money to be paid
55 her, or her assigns, at every of the feasts aforesaid or within the space
56 of the said one and twenty days then next ensuing upon like demand
57 which is sixteen pounds yearly during the said time from her such
58 refusal if she live unmarried as is aforesaid. Provided furthermore
59 that if the said Marie, my wife, at any time hereafter shall happen to
60 marry again, then I will that all the said legacies herein before to
61 her willed shall be void and of none effect to all intents and
62 purposes. And then I will that she shall have only three and
63 thirty shillings and four pence at every of the same feasts or
64 within the said one and twenty days upon like demand during
65 her natural life which is only six pounds thirteen shillings
66 and four pence a year. Provided lastly that, if at any time
67 hereafter she, the said Marie my wife, or any other for her shall
68 claim, challenge, demand and have any other jointure, dowry or
69 benefit, then this herein before or after mentioned to be given her by this
my
70 will, then I will that her said gift of finding and keeping, maid,
71 houserom and dwelling, fifty shillings a quarter, four pounds a

72 quarter and three and thirty shillings four pence a quarter shalbe
73 utterly void and of none effect to all intents and purposes, any thing
74 herein before willed to the contrary hereof notwithstanding. And also I
75 give to my said wife all her wearing apparel, linen and woollen and the
76 chest wherein she now putteth her linen. And also her side
77 saddle and bridle thereto belonging and the bedstead with the
78 featherbed and furniture thereof in the loft over the parlour³⁶. And
79 my very will and meaning is the said Marie, my wife, shall have the

page 3

80 legacies given by me in this will according to true meaning out of the
house
81 and lands wherein I now dwell. **Item:** I give to the poor of the parish of
82 Tonbridge six shillings eight pence to be paid by my executor at my
83 burial. The residue of all my goods and cattle, household stuff and debts
84 to me due and owing (my debts and legacies being paid and funeral
85 discharged³⁷) I wholly and fully give and bequeath to the said Robert,
86 my son, whom I make and constitute my whole and sole executor

36 in his father's will it was the "chamber over the parlour"; had the chamber been demoted to a loft or were there two different rooms?

37 "dischardged" but probate copy

87 of this my will. And I make and ordain my **son-in-law, Henry Carnell**,
88 supervisor and overseer of this my last will and testament to whom I will
89 and give towards his pains forty shillings to be paid within one
90 whole year next after my decease desiring him to show good will to
91 my good wife, son and other legators in this my will nominated
92 according to the true tenor of this my will.

93 This is the last will and testament of me
94 the said Roman Children made and declared the day and year first
95 above written concerning the order and disposition of all my lands,
tenements
96 and hereditaments whatsoever and wheresoever. **Item:** I will and
bequeath
97 to the said Robert Children, my son, all that my mansion house
98 called **Mountains**³⁸ wherein I now dwell withall the houses, barns,
99 buildings and edifices thereto belonging and all the closes, gardens,
100 orchards, lands, meadows, pastures, feedings, woods and underwood³⁹
101 thereto belonging, situated, lying and being in Tonbridge aforesaid.
102 And all other my lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever

38 left to him by his father

39 a list which is identical to that in the will of Robert, Roman's father

103 within the county of Kent or elsewhere withall and singular
104 th'appurtenances unto the said Robert, my son, his heirs and assigns, to
the
105 only use and behoof of the said Robert, my son, his heirs and assigns,
106 for ever. In witness whereof, to this my present last will and
107 testament, I the said Roman Children, have set to my hand and seal
108 in the presence of **John Mylls**, his mark; **William Pawley**, his mark
109 and **Henry Carnell**, by me **Roman Children**

John Children and his wife, Margaret

In addition to his son John who predeceased him, John had two sons and three married daughters; he was described as John Children of Childrens.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|------------|---------|--------------------|----------|-------------|---------|----------|------|---------|---------|---------------|------|--------------|---------|--------|--|--|--|
| | | | | t5 John - Margaret | t22 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| will: | | | | 1 Sep 1618 | | 20 Apr 1630 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| proved: | | | | Jul 1621 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| t25 | t23 | t24 | | t30 | | t26 | | t59 | | t27 | | t28 | | t29 | | | | | |
| John - | George | Margaret - | Thomas | Plane | | Martha - | Richard | Bogherst | | Thomas | | Elinor/Hellen | | Bridget - ?? | Goodwyn | | | | |
| died: <1618 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | t31 | t33 | | t35 | | t37 | t61 | t62 | t63 | t60 | t45 | t46 | t47 | t48 | | | | |
| | | Wyat | | Iden | | Francis | | Margaret | John | Richard | William | Margaret | John | Margaret | William | George | | | |
| | | | t32 | t34 | t36 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Rebecca | Thomas | Michael | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| t39 | t40 | t41 | | t42 | t43 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| John | George | Rebecca | | Henry | Margaret | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (all born after 1600) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Although his three daughters were already married, the only grandchildren John mentions are those of his son John all of whom were under twenty-one. From Margaret's will, all her grandchildren other than the children of John (whom she does not mention) were under twenty-one in 1630 and Martha's daughter Margaret was under sixteen.

John's Will

The description of John as “in good and perfect health as well of body as of mind, thanks be to Almighty god, notwithstanding aged and subject to infirmities which put me in mind of my last end” written by Nicholas Hopper is similar to what he had written in Robert's will twenty-eight years previously but not identical as it had appeared in Roman's will in 1613. We would expect the phrase to vary slightly each time Nicholas wrote it and this highlights how it must have been copied by Henry Carnell when writing Roman's will.

The Will of John Children

written 1st September 1618; proved July 1621

transcript of first and fifth of five pages from the original

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

1 In⁴⁰ the name of god Amen. The first day of

2 September in the year of our Lord God one thousand, six hundredth and
3 eighteen; And in the sixteenth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord
4 James, by the grace
5 of God, king of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. And
6 of Scotland
7 the two and fiftieth. I, John Children, of **Childrens** within the parish of
8 Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being⁴¹ at the time of making
9 hereof in good and
10 perfect health as well of body as of mind, thanks be to Almighty god,
11 notwithstanding aged
12 and subject to infirmities which put me in mind of my last end, knowing
13 assuredly
14 that I shall change my life but the time thereof being uncertain and willing
15 that those
16 transitory goods and possessions which God hath made me steward of here
17 in this
18 world may be quietly enjoyed after my decease by those whom I have
19 meant the same
20 unto: Therefore I do ordain and make this my present testament and last
21 will in manner

41 "beeing" and "shalbee" throughout but "be", "me", etc.

13 and form following⁴²: And **First** and principally I give, commend and
bequeath my
14 soul into the hands of Almighty God, trusting by an assured faith which I
have in
15 the merits, precious death and bloodshedding⁴³ of his dear and only son,
Jesus Christ,
16 that the same shalbe presented pure before the throne of his majesty. And
my body to the
17 earth to be buried in the chancel of Tonbridge church in sure and certain
hope of a
18 joyful resurrection to life eternal. **Item**: I will there shalbe distributed
amongst the poor
19 people of the parish of Tonbridge in the day of my burial or within ten days
then next after, at the
20 discretion of my executor hereafter named, twenty shillings of lawful
money. **Item**: I
21 give and bequeath to **Elinor Children, my daughter**, the sum of one
hundred pounds of lawful

42 "folowing"

43 "bludshedding"

22 money to be⁴⁴ paid to her within two whole years next after my decease if
she be then living. And
23 not otherwise except she leave child or children. And then I will the said
hundred pounds shalbe paid
24 to that child wholly if she leave but one at his age of sixteen years or else to
her children if she have
25 more, at their several ages of eighteen years equally between them. **Item:**
I give and bequeath to
26 **Margaret, my daughter**, now wife of **Thomas Plane**, the sum of ten pounds
of lawful money.
27 And to **Martha, my daughter**, now wife of **Richard Bogherst**, the like sum of
ten pounds to be paid to them, my
28 said daughters, within two years next after my decease (if they or either of
them shalbe then living.

from probate copy:

- and not otherwise (except they shall leave child or
- children). And then I will that the portion or portions of her so deceased
- leaving child or children
- shalbe and remain and be paid to the child or equally between the children
- of her or them so

- deceased at their age and ages of eighteen years. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **John Children,**
- **George Children and Henry Children, sons of my son John Children,** deceased, to every of
- them, the sum of twenty pounds a piece to be paid to them and every of them at their age and
- several ages of eighteen years if they, or any of them, shalbe then living and not otherwise (excepted
- they, or any of them, shall leave child or children). And then I will that the portion of him or
- them so dying and leaving child or children shalbe paid equally to the children or wholly
- to the child of him or them so deceased at their several age and ages of eighteen years. **Item:** I give
- and bequeath to **Rebecca Children and Margaret Children, daughters of my said son John, deceased,**
- the sum of ten pounds a piece to be paid to them, or either of them, at their age and ages of eighteen
- years if they, or either of them, shalbe then living and not otherwise (except they, or either
- of them shall have child or children)
- the said Thomas Children, my son, his heirs and assigns, shall pay out of the lands

- and tenements to him willed the like sum of ten pounds to her, my said wife,
- yearly during the said widowhood of her my said wife. And that if she happen to marry
- again, then only five pounds a year, both the said sums to be⁴⁵ paid to her quarterly
- at the feasts of Saint Michael Th'archangel, the Nativity of Lord Jesus Christ,
- Th'annunciation of the blessed virgin Mary and the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist
- by equal portions. And I will that if my said wife shalbe unpaid the said several sums of ten
- pounds a piece yearly during her widowhood or the several sums of five pounds a piece
- afterwards, if she happen to marry, after any of the said quarter feasts by the space of
- fourteen days, that then, and at any time after it shall and may be lawful to and for her,
- my said wife, and her assigns, into all the said lands and tenements and hereditaments severally
- herein afore willed to my said sons, George and Thomas. And for the same

sums

- so severally unpaid, either during her widowhood or in her next marriage, severally
- to distraint. And the distresses so had and taken, to lead, drive and carry away. And the same to retain and keep until her, or they, having not paid
- their several portions, shall have fully paid the same and every part thereof, according to
- the true meaning of this my will. And I do farther hereby provide that if
- my said wife shall claim any annuity as I made to her before marriage, of
- eight pounds, that then this my gift herein given, shalbe utterly void and of
- none effect to all constructions whatsoever (any thing herein before mentioned
- to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding. **In witness** whereof I, the said
- John Children, to this my last will, being five sheets of paper, have set my
- mark
- and seal. And I do hereby revoke and make void all former wills by me
- made
- And do pronounce and declare this to be my true and last will, yeven the
- day and
- year first above written.

the mark of John Children

??, sealed, pronounced and acknowledged
by the said John Children, to be his true

and last will in the presence of me, **Nicholas
Hooper, sen, writer** hereof and of **John Asshby**
signed John Asshby

Concordat cum orh testato

?? ?? ??

Robtum Erlwell
John Hooper⁴⁶

The Will of Margaret Children, widow

written 20th April 1630
transcript from original

1 In the name of god Amen. the twentieth day
2 of April in the year of our lord one thousand, six hundredth
3 and thirty, I, Margaret Children, of Tonbridge in the county
4 of Kent, **widow**, being⁴⁷ of perfect mind and memory, do ordain
5 and make this my testament and last will as followeth: **First:**

46 This phrase and the two signatures are in a different writing from the will which is definitely in the same hand as other wills written by Nicholas Hooper; the signature of John Hooper looks like other signatures of John Hooper, Nicholas's son.

47 "beeing", "bee", etc. throughout

6 recommending my soul to Almighty god, my maker, with an assured
7 hope of salvation through the precious death and merits of Christ,
8 my saviour. I will to the poor of Tonbridge ten shillings. **Item:**
9 I will to **Margaret Plane, my daughter**, twenty shillings to be
10 paid her within one year next after my decease. **Item:** I will
11 to **Wiat Plane, her son**, five pounds to be paid at his age of 21
12 years, And to **Rebecca, Iden, Thomas, Francis, Michael and**
13 **Margaret, her other children**, I will twenty shillings a piece to be
14 paid them at their several ages of 21 years or within one year
15 next after my decease whichsoever of the said times shall first happen.
16 And if any of them shall decease before the one of them to be
17 the others heir for the same. **Item:** I will to **Martha Bogherst,**
18 **my daughter**, 20s to be paid within one year after my decease. And
19 to **Margaret, her daughter**, I will five pounds to be paid her at her
20 age of 16 years. And to **John, Richard and William, sons of my said**
21 **daughter Margaret**⁴⁸, I will 20s a piece to be paid them at their
22 several ages of 21 years and if any of them die before then the
23 one to be others heir for the sum. **Item:** I will to **Bridget**
24 **Goodwyn, my daughter**, five shillings. And to **John, William, Margaret**
25 and **George, her children**, I will also five shillings a piece, to be
26 paid to the said children at their ages of 21 years. **Item:** I

48 should this have been "Martha"?

27 will to **Hellen, my daughter**, twenty shillings to be paid her within
28 one year next after my decease. And also I give unto her one
29 pair of new flaxen sheets. **Item:** I will to **George Children,**
30 **my son**, twenty shillings. And to **Thomas Cooke and An Palmer,**
31 **my servants**, five shillings a piece. **Item:** I will and give to my
32 daughter Plane and my daughter Bogherst all my wearing apparel
33 both linen, woollen and ?? to be shifted between them.
34 The residue and all other my goods, cattells and chattels I
35 ?? give to **Thomas Children, my son**, whom I make the
36 executor of this my testament and last will, to see the same proved,
37 my debts and legacies paid and my body decently to be brought to
38 the earth.
39 In witness whereof I have, to this my testament and last will, set my hand
40 and seal yeven the day and year first above written.

Read, sealed, published and

declared in the presence of the mark of ?? ?? **Margaret**

Children O

Dorothy **M** Plane George Children
and me John Hooper, notar. pbq.

George Children

George was a rich yeoman owning a considerable amount of land in Tonbridge and Leigh. His will is exceptional in that he gives a considerable amount of detail of the animals he kept and the crops he grew.

His household stuff included “wool and cloth, brass, pewter, iron vessels, yarn, tussham⁴⁹, hemp and flax” His “husbandry tools and tackling, cattle and chattels” was eventually to go to his two sons but his wife, Anne, was to “have all my corn that shall be reaped, threshed and also that shall be growing on the ground at the time of my decease and also the use of my oxen and working cattle, wagon, ploughs and tackling and the milk and profit of my kine and sheep, swine and poultry from the time of my decease until the feast day of St. Michael the Archangel next following after my decease and one year from thence next ensuing”.

This extract shows the variety of animals kept by George who was using cattle as well as oxen for working on the land. During that time Anne was to “have the use and occupation” of all those lands and tenements which George occupied and

49 probably hemp or flax although George itemises these separately

half the rent from all his other lands, “she keeping and maintaining my children and my stock of cattle and using my said lands and tenements in such sort as now I do use them my self (my said sons, viz. George, William and Arthur, doing their service to her as now they do to me in my affairs)”.

At the end of the specified time Anne was to deliver all the “stock of cattle or the value of those that shall want, except two kine which I give unto her, and yield up the occupation of the lands with the corn and seasons for corn thereof then growing and made and with meet corn for to sow the seasons thereon made and to be made in the winter following for wheat, oats, peas and barley to be then sowed thereon, unto my said executors”.

George also made profits from the felling of his underwoods and for ten years after his death these were to be use for “the raising and paying of my debts and legacies”.

Further Arrangements for George's Wife

After the period when Anne had the occupation of a large portion of George's land she was to have “meet and convenient houseroom in my dwelling house called Nizels for herself” and also “Elizabeth and Mary, my daughter, or either of them if

she desire to bring them up or to have them to be with her. And also my said wife during her said widowhood, shall have provided”:

- yearly “two cords⁵⁰ of wood and two hundred of faggots”
- “convenient room to lay and bestow the same for her necessary burning”
- “keeping for two kine, winter and summer”

Both Anne and his daughters were to have “free recourse”

- “to bake in the oven at my house aforesaid”
 - “to walk, ease and refresh themselves in the gardens, orchards and lands thereto belonging”
 - “to wash, take water and herbs and to dry clothes”
- “without any let or denial of the said George, his heirs or assigns”

George's Arrangements for his Family

George appointed his two eldest sons, George and William, to be his executors and they were to pay for the upbringing of his two eldest daughters, Anne and Margaret, until they were twenty-one and to allow to whoever was bringing up Mary, his youngest daughter, £5 a year until she was fourteen and then £4 a year

50

a measure of cut wood (128 cubic feet) originally determined by the use of a cord or string

until she was twenty-one.

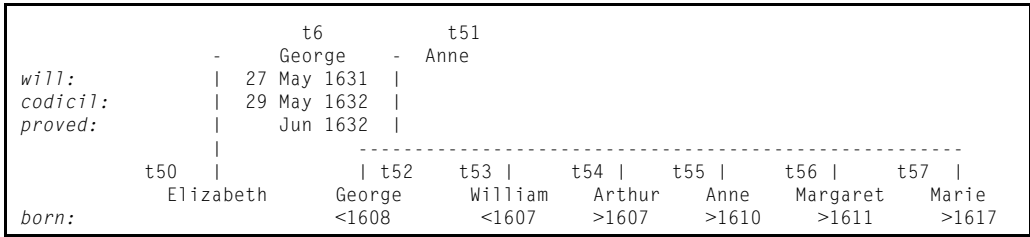
He left to his eldest son George various pieces of land and two messuages or tenements all of which were described as being "in the occupation of me, the said George, and of John Rigsby". But there was a strange complication:

"Notwithstanding my will and mind is that Anne, my wife, and Elizabeth, my daughter, during their two natural lives and the life of the longer liver of them shall or may have, hold and enjoy my said messuage or tenement called Welses and the housing and lands with th'appurtenances thereto belonging by estimation four acres. And the said parcel of land called Shimes and the rents and profits thereof, keeping the reparations thereof, anything in this my will to the contrary thereof notwithstanding"

They were also to have an annuity of £3 a year which was to be paid until both of them had died,

These arrangements would be normal if they just concerned George's wife but this is the first mention of Elizabeth whilst arrangements had been made for his other three daughters whom had also been left legacies. Was Elizabeth George's daughter by a first marriage? Was she perhaps George's stepdaughter, Anne's daughter by a previous marriage? But in either case, why should she need to be provided for like this? Was she handicapped in some way so that she could not

be expected to marry? The positioning of Elizabeth in the following family tree is thus very speculative.



Anne and Margaret were under twenty-one when George's will was written and Marie was not yet fourteen.

George's Bequests to his Children

The legacies and items left to his children are listed in the following table:

| | | |
|------------------|---------------|---|
| George | born <1608 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- cupboard in the kitchen of his dwelling house and the bedstead whereon he lay- the messuage or tenement called Nizels in which George then dwelt "and the barns, houses, buildings, yards, gardens orchards and lands, arable, meadow, pasture and wood lands thereto belonging and therewith purchased"- one parcel of meadow called Drake mead- one other parcel of land called Shimes- one messuage called Welses with the housing, land, etc. (4 acres). |
| William | <1607 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the cupboard in the hall and the bedstead whereon William used to lie and the brass pot which was his grandfather's.- all those woodlands and wood, . . Demman Wood containing, by estimation, thirty acres (in Tonbridge)- land called Lambs in Tonbridge and Leigh.- one parcel of land (Thomas Field - twelve acres) "now also in mine own occupation" |
| George & William | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- all the rest of his goods, husbandry tools and tackling, cattle and chattels |

| | | |
|----------|--------|---|
| Arthur | > 1607 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the bedstead which stood in the wash house loft - £30 at the age of 24 - the messuage in the town of Tonbridge with the housing and meadow (five acres) - one parcel of land called Baked Field and Shotts, by estimation ten acres - the windmill and cottage and the ways, grounds, etc. belonging to or used by it - that messuage or tenement, barn and land with th'appurtenances (nine acres) lately purchased of Mr. Lane |
| Anne | > 1610 | £100 at the age of 21 |
| Margaret | > 1611 | £100 at the age of 21 |
| Marie | > 1617 | £100 at the age of 21 |

The Codicil

In the main will Demman Wood was given to William but the profits and felling of “all the underwoods from there fellable then or at any time within the following five years or of the next ten years growth” were to go to both George and William (the executors) to be used to pay their father's debts and legacies.

When the codicil was added a year later, the main change was that, in the intervening year, Demman Wood had been divided into two by a hedge; George was now to receive the west part (about 12 acres), leaving William 18 acres.

Since the only part of the original will which has been investigated is the last page of the will itself, the changes made cannot be seen; nor is it possible to tell whether John Hooper wrote the codicil but his name does not appear as a witness.. It was probably added when George was on his deathbed without calling out John Hooper.

The Will of George Children

written 27th May 1631; codicil 29th May 1632

transcript from probate copy except for last page of will

1 In the name of god Amen. The seven and
2 twentieth day of May in the year of our Lord God one thousand, six
hundred,
3 thirty and one. And in the seventh year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord
4 Charles, by the grace of God, king of England, Scotland, France and Ireland
5 defender of the faith, etc., I, George Children, th'elder, of Tonbridge in the
county
6 of Kent, **yeoman**, being sickly and weak of body but of perfect and good

memory (for
7 which I give praise to God) do ordain and make this my testament and last
will in
8 manner and form following: **First:** recommending my soul to Almighty god,
my
9 maker, trusting to have salvation through the merits of Jesus Christ, my
saviour. And
10 my body to the earth in decent manner to be⁵¹ buried. I will to the poor of
Tonbridge
11 five shillings. **Item:** I will and give to **Anne, my daughter**, the sum of one
hundred
12 pounds to be paid to her at her age of twenty and one years. **Item:** I will
and give to
13 **Margaret, my daughter**, one hundred pounds to be paid to her also at her
age of twenty
14 and one years. **Item:** I will and give to **Marie, my youngest daughter**,
likewise the
15 sum of one hundred pounds of lawful english money to be paid unto her at
her age of one and twenty years.

51 "bee" but probate copy; the probate copy of the previous will in the probate book also included "bee" so that this is not necessarily copied from the original will although the end of the will, for which the original has been examined, does also use this spelling.

16 **Item:** I will that my executors shall see my two eldest daughters to be
brought up
17 and maintained at their charge until their several ages aforesaid. And my
will
18 is that my executors equally between them shall allow to Mary, my
youngest daughter,
19 towards her maintenance (whilst she shall be brought up by her mother or
by any
20 other, other than by my executors) until her age of fourteen years the yearly
sum
21 of five pounds of lawful english money towards her maintenance. And after
that
22 age, until her age of twenty and one years aforesaid, four pounds of like
lawful
23 money. All to be paid her quarterly by equal portions. **Item:** I will and give
to
24 **George Children, mine eldest son,** the cupboard in the kitchen of my
dwelling house
25 and the bedstead whereon I lie. **Item:** I give to **William, my son,** the
cupboard in
26 the hall and the bedstead whereon he useth to lie and the brass pot which
was his
27 grandfather's. **Item:** I will and give to **Arthur, my son,** the bedstead which

standeth
28 in the wash house loft. And the residue of my household stuff, both
bedsteads and bedding,
29 linen, napery, woollen, wool and cloth, brass, pewter, iron vessels, yarn,
tussham,
30 hemp, flax and whatsoever else is to be accompted household stuff, I will
and give to
31 **Anne, my loving wife.** And all other my goods, husbandry tools and
tackling, cattle
32 and chattels except my lease of the house and land at **Dunton in Otford**⁵²
which I
33 give to my wife, I will and give to George Children and William Children,
my sons,
34 equally to be divided and shifted between them. The which George and
William
35 I make the joint executors of this my testament and last will, to see the
same proved
36 and all my debts and legacies paid and my body decently brought to the
earth.
37 Saving my will and mind is that Anne, my wife, shall have all my corn that
38 shall be reaped, threshed and also that shall be growing on the ground at

52 Dunton Green is about 1½ miles south west of Otford village

the time
39 of my decease and also the use of my oxen and working cattle, wagon,
ploughs and
40 tackling and the milk and profit of my kine and sheep, swine and poultry
from
41 the time of my decease until the feast day of St. Michael the Archangel
42 next following after my decease and one year from thence next ensuing.
And during
43 all that time shall have the use and occupation of all my lands and
tenements now in
44 mine own occupation and half the rent of all my other lands, she keeping
and
45 maintaining my children and my stock of cattle and using my said lands
and
46 tenements in such sort as now I do use them my self (my said sons, viz.
George,
47 William and Arthur, doing their service to her as now they do to me in my
affairs)
48 And at the end of the said year, I will she shall deliver all my stock of cattle
or the
49 value of those that shall want, except two kine which I give unto her, and
yield up the
50 occupation of the lands with the corn and seasons for corn thereof then

growing and made
51 and with meet corn for to sow the seasons thereon made and to be made in
the winter
52 following for wheat, oats, peas and barley to be then sowed thereon, unto
my said executors,
53 peaceably and quietly. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto my said son Arthur
the sum of
54 thirty pounds to be paid unto my said son by my executors at his age of
twenty four years.

55 This is also the last will of me the said George Children made and
56 declared the said seven and twentieth day of May above written touching
the disposition
57 of all my lands and tenements. **First:** I will, give and devise to George
Children, mine
58 eldest son, his heirs and assigns, all that messuage or tenement wherein I
now dwell
59 called **Nizels**⁵³ and the barns, houses, buildings, yards, gardens, orchards
and lands, arable,
60 meadow, pasture and wood lands thereto belonging and therewith
purchased, one parcel

53 Nizels is in the south of Sevenoaks/north of Leigh

61 of meadow called **Drake mead**, one other parcel of land called **Shimes**, one
message
62 or tenement called **Welses** with the housing and land with
th'appurtenances thereto belonging.
63 All which premises are situated, lying and being in Tonbridge and **Leigh**
and are now in the
64 occupation of me, the said George, and of **John Rigsby**, to hold to the said
George Children,
65 my son, his heirs and assigns for ever. Notwithstanding my will and mind
is that
66 Anne, my wife, and **Elizabeth, my daughter**, during their two natural lives
and the life
67 of the longer liver of them shall or may have, hold and enjoy my said
message or tenement
68 called Welses and the housing and lands with th'appurtenances thereto
belonging by
69 estimation four acres. And the said parcel of land called Shimes and the
rents and
70 profits thereof, keeping the reparations thereof, anything in this my will to
the contrary
71 thereof notwithstanding. **Item:** I will, give and devise to William Children,
my second son,
72 and to his heirs forever, all those my woodlands and wood, called or known

by the name
73 of **Demman Wood** containing, by estimation, thirty acres lying and being in
Tonbridge
74 aforesaid. And also all those my lands called **Lambs** in mine occupation
lying in Tonbridge
75 and Leigh aforesaid. And also one parcel of my lands commonly called or
known by the
76 name of **Thomas Field** by estimation twelve acres now also in mine own
occupation
77 with their and every of their appurtenances. To hold to the said William,
his heirs
78 and assigns. Notwithstanding my will is that the said George, my son,
together with
79 my said son William shall have the profits and felling of all the underwoods
upon
80 Demman Wood aforesaid, or any part thereof, now fellable or at any time or
times within
81 five years next after the date hereof fellable or of ten years growth equally
between
82 them towards the raising and paying of my debts and legacies. And further
I will that
83 the said William and his heirs shall pay out of the lands aforesaid to him
willed and

84 given, one annuity or yearly rent charge of three pounds of lawful english
money unto
85 the said Anne, my wife, and Elizabeth, my daughter, and the survivor of
them, quarterly
86 by equal portions from the Michaelmas come twelvemonth next after my
decease during
87 their lives and the life of the survivor of them. And for default of payment of
the said
88 yearly rent, or of any quarterly payment thereof, from time to time, I will it
shall and may
89 be lawful for the said Anne and Elizabeth and their assigns to enter and
distrain
90 and the distresses to hold, impound and keep until payment thereof from
time to time
91 shall be made, anything in this my will to the contrary thereof
notwithstanding. **Item:**
92 I will, give and devise to Arthur Children, my youngest son, his heirs and
assigns, all
93 that my messuage or tenement in the town of Tonbridge with the housing
and meadow
94 with th'appurtenances, in the occupation of **Anthony Parris**, by estimation
five acres. And
95 also one parcel of my lands called **Baked Field** and **Shotts** by estimation ten

acres
96 in mine own occupation. And the **windmill** and cottage and the ways,
grounds and
97 appurtenances thereto belonging or used. And also all that message or
tenement, barn
98 and land with th'appurtenances by estimation nine acres which I late
purchased of
99 **Mr. Lane**, to hold to the said Arthur, his heirs and assigns, for ever.

from original:

- Notwithstanding, my will is that the said Anne, my wife, and Elizabeth,
- my daughter, during their two natural lives and the life of the survivor of
them, shall
- or may have and hold my said message, housing, meadow, grounds and
appurtenances in Tonbridge
- town and during that time shall receive the rents thereof. And also during
their
- lives and the life of the survivor of them, shalbe⁵⁴ paid by my said son
Arthur, his heirs
- or assigns, out of my other lands, houses and tenements to him formerly

54 "shalbee" and "bee" below in the original will

- devised, one
- annuity or yearly rent charge⁵⁵ of three pounds of lawful english money, quarterly
 - by equal portions. And the first time of payment thereof to be and begin upon the
 - 25th day of December after the Michaelmas come twelvemonth next after my decease.
 - And if and as often as the same shall be unpaid to my said wife or daughter, I will that
 - it shall be lawful for her so unpaid to enter and distrain upon the said lands and tenements,
 - or upon any part thereof, and the distresses to hold and keep irreplegible until the said
 - annuity and every payment thereof in arrears shalbe fully paid. Anything also in this
 - my will to the contrary thereof notwithstanding. And farther my will and mind is
 - that at all times, from and after the Michaelmas come twelve months after my decease,
 - during the whole term of her natural life, if she shall so long remain my

55 "chardge" often used by John Hooper; where "charge" appears in the probate copy of the will, it was spelled without the "d"

widow,

- she, the said Anne, my wife, shall have meet and convenient houseroom in my
- dwelling house called Nizels for herself, to be and dwell in with Elizabeth and
- Mary, my daughter, or either of them if she desire to bring them up or to have
- them to be with her. And also my said wife during her said widowhood, shall
- have provided and laid down at my said messuage, by my executors, at their
- equal charges every year, two cords of wood and two hundred of faggots with convenient
- room to lay and bestow the same for her necessary burning. And further that
- my said wife shall have keeping for two kine, winter and summer, during her
- said widowhood, freely allowed and given by my son George and his heirs upon
- my lands formerly to him given, the said kine to be those that I have given her at her choice to be taken or any other two which she shall provide and appoint to
- be kept. And further I will that my said wife and daughters, and every of

them,

- shall have free recourse to bake in the oven at my house aforesaid wherein I dwell
- and to walk, ease and refresh themselves in the gardens, orchards and lands thereto belonging.
- And to wash, take water and herbs and to dry clothes without any let or denial of the
- said George, his heirs or assigns, during the widowhood of my said wife.
- And further I will that all my sons shall suffer my wife to have and receive peaceably and quietly all such other profits and rents as I have before in this my
- testament and last will appointed unto her, anything therein to the contrary not
- withstanding. Provided always, if my wife shall not hold herself content with that which
- I have given her by this my testament and last will but shall attempt or seek for
- any greater portion, jointure or dower or any other demand than by this my will is to
- her appointed, I will that she shall loose the whole benefit of this my will.
- And
- shall restore to my executors equally that profit, cattle or goods soever she hath

- had or disposed of. And then I will that Elizabeth, my daughter, shall hold only for
- term of her life, my house and land in Tonbridge town and my message and lands called
- Welsed and Shimes and my said daughter Mary shalbe paid as aforesaid, anything in this
- my will to the contrary thereof notwithstanding. In witness whereof I have to this my
- testament and last will set my hand and seal dated the day and year first above written.

These being witnesses to the sealing,
publishing and declaring hereof

John Hooper, scr.

The mark **G** of the said
George Children, testator

from probate copy:

A Codicil to be annexed to the last will and testament of
me, George Children, as ensueth

- **Item:** I give and devise unto my son George Children and his heirs the west part
- of my wood called Demman Wood containing about twelve acres as it is now divided
- with a hedge, situated in Tonbridge in the county of Kent, anything in this my will
- contained to the contrary notwithstanding. And to my son William Children and
- his heirs, all the residue of the said wood called Demman Wood. And I do hereby
- ratify, allow and confirm this my will and do declare that it is done now according
- to my mind and do, this nine and twentieth day of May, one thousand, six hundred
- thirty two, publish the same again and this codicil. And did then cause some lines
- in the first sheet of this my will concerning my daughters legacies to be put out. And
- also then caused a legacy of thirty pounds to be put in the second sheet for my son
- Arthur. The mark of George Children, the testator. In the presence of the mark of
- **Arthur Children, th'elder, Ambrose Martin, John Double.**

The Chilmeds of Kemsing

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M | C | Died |
|-----------|--|-------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|---|---|-------------|
| k85 | <u>CHILMED, Thomas</u> | | | | 1 | 5 | |
| • k87 | <u>Chilmed, Ann</u> | | | | 0 | 0 | 5 May 1582 |
| • k88 | <u>CHILMED, Thomas</u> | | | | 0 | 0 | 8 May 1582 |
| | buried three days after his sister Ann; they could have been twins | | | | | | |
| • k89 | <u>CHILMED, John</u> | 24 Apr 1584 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • k90 | <u>Chilmed, Mary</u> | 15 Mar 1586 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • k91 | <u>CHILMED, Thomas</u> | 14 May 1588 | | | 2 | 4 | |
| | <i>Marriage 1</i> | | 24 May 1612 | Elizabeth Sowerton | 1 | 1 | |
| | | | married at 24 | | | | |
| • k92 | <u>Sowerton, Elizabeth</u> | <1592 | | | 1 | 1 | 17 Feb 1614 |
| | | | buried same day as son baptised | | | | |
| • • k93 | <u>CHILMED, Thomas</u> | 17 Feb 1614 | | | | | 1 1 |
| • • • k98 | CHILMED, Thomas | 15 Feb 1651 | | | | | 0 0 |
| | <i>Marriage 2</i> | | | | 1 | 3 | |
| • • k94 | <u>Chilmed, Margaret</u> | 18 Jul 1622 | | | | | 0 0 |
| • • k95 | <u>CHILMED, Jeremy</u> | 21 Sep 1624 | | | | | 0 0 |
| • • k96 | <u>CHILMED, Steven</u> | 1 Apr 1628 | | | | | 0 0 |

Katherine, daughter of Thomas Chilman (Chilmed?), was baptised in Seal on 10th April 1575.

The Chittendens of Ightham

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M | C | Died |
|-------|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|-----------------|
| i1304 | <u>CHITTENDEN, William</u> ----- | | 14 Nov 1585 | Mildred Powell i1305 ⁵⁶ | 1 | 6 | |
| • | i1306 <u>Chittenden, Elizabeth</u> | 1 Jan 1587 | | | | | 0 0 |
| • | i1307 <u>CHITTENDEN, Robert</u> | 20 Apr 1589 | | | | | 0 0 |
| • | i1308 <u>CHITTENDEN, John</u> | 28 Nov 1591 | | | | | 0 0 |
| • | i1706 <u>CHITTENDEN, George</u> | 15 Aug 1595 | | | | | 0 0 |
| • | i1310 <u>Chittenden, Anne</u> | 1 Jul 1599 | | | | | 0 0 |
| • | i1309 <u>Chittenden, Mildred</u> | 17 Jan 1603 | | | | | 0 0 26 Jan 1603 |

A William Chittenden was buried in Ightham on 26 May 1602. This could only have been i1304 if Mildred, baptised as "[daughter of William Chittenden](#)" in January 1603 was born posthumously.

On 4th June 1604 Mildred Chittenden married James Seldon (i1312) and their son,

⁵⁶ "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

another James, was baptised on 9th December 1604, only six months after the marriage. Mildred Seldon, widow, was buried on 8th March 1608. If this widow was the wife of i1312, their son James was left an orphan at 3½.

Eleanor Chittenden (i1876) was buried on 19th October 1597 but her relationship, if any, to the other Chittendens is not known

William Chittenden and Richard Lobley

William Chittenden was presented to the Court on 24th April 1595 for receiving three strangers - **Richard Lobley**, his brother and his wife. If they were not removed and no sureties were found for them, he was to be fined 10s. (CRI 1938, p.17) It looks as if they were removed with Lobley moving to Seal where he set up as a shoemaker.

At Maidstone Assizes in July 1596, **Richard Lobley, a shoemaker of Seal** was indicted for grand larceny. On 28th June 1596, at Seal, he stole a lamb from **Christopher Wade (#1103)**. At this time he was at large and nothing more is known of him⁵⁷.

57 Cockburn (Eliz), no.2406

The Chittendens & Richard Stone of Seal

John Chittenden (#3668) and his wife Elizabeth (#2039) had a daughter, Elizabeth (#3417), baptised on 8th October 1609. “[John Chettenden](#)” was one of the members of the jury which investigated the alleged infanticide of Benedicta Sherman in 1611 - see [Sherman in More Families & Transcripts](#).

John was buried on 21st August 1611 and Elizabeth married Thomas Rise on 1st June 1612 - see [Rise in More Families & Transcripts](#).

John and Elizabeth’s daughter married Richard Stone (#3416) on 30th October 1630 when she was twenty-one. They had three children:

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------|-----------|-------------|
| - Elizabeth | #3418 | baptised: | 4 Dec 1631 |
| - Ann | #3419 | | 28 Oct 1633 |
| - Deborah | #3420 | | 8 Feb 1636 |

Elizabeth was buried on 30th April 1638 perhaps as a result of a fourth pregnancy.

The widow Dorothy Couchman who wrote her will in 1632 (see page 2.c.440) had close connections with the Chittendens and made Elizabeth Chittenden, wife of Richard Stone, her executor.

The Chownes of Shipbourne

Four wills have survived for Chownes from Shipbourne:

| | dated | buried | |
|----------------|---------------|-------------|--|
| Richard Chowne | | | CKS: Drb/Pwr 3.174 |
| John Chowne | | | CKS: Drb/Pwr 7.156 |
| John Chowne | 26 Apr 1563 | 6 Jun 1566 | CKS: Drb/Pw 8; Drb/Pwr 13.256 page 2.c.115 |
| Walter Chowne | 26 Feb 1617/8 | 25 Mar 1618 | PCC: Meade 79; Prob 10/355 page 2.c.124 |

Richard's will was written in Latin and is too difficult to decipher.

The will of Walter Chowne was written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne. That of John Chowne in 1563 was probably written by John Hooper, the elder. This will was witnessed by a large number of people but the end of the original is impossible to read; the probate copy ends with the names: “[Henry Godden](#), [Thomas Tuttesham, gent.](#), [Silvester Page](#), [Richard Pickerell, jurat](#), [Henry Goodman](#), [John Goodwin, jurat](#), at ?? And John Hooper with others”. The writing of the original looks like that of the John Hooper who wrote other wills in the 1560s. The Hooper family wrote a large number of wills from the late 1550s up to at least 1650 when this study finishes.

Thomas Chowne, esquire, and Sir George Chowne were mentioned in the Ightham Court Records 1586-1618. A Thomas Chowns was buried, in Ightham, on 1st September 1625.

John Chowne, yeoman

In addition to leaving money direct to the poor, John left forty shillings (£2) for “the erection and building of an almshouse for the poor in Shipbourne” and 3s 4d (£0.16) a year, for six years to the poor box.

John Chowne who died in 1566 does not mention any children; he was his wife's second husband and she may have died before John wrote his will since she was mentioned only as the mother of Anne who was married to Thomas Stobefield of Hadlow. There were Stubberfields in Hadlow including a Thomas who died in 1624.

It seems that John thought that Anne and her husband might contest his will since he includes the proviso that if “it happen the said Thomas Stobefield and the said Anne, . . . do survey, impede or disquiet my said executor . . . concerning the goods, cattells” his executor, Robert Swan, was to have for “his own use the said five pounds to the wife of the said Thomas before by me bequeathed”

John's main beneficiaries were a nephew and two godsons with Richard Swan, father of one of his godsons, his executor. Thus it is not possible to decide how Walter Chowne was related to John.

Will of John Chowne of Shipbourne

written 26th April 1563
transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 The 26th day of the month of April
3 in the 5th year of the reign of our
4 Sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace
5 of god, Queen of England, France and
6 Ireland, defender of the faith, the ??, I, John
7 Chowne of Shipbourne in the diocese of
8 Rochester and in the County of Kent, **yeoman**, being
9 at the making hereof in painfulness of body?
10 but yet in perfectness of mind and good memory,
11 praised therefore be almighty god, do ordain
12 and make this my present testament and
13 last will in manner and form following, viz.:
14 **First** and principally, I commend and bequeath

15 my soul into the hands of the Almighty
16 and eternal god, my creator, saviour and
17 redeemer, Jesus Christ, by whose merit,
18 death and passion I have a sure faith
19 and confidence to be placed and associate
20 amongst the celestial companies in the
21 eternal glory. And my body to be buried
22 in the churchyard of Shipbourne aforesaid.
23 **Item:** I will that myne executor hereafter named,
24 or his assigns, shall distribute and give, or
25 cause to be distributed and given, to the poor
26 people in the day of my burial twenty shillings.
27 And, in like manner within one whole year next
28 and immediately ensuing my decease, to be distributed
29 to the poor people 20s. **Item:** I will that
30 my executor, or his assigns, shall give and
31 deliver, or cause to be given and delivered, to
32 the box or chest for the relief of the poor of
33 the parish of Shipbourne aforesaid, yearly
34 during the tenure and space of six years
35 next ensuing my said decease, 3s 4d. **Item:**
36 I will and bequeath the sum of forty shillings
37 to be given and paid to the erection and building

38 of an almshouse for the poor in Shipbourne
39 aforesaid within one whole year next ensuing
40 my said decease to be paid. **Item:** I will and bequeath
41 unto every of my godchildren, requiring and
42 demanding it of myne executor, 3s 4d.
43 **Item:** will and bequeath unto **Richard Gooden, of**
44 **Shipbourne**, the elder, to be paid unto him
45 within one whole year next after my decease,
46 26s 8d. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto **John**
47 **Burgess of Shipbourne** aforesaid to be paid
48 unto him within one whole year next after my
49 decease, 26s 8d. **Item:** to **my godson, Richard**
50 **Chowne**, within the said term of one year,
51 to be paid unto him £5. **Item:** I will and bequeath
52 unto **my nephew, Thomas Hunter**, to be paid
53 unto him within two whole years after my
54 decease, ten pounds (that is to say) five
55 pounds the first year and, in the second
56 year, other five pounds. **Item:** I will and
57 bequeath unto **Edward Swan, the son of**
58 **Robert Swan**⁵⁸, **my godson**, to be paid unto the

59 said Edward at his age of 24 years,
60 ten pounds. **Item:** I will and bequeath to
61 **Anne, my wife's daughter, now the wife of**
62 **Thomas Stobefield of Hadlow**, to be paid unto
63 her within the said term of one whole
64 year next and immediately after my decease,
65 five pounds now remaining in the hands
66 of **Thomas Byshopp** at Stone?. The residue
67 of all my goods and cattels, my ??
68 and debts to me owing, my debts paid and
69 all my legacies and bequests well and
70 ?? fully performed, paid, satisfied and contented,
71 I wholly, fully and with effect, give and bequeath
72 unto the said Robert Swan whom I do
73 constitute, ordain and make my whole and sole
74 executor of this my present testament and
75 last will. And I utterly revoke, renounce
76 and disclaim all former wills, testaments and
77 devises whatsoever, by me, heretofore made or
78 devised. And this, my present devise, to stand
79 to effect⁵⁹. Provided always, and my very

80 will is that, if it happen the said Thomas
81 Stobefield and the said Anne, now his
82 present wife, or either of them, at any time
83 after my decease, by any manner of role?
84 or means, do survey, impede or disquiet
85 my said executor for any concerning the
86 goods, cattells or other whatsoever matter
87 therein contained to this my said devise, that
88 then I will the said Robert Swan, my said
89 executor, to receive and keep to his own
90 use the said five pounds to the wife of
91 the said Thomas before by me bequeathed,
92 any thing above mentioned to the contrary
93 notwithstanding. These being witnesses
94 of the ?? above written: **Henry Godden,**
95 **Thomas Tuttesham, gent., Silvester Page,**
96 **Richard Pickerell, jurat, Henry Goodman,**
97 **John Goodwin⁶⁰, jurat, at ??** And **John**
98 **Hooper** with others.

60 The Pages, Pickerells and Goodwyns were all large Shipbourne families; Sylvester Page was probably \$28 who died in April 1588, Richard Pickerell \$171 who died in May 1592 and John Goodwyn \$85 who died in October 1569

Walter Chowne, clothier

Walter Chowne's will is interesting for a number of reasons; it is one of Nicholas Hooper's later wills since he died in December 1618 but other wills written in 1618 do not show the differences from Nicholas's other wills which this one includes:

- a) usually (but not always) the whole of the phrase "In the name of god Amen" was written in large, dark characters; here only the first three words are so treated.
- b) the changes made after Nicholas Hooper had returned with what he had hoped would be the final will ready for signing, etc., are extensive and obvious. Walter adds a second executor and this involves, in addition to adding the extra name in various places, changing the phrase "my executor, his executors or assigns" to "my executors, their executors or assigns" throughout. Walter also adds, in addition to a number of more minor changes, a number of other people who are to receive small legacies, and requests for his daughters and sons to be put out to service by his executors. Changes/additions of this type occur in other wills (and must have sometime necessitated a complete rewrite) but here they are particularly obvious.

- c) Walter Chowne wills that his executors "shall pay all these legacies which shalbe by me, hereafter in this my will particularly set down, to the parties nominated and at such times as in this my will shalbe set down, and all my debts". This is an unusual clause which, since it does not appear in other wills, looks as if it came from Walter Chowne rather than the scriptor.
- d) Walter appoints as his executors his brother George and his brother-in-law, Thomas Fisher of Tonbridge but later he seems to say that they can "name and appoint" anyone else to be his executors "and see the same proved to the use of Thomas Chowne, my son".
- e) the phrase at the end: "to this my present last will have set my hand and year first above written" obviously has the words "and seal the day" omitted; presumably just a error by the scriptor.

Walter Chowne's Family

Walter's name is written "Waller" in the parish records of Shipbourne and Tonbridge which, together with his will, give the following tree:

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|--------|
| | ----- | | | | ----- | | |
| \$350 ⁶¹ | | | \$767 | | \$766 | | |
| will: George - | | | Jeane ⁶² - | Waller | - wife = | | |
| bur: | | | 17 Jan 1615 | 26 Feb 1618 | 28 Mar 1618 | | |
| | | | | | | Margaret & Susan | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | ----- | | | | ----- | | |
| | \$1017 | | \$769 | | \$942 | | \$1099 |
| bap: Sampson | Thomas ⁶³ | | Waller | Wyatt | Jeane | | |
| bur: 20 Feb 1586 | >1600 | | 28 Aug 1605 | 13 Aug 1609 | 28 Feb 1613 | | |
| | | | | | | 15 Apr 1613 | |
| | | \$768 | | \$770 | | \$1019 | \$1135 |
| bap: Joan ⁶⁴ | Mary | | Jeane | Johane | Elizabeth | | |
| bur: 5 Feb 1600 | 6 Jun 1603 | | 15 Feb 1608 | 20 May 1611 | 10 May 1614 | | |
| | | | 6 Mar 1608 | | | | |

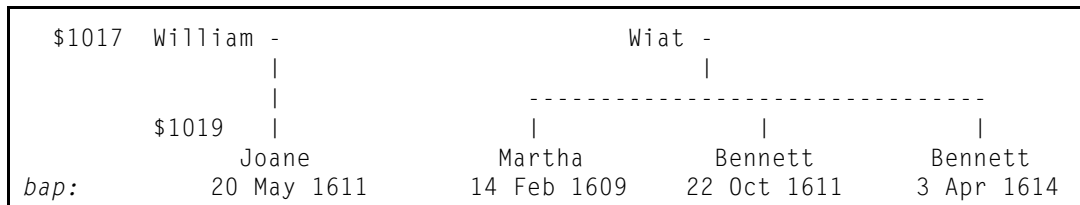
61 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

62 Walter Chowne married Jane Wybarne, in Tonbridge, on 6th February 1598/9; Jeane/Jane was buried eight months after the baptism of Elizabeth having had nine children in fifteen years

63 baptism not recorded in Shipbourne, perhaps as the eldest child he was baptised in his mother's parish

64 baptised in Tonbridge; presumably the eldest child

Walter had a sister married to Thomas Fisher of Tonbridge and there was a William Chowne in Shipbourne and Wiat in Tonbridge who could have been two more brothers:



Another William (\$1694) married **Elizabeth Callet** (\$1695), in Shipbourne, on 28th November 1636

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

1 **In the name** of god Amen. The six and twentieth day of February in
the year of our Lord
2 God one thousand six hundredth and seventeen. And in the fifteenth year
of the reign
3 of our sovereign Lord James, by the grace of God, king of England, France
and Ireland,
4 defender of the faith, etc. And of Scotland the one and fiftieth. I, Walter
Chowne
5 of Shipbourne in the county of Kent, and diocese of Rochester, **clothier**,
being sickly and
6 weak in body but of perfect mind and remembrance, thanks therefore be⁶⁵
given to Almighty god,

65 "bee", "beeing", "mee", etc. throughout, including "beefore"

7 do make and ordain this my present testament and last will in manner and
form following⁶⁶, that
8 is to say **First** and principally, I give, commend and bequeath my soul into
the hands of
9 Almighty god who gave it me, trusting assuredly that the same (through a
sure faith
10 which I have in the merit, precious death and blood shedding⁶⁷ of his dear
son Jesus
11 Christ, my only saviour and redeemer) shalbe presented, pure and without
spot, before
12 the throne of his majesty. And my body to the earth to be buried in the
churchyard
13 of Shipbourne aforesaid in sure and certain hope of a joyful resurrection to
life eternal.
14 **Item:** I will that **my loving brother, George Chowne** and **my brother-in-law,**
Thomas Fisher of Tonbridge, mine
15 executors hereafter named, their executors or assigns, shall pay all these
legacies which shalbe by me, hereafter in this my will
16 particularly set down, to the parties nominated and at such times as in this

66 "folowing" which is usual for Nicholas Hooper

67 "bludshedding"

my will shalbe
17 set down, and all my debts. First, shall pay yearly, every year, upon
midsummer day (being of them, or either of them, demanded)
18 to **Mother Man, my poor neighbour**, the sum of five shillings of lawful
money during the
19 natural life of her, the said Mother Man.
And I give to **old Nicholas Claygate** 2s 6d, to **John Collyns** 6d, Mother ??
6d, old ?? 6d and **Robert Luck** 6d⁶⁸

Item: shall suffer **my wife**

to take and enjoy to her
20 use all her wearing gear and apparel and one blanket, all my styde⁶⁹ and all
such goods as she brought to me with her before our marriage with one
chair of mine
21 and which she desired of me. **Item:** shall give to **Susan, my maid servant**,
?? coat and a waistcoat cloth of the s--dcloth as is now appointed to
clothe my children⁷⁰.

Item: shall pay, or cause to be paid, to her, my said wife,

68 this line was inserted after line 18; the Claygates, Collyns and Lucks were all large Shipbourne families and Nicholas could have been \$89 who died in 1625 when he was probably over eighty

69 up to here on this line inserted; "Styde" ??

70 this item inserted

the

22 sum of one hundred pounds of good money at such time as one bond, date
mention, which she hath, by me
23 made and sealed to her before our marriage, if she be living at that time,
and bring
24 and deliver to the said George Chowne or Thomas Fisher, their executors or
assigns, the same bond un---led.
25 **Item:** whereas I stand bounden to two of **my wife's daughters, viz. Margaret
and Susan**
26 on two several obligations of £20 a piece for the payment of each of them
ten pounds a piece at their
27 several ages of one and twenty years or several days of their marriage
which shall first
28 happen, I will that my said executors, their executors or assigns, shall
within half a year next
29 after my decease pay unto her, my said wife, her executors or assigns, the
said several sums
30 of ten pounds a piece if she, my said wife, shall then redeliver the same
bonds to my said
31 executors hereafter named. **Item:** I will that my said executors, their
executors or assigns, shall
32 pay to **Mrs. Maxfield, widow,** the sum of three score and ten pounds with
the use thereof for

33 the which she hath my bond which is payable about the first of June now
next coming. **Item:**
34 I will that my said executors, their executors or assigns, shall give and pay
to **my two daughters, Mary and**
35 **Johane**⁷¹, to either of them, the sum of thirteen pounds, six shillings and
eight pence a piece
36 of good and lawful money, at their age and age of one and twenty years or
days or several
37 days of their marriage which shall first happen. And if either of them
happen to decease before the
38 overliver to have the whole portion, without fraud or guile. And I will that
my executors, their executors or assigns, shall place out my said two
daughters to service with such portion of the ?? of their stock as they shall
think good⁷².

Item: I will that my said executors,
39 their executors or assigns, shall give and pay to **my two sons, Waller and**

71 fifteen and six respectively when their father died; presumably all his other daughters had died

72 this clause inserted

Wyatt Chowne⁷³, to either
40 of them, the sum of thirty pounds a piece of lawful money, at their age and
several ages of one and
41 twenty years. And if either of them shall happen to decease before, the
overliver to have
42 ⁷⁴ if both my said daughters happen to decease before
43 their payment aforesaid, that their portions shalbe paid to my said two sons
Waller and Wyatt or
44 the overliver of them. And that if both my said sons happen to decease
before their payment
45 aforesaid, their portions shalbe paid to my said two daughters or the
overliver of them without fraud
46 or guile. And I will that my executors, their executors or assigns, shall
place out to service my said two sons with such portion of the ?? of their
stock as they shall think good⁷⁵.

For and towards which payment of my debts and legacies, I will
that the said

73 twelve and eight respectively when their father died

74 this line on a crease in the will so that the first half of it cannot be read

75 again this clause was inserted

47 George Chowne and Thomas Fisher, their executors or assigns, or any other
whom he or they shall nominate or appoint,
48 shall presently after my decease, enter into and upon all my goods, clothes
either in cloth or not, wool, yarn,
49 corn, cattell, workhouse and all other my stock and goods whatsoever, and
the same and every or any
50 of the same to transport and sell to the payment of my debts and legacies
aforesaid. And the overplus
51 thereof to keep to the use and behoof of **mine eldest son Thomas Chowne**⁷⁶.
And to that effect
52 I will that my said loving brother and brother-in-law, or any other whom he
shall
53 thereto name and appoint, shalbe mine executors of this my will and see
the same proved to the use of Thomas Chowne, my son, and shall take and
pay out according
54 to the tenor of this my will for and to the use of the said Thomas, my son.
And shall make a true and
55 ?? account of the same and shall pay over the same to my said son
Thomas at his age of one and twenty years. To which
56 my said executors ?? or other aforesaid. I give five shillings a piece besides
their expenses. And if that they shall

57 not think their selves satisfied therewith, then I will they shall make such
amends as they shall think good.
58 In witness whereof I, the said Waller Chowne, the father, to this my present
last will have set my
59 hand and year first above written.

Nicholas Hooper's
mark
with initials

Read, sealed and acknowledged as
the true and last will of the said
Waller Chowne in the presence of
Edward Swan and
Nicholas Hooper
sen. writer hereof

The Chownings of Kemsing and Seal

Two wills have survived for Chownings of Kemsing:

| | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| William Chowning, als. Gregory | 1571/2 | CKS: Drb/Pw 10; Drb/Pwr 14.81 |
| William Chowning | 6 May 1629 30 Jul 1629 | CKS; Drb/Pw 28 page 2.c.136 |

The first of these has not been investigated but the will of Thomas of Wrotham, written in January 1611, gives the alternative name of Thomas Gregory; perhaps he was a descendant of the William of Kemsing als. Gregory - see Chownings of Wrotham for Thomas's will. There was also a Richard Chownings. alias Gregorie, in Ightham at the beginning of the seventeenth century.

Further away were the Chownings of Tonbridge and Leigh - see page 2.c.156

In 1522 a John Chowning witnessed the will of John Carryar of Kemsing. Forty years later the baptisms of the children of James Chowning were recorded in the parish register. A John Chowning married in 1563 and his family can be traced for four generations. James and John could have been brothers.

In the following trees, "S" following a date shows that the event occurred in Seal, "I" in Ightham.

The Family of James Chowning of Kemsing

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------|-----|-------------|-----|----------|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|------------|
| k42 ⁷⁷ James - | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | | | |
| k44 | | k45 | | k46 | | k47 | | k48 | | k49 | |
| | George | | John | | Alice | | Jeremy | | Jasper | | James |
| bap: | 5 Apr 1561 | | 21 May 1584 | | Apr 1566 | | 16 Apr 1570 | | 29 Feb 1573 | | 5 Nov 1578 |
| bur: | | | | | Apr 1566 | | | | | | |

The Family of John Chowning of Kemsing

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-------|--|-------------|--|---------------|--|----------------|--|----------------------|--|---------------|
| k50 John - Alice Man k51 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| mar: 29 Sep 1563 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| bur: 1 Jan 1608 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| k52 | | #1675 | | k53 | | k57 | | k54 | | k55 | | k307 |
| | Catheryne - Thomas | Frend | | Annes - | | Robert Symons | | William - | | Anne - | | Richard Watts |
| bap: | 22 Dec 1565 | | | 30 Apr 1567 | | | | 21 Jan 1569 | | 20 Sep 1575 | | |
| mar: | 5 Sep 1594 | | | 27 Sep 1588 | | | | | | 10 Sep 1594 | | |
| aged: | 28 | | | 21 | | | | | | 19 | | |
| will: | | | | | | | | 6 May 1629 | | | | |
| bur: | | | | 28 Jul 1611 | | | | | | see Watts of Kemsing | | |
| | | | | see below | | | | see page 2.c.? | | | | |

Catherine married Thomas Frend in Seal and their son Thomas (#1846) was baptised there on 17th August 1595. Sara and Jane Frend who married in Seal could have been the daughters of Thomas and Catherine:

Sara Frend (#2353) married **David Perrat** (#2144) on 6th Aug 1615

Jane Frend (#2057) married **Thomas Lush** (#2058) on 20th Oct 1616.

Annes who married Robert Symons is referred to with an "s" at both baptism and marriage. Robert had six children baptised in Kemsing but there was a ten year gap between the fourth and fifth. "[Anna, wife of Robert Symons](#)" was buried with her sixth child for whom no baptism was recorded - see [Symons in Seal and Kemsing](#) for details.

Since William, the testator of 1629, mentions his "[sister Watts](#)" he was John's son, k54, above.

The Family of William Chowning

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|--|--------------------------------|-------------|
| | | k54 William - Elizabeth k58 | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>bap:</i> | | 21 Jan 1569 | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>will:</i> | | 6 May 1629 | | | | | | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | | | |
| k60 | k61 | k62 | k67 | k63 | k69 | k64 | k65 | | | k66 | |
| William | Richard | Sylvester - | Arnold Hussons | John | - Sylvester Miller | Elizabeth | | | | James | |
| <i>bap:</i> 8 Feb 1596S | 21 Jan 1600S | 24 Feb 1606 | | 5 Mar 1612 | 3 Dec 1611 | | | | | 5 Aug 1616 | |
| <i>mar:</i> | | 1 Jul 1632 | | 29 Jun 1634 | | | | | | | |
| <i>bur:</i> 29 Apr 1618 | | | | | | | | | | 11 Sep 1613 | 15 May 1621 |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | | | |
| k574 | k76 | k70 | k71 | k72 | k73 | k74 | k75 | | | | |
| Thomas | Robert | Elizabeth | Sylvester | Anne | John | William | Mary | | | | |
| <i>bap:</i> 1 Jul 1641 | 10 Nov 1646 | 28 May 1635 | 2 Jan 1640 | 28 Apr 1642 | 4 Apr 1644 | 18 Sep 1646 | 8 Apr 1649 | | | | |
| <i>bur:</i> 8 Sep 1646 | | | 12 Feb 1640 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | k68 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | x65 Margaret - Steven Halthrop | |
| | | | | | | | | | | 2 May 1614 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | 26 Aug 1635 | |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | k332 | k333 | k334 | k335 | k336 | k337 | k338 | | | |
| | | John | William | Steven | Edmund | Thomas | Mary | Elizabeth | | | |
| <i>bap:</i> | | 1 Aug 1636 | 30 Dec 1638 | twins | 22 Feb 1642 | 23 Oct 1644 | 2 Mar 1648 | 25 Mar 1651 | | | |
| <i>bur:</i> | | | | 13 Jan 1639 | | | | | | | |

A Richard Chownings, who could have been William's son, married Mary King in Seal on 16 October 1648 by a licence from the faculties at Rochester. Richard, Sylvester, John and Margaret are all mentioned in William's will.

In the name of god Amen.

- 1 The sixth day of May in the year of our lord god 1629, I, William Chowning
of Kemsing in
2 the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick in body but of good and perfect
memory, I give god thanks
3 therefore, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner
and form following:
4 **First:** I will and bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my maker, in sure and
certain hope of
5 eternal life through the merits, death and passion of Jesus Christ, my only
saviour and redeemer
6 and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Kemsing at the discretion of
mine executrix.
7 **Item:** I will and bequeath unto **Richard Chowning, my son**, if he be⁷⁸ yet
living, ten pounds of
8 currant English money to be paid unto him by my **son John Chowning**
within one whole year after his

78 "hee bee" here but "be" elsewhere in the will until "bee" in line 27 and "mee" in line 29

09 demanding the same. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my daughter**
10 **Sylvester Chowning** ten
11 pounds of current English money to be paid unto her by my son John
12 Chowning at her day of
13 marriage or within one whole year after. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
14 **my daughter Margaret**
15 **Chowning** ten pounds of current English money to be paid unto her by my
16 son John Chowning at
17 her day of marriage or within one whole year after. **Item:** I give unto **my**
18 **sister Watts** ten
19 shillings to be paid unto her by my executrix hereafter named.
20 All the rest of my goods whatsoever, my debts being paid and my funeral
expenses discharged
I give unto **Elizabeth, my wellbeloved wife**, whom I do make and appoint
sole executrix of this my
last will and testament. And concerning my lands, this is my will and
meaning.
Item: I give unto John Chowning, my son, my house wherein I now dwell
with all the edifices,
barn, stable and outhouses thereunto belonging with the gardens, orchard
and hemp plot thereunto
belonging and all my lands in the parish of Kemsing or elsewhere, to him
and his heirs, to the

21 only use of him and his heirs forever, provided always, and my will and
meaning
22 is that Elizabeth, my wife, shall have all the profit of my said house with the
edifices and
23 buildings thereunto belonging and also the profit of all my lands until my
son John Chowning
24 come to the age of one and twenty years⁷⁹, she keeping my house with the
edifices aforesaid well
25 and sufficiently repaired and then my will and meaning is that my said son
John Chowning
26 shall have half the profit of all my house and land during the natural life of
Elizabeth
27 my wife and I do entreat **my loving friends William Kipps and Richard
Roberts⁸⁰** to be overseers
28 of this my will and testament. And I do give unto either of them for their
pains five shillings.
29 This is the last will of me William Chowning and I do revoke all other wills
and acknowledge

79 John was baptised in March 1612 and was therefore seventeen when his father wrote his will

80 there were a large number of Kips in Kemsing; there was a Richard Roberts (#917) having children in Seal between 1601 and 1639

30 this to be my last will and testament in witness whereof I have hereunto set
my hand and seal

31 the day and year first above written.

Sealed and subscribed

in the presence of us

William Kipps

Richard Roberts

Nicholas Fremlyn⁸²

William

Chownings⁸¹

81 looks like a signature

82 These could all be signatures; "William Kipps" here looks very like the name in the will itself so that Kipps could have written the will; Nicholas Fremlyn was probably k444 who married in 1624.

William Chownings and the Stones of Ightham

Three children of William Chownings were baptised in Ightham between 1586 and 1593. One of his daughters married Thomas Stone and they had eight children the last recorded child, Elizabeth, being the “[daughter of Thomas and Rebecca Stone](#)”. There was another Thomas Stone in Ightham between 1616 and 1625 - see page 2.c.145 At the summer 1628 Assizes, Thomas Stone was indicted for keeping an unlicensed tippling-house - see [Barret in More Families & Transcripts](#)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|-------------|--|--------------------|-------|--------------|--|------------|--|-------------|--|-------------|--|-------------|--|-------------|--|-------------|
| bur: | | i1300 | William - | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 12 Mar 1612 | | ----- | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | i1302 | | i1018 | | i1017 | | i1303 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Margaret | | Rebecca - | | Thomas Stone | | William | | | | | | | | | | |
| bap: | 4 Dec 1586 | | 8 Mar 1590 | | | | 1 Apr 1593 | | | | | | | | | | |
| mar: | | | 19 Nov 1612 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| bur: | 9 May 1623 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | ----- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | i1019 | | i1555 | | i1020 | | i1021 | | i1022 | | i1023 | | i1024 | | i1025 | | i1026 |
| | Jane - | | Richard Shoebridge | | Ann | | William | | John | | Thomas | | Winifred | | Henry | | Elizabeth |
| bap: | 9 Aug 1613 | | | | 19 Apr 1615 | | 6 Dec 1618 | | 18 Mar 1621 | | 18 Apr 1624 | | 17 Jan 1630 | | 19 Mar 1633 | | 26 Mar 1637 |
| mar: | 25 Jun 1635 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 5 children up to 1650 - see Shoebridges of Ightham | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Although this William's children would “fit in” as elder children of the William of Kemsing, that William would have been only seventeen in 1586. A William, son of William Chowning, was buried in Seal on 27th December 1594. He could have been the son of this William of Ightham or the first born son of William Chownings of Kemsing with no baptism being recorded.

William Chowning, stranger

William Chownings appears to have come to Ightham some months previous to the birth of Margaret. On 4th October 1586, it was found that a number of strangers had, each with the permission of someone within the parish, "come within the precincts of this View of Frank-pledge and had not found two good and sufficient sureties for their good behaviour, wherefore, by the authority of this Court it was ordered that they should produce their sureties at the next Court, or depart, subject to the penalties specified". Both were to be fined 3s 4d if sureties were not found. William was one of these strangers who was given permission to come "within the precincts" by **William Siggins** (i999). This was only two months before Margaret was baptised.

Six months later, on 27th April 1587, "**William Chowning, a stranger**, came within this View without finding sureties and was amerced but, at the humble petition of the said William, who is a poor man of good name and fame, he was given till the next Court either to remove or to find sureties, under penalty 12d. The said William was, at this Court, sworn into the allegiance of our Lady the Queen, he having dwelt within the View of the Frank-pledge for a year and a day, being over 30 years of age and not previously sworn allegiance." (CRI 1938, p.15)

This swearing of allegiance did not give Chownings the right to stay in Ightham

and "six months later **Thomas Ware** (i771) was found to have received him into his tenement. On 17 April 1588, it was reported that Ware had removed Chowning". However, William eventually settled in Ightham, having had a fight with Ware in 1589; his daughter Rebecca was baptised a year later.

William Receiving Strangers

By 1592, he seems to have been in a position to help other would-be settlers. On 11th October 1592, William Chownings was found to have "received into his cottage and taken care of **Richard Colvyn** and his wife '*ut extraneos, Anglice inmates*' without sureties. To bring sureties or remove them before Lady Day, under penalty 10s." (CRI 1938, p.15) A Richard Colvyn had six children baptised in Ightham between 1590 and 1600; he may, or may not, have been the Richard befriended by Chownings. (see page 2.c.339)

At the Court held on 26th April 1593, Chownings was to be fined 10s if the stranger he had received, **John Huntwick**, was not removed or sureties found before the next Court.

William Chowning's Misdemeanours

William Chownings was also mentioned, for a number of misdemeanours:

- On the 22nd April 1590 it was found that William Chowning "hath cut down and sawed down' certain trees in the wood of the lord called **High Grove**. Fined 12d and a like penalty to be forfeited for each bundle of wood that he may cut hereafter." (CRI 1937, p.217) A number of pieces of woodland on or near Oldbury Hill were called groves and High Grove was probably one of them. (CRI 1938, p.73,74)
- William Chownings was presented to the Court on 26th April 1593 for having "encroached upon the highway at **Trice Lane** in Ightham, by placing his palings upon the way for the length of ten feet, to the inconvenience of passers-by. Given till 24 August to remove the encroachment under penalty 10s." (CRI 1937, p.200). Trice Lane led eastwards from Ightham village to Trice Well (CRI 1938, p.81)
- on 16th October 1604 he was fined 6s 8d for allowing "his children to break and plunder the woods of the lord of the manor on the common of Ightham." (CRI 1937, p.208). In 1604, Margaret, Rebecca and William would have been 17, 14 and 11 respectively.

- also on 16th October 1604, William Chownings and **Richard Matthew** were found to have allowed "their geese and ducks to foul the water at **Redwell**, to the damage of their neighbours. The penalty imposed upon them was that if they continue to offend in this way they are to forfeit 6s 8d for each offence." (CRI 1938, p.11) Redwell was a hamlet 3/4 mile south-west of Ightham village (CRI 1938, p.64) so that, if this is the same William Chownings as was presented to the Court in 1593, he had either moved or he kept his geese and ducks in a different place from his land near Trice Lane.
- William Chownings was also an ale taster (CRI 1938, p.57) - see *Excerpts from Ightham Court Rolls in Families & Transcripts* (XZ) for details of the duties this entailed.

The Second Thomas Stone

The “[wife of Thomas Stone](#)” was buried on 21st May 1616 and **Thomas** (i1029) married **Anne Crode** (i1031) on 23rd April 1617. Thomas was buried on 18th October 1625. Since the Thomas who married Rebecca Chownings in 1612 had children from 1613 to 1637 with the last being “the daughter of Thomas and Rebecca Stone”, there must have at least two Thomas Stones in Ightham from 1616 to 1625. In 1628 a Thomas Stone was indicted for keeping an unlicensed tippling-house - see [Barret in More Families & Transcripts](#). There was also a **Francis Stone** (i1030) buried on 25th March 1606.

Richard Chownings of Ightham

A Richard Chowning was mentioned in the records for 1553-74 but the only entry detailed by Edward Harrison is that for 1604:

- On 19th April 1604, "[Richard Chowning, alias Gregorie, \(brewer\) being a common ale house keeper](#)" at Borough Green, "[allows in his house the unlawful game of common dicing. Fined 2s.](#)" (CRI 1938, p.13)
- An Alice Grigorie, brewer, was also mentioned in the records for 1586-1618

The Chownings of Wrotham

Three wills have survived for Chownings of Wrotham and there were also Chownings in Kemsing, Seal and Ightham - see above. Thomas of Wrotham was also known as Thomas Gregory as had been William of Kemsing whose will was written at the beginning of 1572. Perhaps Thomas was a descendant of William.

| | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------|------------------|--------------|
| Thomas Chowning | 6 Jan 1610/1 | 13 Nov 1617 | CKS: Prs/w/3/141 | page 2.c.149 |
| George Chowning | 22 May 1620 | | PCC: Soame 81 | |
| Martha Chowning | 13 Jul 1639 | 1 May 1640 | CKS: Prs/w/3/204 | page 2.c.154 |

Charles Hutchinson, clerk, probably wrote all three of these wills.

Both Thomas and Martha mention children:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Thomas (1611) | Martha (1639) |
| Thomas, deceased (i.e. <1611) | |
| Margery | Margery |
| John | John |
| George | George |
| William, deceased (i.e. <1611) | |
| | Martha |

Thus, although there is twenty-eight years between the dates when these wills were written, it seems that Thomas and Martha were husband and wife. By 1611, their son Thomas had three children, William had had one child but died before his father and two or the daughters, Jane and Alice had “children”. These could be the four eldest children born, say, between 1578 and 1584. If Martha was born in the late 1550s, she would have been just over eighty in 1639 which is feasible.

But there is another problem besides age: Thomas does not mention his wife in his will. The tree on the next page is drawn on the understanding that Martha, the testator of 1639, was Thomas’s wife even though this might not have been the case.

Thomas left ten pounds to each of the sets of children of his two married daughters, Jane and Alice. Whilst he does not leave anything to Jane, Alice is to be paid an annuity of £1 a year for the rest of her life. Perhaps Alice had been widowed.

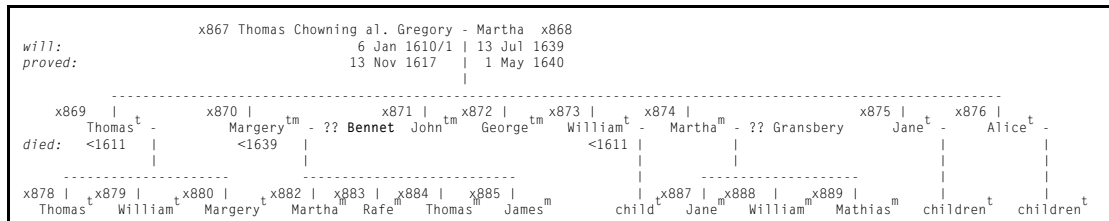
Since their son George, who was Thomas’s executor, was alive when Martha wrote her will he cannot have been the testator of 1620.

At the end of Thomas’s will there is a note regarding changes to the will which are not apparent in this supposed “original”. Although written on a loose sheet,

this looks like a copy of the original will. Charles Hutchinson, clerk, was one of the witnesses to this will and he wrote a number of wills for the parishioners of Wrotham, including that for Martha Chowning over twenty years later. Martha's will is written in the same hand as the other Hutchinson wills whilst this one is in a more "professional" hand, pointing again to it being a copy.

George's will has not been transcribed but the witnesses were Charles Hutchinson, clerk, and Stephen Fuller. It thus looks as if Charles Hutchinson wrote all three of these wills.

The Family of Thomas and Martha



children and grandchildren mentioned by Thomas marked ^t; those by Martha ^m
 The children are shown in the order in which Thomas mentioned them which may

not be in order of age. John had two children by 1639 but their names were not given.

Will of Thomas Chowning of Wrotham

written 6th January 1610/1

transcript from original

1 In the name of god Amen. The sixth day of January in the year of our lord
god one thousand six
2 hundred and ten, I, Thomas Chowning als. Gregory of Wrotham in the
county of Kent, **butcher**, being in good health
3 of body and perfect remembrance, thanks be given to Almighty God,
nevertheless calling to mind the frailty of human
4 flesh and the uncertainty of man's pilgrimage's continuance in this world
wherefore to the end that I may dispose of
5 those temporal goods and blessings which it hath pleased the Almighty to
bestow upon me in such manner as that
6 the same may be quietly enjoyed and possessed after my decease
according to my will and meaning do make and
7 ordain this my present last will and testament in manner and form
following: **First** and principally
8 I give and bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my only creator and maker

9 who. of his fatherly goodness, gave
10 it unto me, steadfastly hoping and believing through the merits of the
11 death and passion of Jesus Christ, my only
12 saviour and redeemer, to share everlastig life and to be placed among the
13 heavenly angels and blessed saints.
14 And as touching my body, I freely bequeath and yield it to the earth from
15 whence it came. **Item:** I give and bequeath
16 unto **Thomas Chowning, William Chowning and Margery Chowning,**
17 **children of my son Thomas Chowning**
18 deceased, the sum of twenty pounds to be divided amongst them in
19 manner and form following: that is to say
20 unto Thomas the sum of ten pounds, unto William the sum of six pounds
21 and unto Margery the sum
22 of four pounds to be paid unto them by my executor hereafter named
23 within one year and one day next
24 after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my son John Chowning**
25 the sum of twenty pounds of lawful
26 english money to be likewise paid unto him within one year and one day
27 next after my decease. **Item:** I
28 give and bequeath unto the **child of my son William, deceased,** if the same
29 shall be living at the time of my decease, the
30 sum of five pounds to also be paid unto it within one year and one day next
31 after my decease. **Item:** I give

20 and bequeath unto the **children of my daughter Jane** the sum of ten
21 pounds to be equally divided amongst
22 them and likewise paid unto them within one year and one day next after
23 my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto my
24 **daughter Margery** the sum of ten pounds to be likewise paid unto her
25 within one year and one day next after
26 my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **the children of my daughter**
27 **Alice** the sum of ten pounds of
28 lawful money of England to be paid unto them within one month next after
29 the decease of the said Alice if she happen
30 to survive and overlive me. And my will and meaning for her is that, from
31 and after my decease, my executor
shall pay yearly and every year unto my daughter Alice during her natural
life, the sum of twenty shillings
half yearly to be paid. That is to say at the feasts of the Annunciation of
the blessed virgin Mary and Saint
Michael th'archangel by even and equal portions, the first payment thereof
to begin at such of the same feasts as
shall first happen next after my decease if the said Alice be then living.
And within one month next after the
decease of the said Alice (if she happen to survive me as aforesaid) my
meaning is that the the said sum of ten
pounds shalbe paid to and equally divided amongst such childrn of the

said Alice as she shall leave behind her⁸³.

32 The residue of all my goods and chattels whatsoever herein not
bequeathed nor otherwise disposed of by me
33 in my life time (my debts and legacies being paid and funeral charges
discharged) I wholly give and bequeath
33 unto **my son George Chowning** whom I make and ordain my sole executor
of this my last will and
34 testament
35 And as concerning the disposition of all my lands, tenements and
hereditaments whatsoever within the realm of
36 England, I wholly give and bequeath the same to my said son George
Chowning and to his heirs forever upon
37 condition and to the intent that he shall fully and truly satisfy and pay all
such legacies as I have herein before
38 bequeathed and in such manner and form as the same are before set down
and mentioned to be paid according to my
39 will and meaning as my said son George (with whose privity, consent and
good liking the same legacies
40 were approved and set down) hath now undertaken and faithfully promised
me to perform. And I do

83 was Alice ill and not expected to live when Thomas wrote his will? What about her husband? Or had he already died?

41 hereby revoke and annul all former wills and testaments whatsoever by
mer heretofore made.
42 In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name and set my seal
unto this my present last will and
43 testament the day and year first above written in the presence of
Thomas Chowning, his mark

Sealed and published and the word (twenty) between the 18th and 19th lines
interlined and the first word of the 19th line blocked out⁸⁴ before the sealing
and publishing hereof in the presence and witness of **Charles Hutchinson**
Robert Wybame, Geor. Segars.

84 there is no sign of "twenty" being inserted anywhere and, although the word appears a number of times in the will, it is not used on lines 18 or 19.

1 In the name of god Amen. The 18th day of July An. Dom. 1629 and in
2 the 18th year of the reign of our sovereign Lord Charles by the grace of
3 God king of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the
4 faith, etc. I, Martha Chowning, of Wrotham in the county of Kent,
5 being sick in body but of good and sound remembrance, laud and praises
6 to Almighty God, do make this my last will and testament in man
7 ner and form following. **First:** I bequeath my soul to Almighty God,
8 my creator by whose mercy in Jesus Christ I hope to be saved and
9 my body to the earth to be buried in the churchyard of Wrotham aforesaid.
10 **Item:** I do give and bequeath to **Jane Gransbery, my grandchild**, one great
11 joined bedstead in my chamber where I lie with the curtains, featherbed,
12 blanket and coverlet and a bolster and one pillow belonging thereunto.
Item:
13 I give more to her one pair of fine sheets and one silver bowl, ?? table
14 napkins, one silver spoon, two ??, counterboard, a ?? cupboard, two
15 trunks, two boxes and two chests, a little brass pot and a chafer, three
brass candle
16 sticks, 3 pewter dishes and a pewter basin. **Item:** I give to **William
Gransbery,**

17 **my grandchild**, two tables with 3 ?? , two joined stools, a cupboard
18 and a settee⁸⁵ in the parlour under my chamber. **Item:** I give to him more
19 one trucklebed with a featherbed, bolster and a pillow on it, the ??,
20 a great brass pot, a brass chafer, a tablecloth and 6 napkins.
21 **Item:** I give to **my son John Chowning** the sum of twenty shillings.
22 **Item:** I give to his two children twenty shillings a piece all to be
23 paid within one half year after my decease. **Item:** I give to **Martha,**
24 **Rafe, Thomas and James, children of my daughter Margery Bennet de=**
25 **ceased,** twenty shillings a piece to be paid to them within a year after
26 my decease. Also I give to **my son George Chowning** five shillings.
27 **Item:** I give to **my grandchild Mathias Gransbery** twenty shillings.
28 All the rest of my goods, cattle⁸⁶ and chattels whatsoever I give to **Martha**
29 **Gransbery, my daughter,** whom I do make my executor of this my
30 last will and testament.

Read, published and declared
in the presence of **Char: Hutchinson,**
clerk.

Martha Chownings
mark

85 "settee", a long seat with a back? If so, presumably, at that time a wooden seat which would now be called a settle.

86 "catle"

The Chownings of Tonbridge and Leigh

Six wills have survived for Chownings of Tonbridge:

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Robert Chowning | 23 Sep 1557 | CKS: Drb/Pw 5; Drb/Pwr 12.155 | page 2.c.159 |
| Roger Chowning | 1558 | CKS: Drb/Pw 6; Drb/Pwr 12.285 | husbandman |
| William Chowning | 16 Dec 1567 | CKS: Drb/Pw 9; Drb/Pwr 13.342 | page 2.c.161 |
| John Chowning | 22 Aug 1599 | CKS: Drb/Pw 18; Drb/Pwr 19I.99 | page 2.c.165 |
| Margery Chowning | 22 Jun 1604 | CKS: Drb/Pw 19; Drb/Pwr 19I.410 | page 2.c.167 |
| Peter Chowning ⁸⁷ | 16 Apr 1619 | PCC: Savile 74 | tanner page 2.c.171 |

and one for Leigh:

John Chowning 1518 CKS: Drb/Pw 1; Drb/Pwr 7.148

There were also Chownings in Wrotham, Kemsing and Ightham but there are no obvious connections between those here and the families described above except that the alias Gregory appears again here.

87 alias Gregory

Robert's will is very difficult to read and is written in a peculiar style. Three of his four sons were called Roger, William and John and these could be the testators of 1558, 1567 and 1599 but there are no details to confirm this except for the recurrence of the unusual names Roger and Katherine. Roger's will has not been investigated.

Peter Chowning's will was written by John Hooper, notary public, who wrote many wills in the first half of the seventeenth century. It has an interesting preamble and only this has been transcribed. Peter's relationship with the other Chownings is not known.

Margery was John's wife. Her will was written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, the father of John. Nicholas wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618 but, unlike many of his wills, Margery's is not decorated.

The Family of Robert Chowning

Robert had four sons whose names can be deciphered but those of his three daughters, all of whom were married, are much more difficult. In the tree below, William, who was his executor, is taken as the testator of 1567 who died leaving five underage children. Henry Parker was a witness to the wills of both Robert

and William.

The testators of 1558 and 1599 could also have been his sons. Robert left John's daughter Catherine some household items and one of the children John mentions in his will is his daughter Katherine which is not a particularly common name. John also had a son Roger which is another uncommon name.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---------|--------|--------|-----------|---|----------------------|-------------|--|--|-----------------------------|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | t324 ⁸⁸ Robert - | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | 23 | Sep 1557 | | | | | | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | | ----- | | | | | | | | | | |
| t326 | t332 | t327 | t328 | t313 | t330 | t331 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| William | - Eme | Thomas | Roger | John - | Anne - ?? Bishop | Margaret - ?? Carter | ?? - Arthur | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| will: 16 Dec 1567 | | | 1558 | 1599 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | | ----- | | | | | | | | | | |
| t333 | t334 | t335 | t336 | t337 | t317 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Edward | William | John | Thomas | Elizabeth | Catherine - see page 2.c.164 for the rest of his family | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

1 In the name of god Amen. the 23rd day of September in the year of our lord
god 1557, I, Robert
2 Chowning in the parish of Tonbridge and in the diocese of Rochester being
in good and perfect remembrance
3 thanked be god, do ordain and make this my last will and testament in
manner and form following: **First**
4 I will and bequeath my soul to Almighty god and my body to be buried in
the church yard of the
5 parish church of Tonbridge aforesaid. **Item:** I will unto **Thomas Chowning,**
my son, 1 featherbed which is the
6 oldest bed with a bolster and coverlet, the colour of the coverlet is black
and yellow, also 1 pair of sheets.
7 **Item:** I will unto the said Thomas 1 little brass pot, 1 dish and 1 platter of
pewter. **Item:** I will unto **Roger**
8 **Chowning, my son,** my greatest brass pan with 1 dish and 1 platter of
pewter. Also I give to the said Roger
9 a pair of sheets. **Item:** I will to **John Chownings, my son,** 2 mares which
mares be in his ?? keeping.
10 Also I will to the said John 1 pair of sheets, 1 dish and a platter of pewter

with a great chest which was
11 his mother's and a kettle of 3 gallons. **Item:** I will unto **Catherine**
Chowning, the daughter of John Chowning,
12 my son, 1 flockbed, 1 bolster, 1 coverlet, 1 pair of sheets and a blanket, 1
dish and a platter of pewter.
13 **Item:** I will to **Anne Bishop, my daughter,** 1 pair of sheets, 1 dish, 1 platter
of pewter and 1 kettle of
14 brass. **Item:** I will to **Margaret Carter, my daughter,** 1 pair of sheets, 1 dish
and 1 platter of
15 pewter. **Item:** I will to ?? **Arthur, my daughter**⁸⁹, 1 pair of sheets, 1 dish
and 1 platter of pewter.
16 with 1 table ??, 1 ?? and 1 candlestick of latten. **Item:** I will to the poor
within the town of
17 Tonbridge 20s which 20s I will to be bestowed immediately after my
decease where most
18 need is, at the discretion of of my executor. **Item:** I ordain and make
William Chowning, my son, my
19 sole executor for the performance of this my will and testament. **Item:** I
will that all such more
20 ?? as shall remain after the performance of this my will if there be any
shall remain to William

89 the names of all the daughters are very difficult to read

21 Chownings, my son..

The witnesses of this ??

by me ?? ??

**Thomas Collins, ?? Stanford
and Harry Parker**

Will of William Chowning of Tonbridge

written 16th December 1567

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 The 16th day of December in the tenth
3 year of the reign of our sovereign
4 lady Elizabeth, by the grace of god
5 Queen of England, France and Ireland,
6 defender of the faith, etc. I, William Chow
7 ning of the town of Tonbridge in
8 the county of Kent and in the diocese
9 of Rochester, **husbandman**, being sick

page 2:

10 in body but whole of mind and perfect
11 remembrance, lauded be god, do make and
12 ordain this my last will and testament
13 in manner and form following: that is to say,
14 **First** and principally I bequeath my soul
15 unto Almighty god, my saviour and redeemer
16 and my body to be buried in the church
17 yard of the parish church of Tonbridge.
18 **Item:** I will and bequeath unto **Eme, my**
19 **wife**, all my moveable goods, corn and
20 cattells, both within doors and without,
21 saving £10 which remaineth in the
22 lands of **Henry Stoberfield**. **Item:** I ordain
23 and make Eme, my wife, my sole executrix
24 for the performance of this my last will and
25 testament

26 Also for the disposition of my 2 tenements
27 and the £10 before reserved, I will the foresaid
28 two tenements and the said £10 shalbe to
29 the use of my 5 children, that is to say,
30 **Edward, William. John and Thomas, my**

31 **sons and Elizabeth, my daughter**, to be
32 equally divided amongst them. **Item:** I
33 will that the said Eme, my wife, shall
34 toward the well and good bringing
35 up of my said children the whole profit
36 profit of the said tenements and the said £10
37 until the youngest of my said children
38 come to the full age of 25 years. And
39 if it happen any of my said children
40 to fail before the age of 25 years, that
41 those that shalbe then living shall have

page 3:

42 his part so deceased equally divided
43 amongst them by even portions. Provided
44 always that and if it fortune at
45 any time hereafter that the said
46 Eme, my wife, be disposed to marry that
47 them my very mind and will is that
48 she shalbe bound with good securities unto
49 **Anthony Harris and Henry Stoberfield**
50 for the true paying of the said £10
51 unto my foresaid children. Witness to

52 this will Anthony Harris, **Henry**
53 **Parker** and Henry Stoberfield with
54 others. by me Henry Stoberfield, by
55 me Anthony Harris, by me Henry
56 Parker.

The Family of John and Margery

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|--|----------------------------|------|-------------|--|------|--|---------|--|---------|--|-----------|--|
| | | t313 John - Margery | t314 | | | | | | | | | | |
| will: | | 22 Aug 1599 | | 22 Jun 1604 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | ----- | | | | | | | | | | | |
| t317 | | t320 | | t315 | | t316 | | t321 | | t318 | | t319 | |
| | | Katherine - William Herman | | Roger | | John | | William | | Richard | | Elizabeth | |

It was to his youngest son, Richard, that Thomas left his house on the death of Margery with the three elder ones being left some meadowland to share between them. Perhaps they had already had some land or were otherwise established.

If Katherine was their eldest child, born a year or two before her grandfather's

death in 1557, John was about seventy when he died.

Margery left twelve pence to Katherine and each of her three sons, Roger, John and William making Richard her executor and main heir although Elizabeth was left a large number of household items.

Will of John Chowning of Tonbridge

written 22nd August 1599

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The two and twentieth day
2 of August in the one and fortieth year of the reign of
3 our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God
4 Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of
5 the faith, I, John Chownings, being sick of body but
6 perfect in remembrance, thanks be unto god therefore **First:**
7 I will and bequeath my soul to Almighty God and
8 my body to be buried in the churchyard of Tonbridge.
9 **Item:** I will and bequeath unto **Elizabeth, my youngest**
10 **daughter**, one cow and a twelve month old bullock
11 presently after my decease. All the rest of my moveable
12 goods unbequeathed, I give unto **Margery, my wife,**

13 whom I ordain and make my whole and sole executrix.
14 **Item:** I will and bequeath unto Margery, my wife, all my
15 tenement called **Barnefield** house and five acres of
16 upland and meadow thereto belonging, situated, lying and
17 being in the parish of Tonbridge aforesaid during the
18 term of her natural life and after the decease of
19 Margery, my wife, I will and bequeath the said messuage
20 and tenement unto **Richard Chowning, my youngest son,**
21 withall and singular th'appurtenances thereto belonging to him
22 and his heirs for ever. **Item:** I yield and bequeath unto my
23 **three eldest sons, Roger, John and William,** three
24 yards of meadow⁹⁰ lying in **Bridle meade** immediately
25 after my decease, to be equally divided to them amd their
26 heirs for ever. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto **Katherine,**
27 **my daughter, the wife of William Herman,** all my ??
28 ??, a tenement called **Wellhouse** which I ??
29 me by the death of my brother ? ? and
30 after the decease of Katherine, my daughter, her son and his heirs for
31 ever withall and singular th'appurtenances belonging,
32 lying and being in the parish of Tonbridge in the
33 county of Kent aforesaid. And I ordain **John**

90 yard was sometimes used as a measure of land area

34 **Quittenden** to be my overseer. In witness ??
35 **Miller** and **William Rolf**.

Will of Margery Chowning of Tonbridge

written 22nd June 1604

transcript from original

1 In the name of god Amen. the two and twentieth day of June in the
2 one thousand, six hundredth and four year of our lord God. And in the
3 Second year of the Reign of our
4 Sovereign lord James, by the grace of God, king of England, Scotland,
5 France and Ireland,
6 defender of the faith. I, Margery Chowning, of Tonbridge in the county of
7 Kent, **widow**, being sick and weak of body but yet of perfect mind and
8 remembrance,
9 thanks therefore be given to Almighty God, Do ordain and make this my
10 present
11 testament and last will in manner and form following: And **First** and
12 principally I
13 give, commend and bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God
14 who gave it,

9 trusting by an assured faith which I have in the merits of my only lord and
Saviour,
10 Jesus Christ, that the same shalbe presented without spot before the
throne of his
11 majesty. And my body to the earth to be buried in the Churchyard of
Tonbridge
12 aforesaid in sure and certain hope of a joyful resurrection. **Item:** I give and
bequeath
13 unto **my three sons, Roger, John and William Chowning**, to every of them
12d a piece.
14 And to **my daughter, Katherine, now wife of Walter Harman**, 12d to be paid
to them, and every of
15 them, within one month next after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath
unto **Elizabeth**
16 **Chowning, my daughter**, my cow and a barren sheep⁹¹, my Cupboard in the
hall,
17 one pewter platter, 2 Candlesticks, a linen cloth upon the Cupboard, my
Brass Cauldron my
18 brass pot, my settle in the kitchen, a bounded chest, a back chair, a joined
stool, my (bed on which I)
19 lie with the featherbed, bolster, testor over the bed of linen, two blankets, a

91 could be "barrow sheet" but barren sheep makes more sense

quilt⁹², four chests,
20 a box, my hat, all my woollen clothes and wearing linen, my linen wheel
and a woollen wheel,
21 a firkin and little vessel about a gallon, a spit, a Skymmer a pair of irons to
make cakes, a
22 trug, a keeler, three pairs of coarse sheets, one hook seamed sheet, one
tablecloth, the best . .
23 a dripping pan, a pair of Pillowcoat and a little table in the Inner chamber
and a little basket.
24 The residue of all my goods and Cattells, debts and chattels, whatsoever, I
wholly, fully and with good
25 effect, intent and purpose, give and bequeath to **Richard**⁹³ **Chowning, my**
son, which Richard, my
26 son, I make and ordain my whole and sole executor of this my will, to see
my debts and legacies paid
27 and my funeral discharged. And I ordain and make my loving neighbour,
Mathew Parker, to be
28 Supervisor overseer of this my will. To whom I give, as a Token of my

92 "whilted" - quilt?

93 or Robert but this is presumably the youngest son, "Richard" from John's will, "Robert" here but this may be an error made during the transcription

goodwill 20d over and
29 above his charges and expense any way about this my will to be laid out.
In witness whereof I, the
30 said, Margery Chowning, to this my last will have set my hand and Seal,
yeven⁹⁴, the day and year
31 first above written.

Read, Sealed and acknowledged in the presence of
Thomas Browne and me,
Nicolas Hooper and the abovesaid
Mathew Parker
sign.⁹⁷ **Thos. Browne**

Sign.⁹⁵ **Margery
Chowning**

96

94 given

95 mark, a vertical cross

96 signature of Mathew Parker

97 mark (*) of Thomas Browne

1 In the name of god Amen. The 16th
2 day of April in the year of our lord god, according to the computation
3 of the church of England, one thousand six hundred and nineteen ..
4 . . .
5 . . .
6 . . . I, Peter Chowning als Gregory of Tonbridge
7 in the county of Kent, **tanner**, being at this time (praised be God) in good
and perfect
8 health, mind and memory yet calling to mind and well remembering ? ?
9 mortality that all flesh and bones do die and yet that the how and time
10 when is altogether uncertain, I therefore make and declare this my present
11 testament containing herein my will in manner and form following: (that is
12 to say) **First** and principally, before all earthly things, I commit my soul
unto
13 Almighty god, my maker, and to Jesus Christ, his only son, my only saviour
14 and redeemer by whose precious death, painful passion and glorious
resurrection I
15 faithfully trust and steadfastly believe to be saved and to have everlasting
life and by

16 none other means. And my body to the earth to be buried in Christian
burial where it
17 shall please god to call me forth of the world.

poor people of Tonbridge 10s
to those which bear me to church 6d a piece

1½ pages

Sealed, delivered and published by the above named Peter Chowning als. Gregory
for and as his testament and last will in the presence of **John Stone** and **John
Hooper**, notary publique.

Probate: July 1622

Two Chowning Marriages in Shipbourne

Elizabeth Chowning (\$1257⁹⁸) married **Thomas Sutor** (\$1248) on 12th August 1618.

Mary Chowning (\$1767) married **Henry Luttenden** (\$1763) on 26th December 1639.

It has not been possible to identify either Elizabeth or Mary with any of the above Chownings. Nothing else is recorded, in Shipbourne, for either of their husbands.

Bridgett (\$537), daughter of **Chowning Peret** (\$535) was baptised on 20th November 1590. This naming of Bridgett's father implies a connection with the Chowning family but the name Peret does not occur in the Chowning records examined.

98 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

The Clerkes of Ightham & Kemsing

In Ightham:

- on 10th April 1592, **George Clerke** (i1608⁹⁹) married **Anne Chard** (i1609)
- on 4th September 1598 **Julian Clerke** (i1846) married **George Cooke** (i1845) and **Marie** “daughter of --- Cooke” was baptised 3 months later on 4th September 1598.
- Thomas, son of **Thomas Clarke** (i2447), was baptised on 14th October 1634.

John Clerke (\$946) married **Margaret Parker** (\$961) on 23rd December 1609 in **Shipbourne** “by a licence from Rochester”. Margaret’s husband could have been k273 whose family is shown on the next page.

In Kemsing:

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M | C | Died |
|--------|------------------------------|--|-------------|--------------------------|---|---|-------------|
| k273 | <u>CLERKE, John</u> ----- | | 23 Dec 1609 | Margaret Parker \$961 | 1 | 5 | |
| | | of Heverham when Dorothy was born; gent. when Tymothy was born | | | | | |
| • k275 | <u>CLERKE, Robert</u> | 03 Dec 1611 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • k276 | <u>Clerke, Elianora</u> | 20 Jul 1614 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • k277 | <u>Clerke, Winifred</u> | 20 Nov 1616 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • k278 | <u>Clerke, Dorothy</u> | 16 Oct 1618 | | | 0 | 0 | 20 Mar 1620 |
| • k279 | <u>Clerke, Tymothy</u> | 03 Feb 1622 | (daughter) | | 0 | 0 | |

The Cliffords of Ightham

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M | C | Died |
|----------------------|---|------|---------|--------------------------------------|---|---|-------------|
| i1157 ¹⁰⁰ | <u>CLIFFORD, Thomas</u> ----- | | | Alice Clifford(m) i1158 | 1 | 2 | 22 Feb 1566 |
| i1158 | <u>Clifford(m), Alice</u> ----- the Alice Clifford who was buried in July 1573 could have been Thomas's widow but only her name was recorded | | | | 1 | 2 | 8 Jul 1573 |
| • i1159 | <u>CLIFFORD, Thomas</u> | | | | 0 | 0 | 20 Dec 1564 |
| • i1160 | <u>Clifford, Elizabeth</u> | | | | 0 | 0 | 20 Feb 1565 |
| | | | | no baptism recorded for either child | | | |

Three Clifford women married between 1563 and 1576:

- **Margaret** (i472) who married **Richard Dennys** (i471)
- **Margerie** (i745) who married **John Huntick** (i744)
- **Alice** (i778) who married **John Willard** (i777)

They could have been Thomas's sisters.

See [Dennys, Huntick and Willard in More Families & Transcripts](#)

The Cliffords of Seal

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M | C | Died |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|---------|--------------------|---|---|-------------|
| #384 ¹⁰¹ | <u>CLIFFORD, John</u> ----- | | | Johane Clifford(m) | 1 | 5 | 21 Nov 1598 |
| #385 | <u>his wife, Johane</u> ----- | | | | 1 | 5 | 13 Apr 1592 |
| • #1941 | <u>CLIFFORD, John</u> | 14 Jan 1565(I) | | | 1 | 1 | |
| • #386 | <u>Clifford, Mabel</u> | 2 Mar 1567 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • #445 | <u>CLIFFORD, James</u> | 13 Mar 1569 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • #519 | <u>Clifford, Martha</u> | 30 Nov 1571 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • #768 | <u>Clifford, Margery</u> | 1 May 1574 | | | 0 | 0 | |

The John (#1943) "son of John Clifford" who was buried on 14th January 1591 could have been the son of #1941. #1941 also possibly had an illegitimate son, William, son of Jane Cobb - see page 2.c.178.

101 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

The Cobbs of Seal

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M C | Died |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|------------|--|-----|----------------------------|
| #40 ¹⁰² | <u>COBB, Valentine</u> ----- | | | | 1 6 | |
| • #42 | <u>Cobb, Clemence</u> | 24 Jun 1562 | | | 0 0 | |
| • #147 | <u>COBB, Richard</u> | 11 Sep 1564 | | | 0 0 | 10 Oct 1564 |
| • #211 | <u>Cobb, Margaret</u> | 4 Aug 1566 | | | 0 0 | 21 Aug 1566 |
| • #403 | <u>Cobb, Elizabeth</u> | 12 Oct 1567 | | | 0 0 | |
| • #465 | <u>Cobb, Jane</u> | 17 Sep 1569 | | | 1 9 | 30 Jan 1617 |
| • • #1620 | <u>COBB, William</u> | 9 May 1591 | | base son of Jane Cobb see also Clifford, page 2.c.177 | 0 0 | 30 Oct 1603 ¹⁰³ |
| | <i>Marriage</i> | | 7 Nov 1594 | John BARRET married at 25 #1677 | 1 8 | |
| • #754 | <u>COBB, John</u> | 2 Aug 1573 | | | 0 0 | 16 Aug 1573 |

102 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

103 William was fourteen when he died from the plague - "alias Clifford, incerti patris"; was he the son of **John Clifford** #1941? - see page 2.c.177

See [Barret in More Families & Transcripts](#) for the children of Jane Cobb and her husband, John Barret.

Elizabeth Cobb (#2419) married **Richard Tunstall** (#2420) On 8th September 1608. The baptism of one child was recorded: William Tunstall (#2421) baptised on 25th August 1611 and buried on 29th September 1611.

This will (CKS: Drb/Prs/w/207) was written by Thomas Leddall who wrote many wills in the Penshurst area.

1 In the name of god Amen. the tenth day of May An. dm. 1641. In the
seventeenth
2 year of the reign of our sovereign Lord King Charles, etc. I, Thomas Clubb
of
3 the parish of Chiddingstone in the county of Kent, **husbandman**, at this
present not
4 well in bodily health but of good and perfect memory (praised be¹⁰⁴ god) do
make and
5 declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following: **First**
6 yielding my soul to Almighty god and to Jesus Christ, my only saviour and
7 redeemer by whose death and passion I fully trust to have all my sins freely
forgiven
8 and to attain to the joyful resurrection of eternal life. committing my body
to the

104 "bee" throughout

9 earth from whence it was taken in decent sort to be buried at the discretion
10 of my executrix hereafter named. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Edward**
11 **Clubb, my brother**, twelve pence to be paid upon demand thereof. **Item:** I
give
12 and bequeath unto **Bridget, my sister, the now wife of William Reades**,
twelve
13 pence to be paid upon demand thereof. The residue of all my goods,
moveables,
14 cattell, chattells and household stuff whatsoever, my debts, legacies and
15 funeral discharged, I give and bequeath unto **Ann, my wife**, whom I do
16 make the full and sole executrix of this my last will and testament.
17 In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and
18 year above written.

Thomas Clubb

T

his mark

Sealed and declared
in the presence of
William Wickenden
his M¹⁰⁵ mark
Thomas Leddall

105 was this a "W" written upside down because the will was passed to him "upside down"?

Cocker, Gates & Mathew - Victims of Highway Robbery

On 8th April 1577, William Gates, yeoman, John Cocker (#4297¹⁰⁶), gent. of Seal, and Richard Mathew were assaulted in the highway at Bromley, Cocker and Mathew at Knowle Hill, Bromley.

At the **Canterbury Assizes**, 3rd July 1577, **Robert Welshe**, bitmaker, and **Edward Frylove** (arrowhead maker) and **Ralph Browneryghte**, weaver, were indicted, with others unknown, for highway robbery. The indictment describes three assaults:

- William Gates from whom they stole a black gelding (worth £7) and £36 in money belonging to John Marshall, merchant.
- John Cocker from whom they stole 16s 3d (£0.81) in money, a bay mare £5, a saddle (10s) and a bridle (4d)
- Richard Mathew from whom they stole 50s (£2.50) in money and a grey gelding (50s).

Edward Frylove was described as “of the Strand London” in the first case and “of St. Clement Danes, Middlesex” in the second, Ralph Brownerghite of Bromley and then “of St. Dunstan, London”. Frylove was found guilty and remanded whilst the, others were at large”¹⁰⁷.

The Cockerells of Ightham

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M | C | Died |
|----------------------|--|-------------|---------|--------|---|---|-------------|
| i1236 ¹⁰⁸ | <u>COCKERELL, William</u> ----- | | | | 1 | 3 | |
| • i1240 | <u>COCKERELL, Harry</u> | <1583 | | | 0 | 0 | 28 Jul 1584 |
| | Harry must have been born before Robert unless there was only 9½ months between baptism of Robert and birth/death of Harry; if he was older than Robert, he must have been at least 2 when he died | | | | | | |
| • i1238 | <u>COCKERELL, Robert</u> | 6 Oct 1583 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • i1239 | <u>COCKERELL, Thomas</u> | 19 Jun 1586 | | | 0 | 0 | |

A William Cockerell was tenant of the manor (of Ightham) from 1586 (or earlier) until 1609 (CRI 1937, p.194)

108 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

The Coggers of Seal, Ightham and Shipbourne

This name appears as both Cogger and Coggar; there were Cogger families in Seal, Ightham and Shipbourne but there are no clear connections between them. There are two early wills; the other information we have about this family (or a number of different families with the same name) is from the parish registers.

Two Early Wills

From the fifteenth century, there are two Seal will:

| | | | |
|----------------|------|--------------------|--------------|
| John Coggar | 1479 | CKS: Drb/Pwr 3.217 | page 2.c.186 |
| Johanna Coggar | 1497 | CKS: Drb/Pwr 5.292 | page 2.c.186 |

John's will is all in Latin but well written and clear on the microfilm. He had a son Martin and left money to the altar in the church of Saints Peter and Paul in Seal.

Johanna, a widow, mentioned the "capella" of Seal. She had a son **William Foster** so that, whilst a widow when she died, she must have been "widow Foster" when she married Cogger. But William had a brother, Thomas Lake; had Johanna been

married three times? Johanna had land in **Stone Street** which she left to William Foster.

It is feasible that Johanna was John's widow outliving him by eighteen years but there is no evidence for this. Perhaps if a full translation was made of John's will we could come to a definite conclusion.

The Wills of John & Johane Coggar of Seal.

extracts from probate copy

John Coggar

dated 1479?

. . . month January A^o dom. 1479?, I, John Coggar, of Seal in the county of Kent,
. . . . altar . . . **Peter and Paul of Seal** . . . **son Martin** . . .

Johanna Coggar

dated 1497

In dei nom. Amen . . . 1497, I, Johanna Coggar of Seal capella de Seal . . .

This is the last will of me, Johanna Coggar, widow, made the day of the month . . .
. . . that **William Foster, my son**, shall have my tenements and all the lands lying
in **Stone Street** to him, to his heirs and assigns for ever more paying unto **Thomas
Lake? his brother**, 40s in the space of 6 years next after my decease.

Thomas Coggar of Ightham

Thomas Coggar of Ightham, who was mentioned in the Court Records of Ightham 1553-74, could have had other children born before recording started in 1561.

| Num ¹⁰⁹ | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M C | Died |
|--------------------|--|-------------|-------------|---------------------|-----|---|
| i259 | <u>COGGAR, Thomas</u> ----- | <1541 | | | 1 6 | 24 Jan 1580 in his 40s/50s |
| • i261 | <u>Coggar, Anne</u> | 28 Jan 1562 | | | 0 0 | |
| • i262 | <u>Coggar, Joane</u> | 23 Apr 1564 | | | 0 0 | |
| • i263 | <u>COGGAR, Creature</u> ¹¹⁰ | 17 Nov 1566 | | | 0 0 | 17 Nov 1566 "baptised and buried" the same day |
| • i264 | <u>COGGAR, Nicholas</u> | 15 Feb 1568 | 21 Sep 1595 | Grace Hadlow | 1 3 | |
| • i265 | <u>Coggar, Margaret</u> | 6 Jan 1571 | 1 Feb 1591 | John Deane \$542 | 1 0 | |
| • i266 | <u>COGGAR, Thomas</u> | 30 Nov 1573 | | | 0 0 | |

109 i indicates a reference in the Ightham database, \$ in the Shipbourne database and # in the Seal database

110 it was important for a neonate which was not going to survive to be baptised immediately and this could be done by the midwife "Creature" quite often, in such circumstances, being given as the name.

It is likely that the two marriages of Coggars in Shipbourne in the 1590s were those of Thomas's son and daughter. Margaret married when she was twenty and nothing more is known about her. Nicholas was twenty-seven when he married Grace Hadlow and three children were recorded for him but, since the first was baptised ten years after the marriage, did Grace die and Nicholas marry again?

The Coggars of Shipbourne

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M | C | Died |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|--|-------------|--------------|---|---|------------------------|
| \$620 i264 | <u>COGGAR, Nicholas</u> ----- | 15 Feb 1568 | 21 Sep 1595 | Grace Hadlow | 1 | 3 | 17 Jan 1636 aged 67 |
| \$619 | <u>Hadlow, Grace</u> ----- | no name given for burial; just wife of Nicholas Coggar | | | 1 | 3 | 14 May 1627 |
| • \$825 | <u>Coggar, Joane</u> | 3 Mar 1605 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • \$978 | <u>Coggar, Hester</u> | 9 Apr 1610 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • \$1501 | <u>COGGAR, Susan</u> | buried two years after Nicholas's wife | | | 0 | 0 | 1 Nov 1629 |

The Seventeenth Century Coggars of Seal

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M | C | Died |
|---------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|----------------|---|---|-------------------------|
| #2431 | <u>COGGER, George</u> ----- | <1603 | 26 Apr 1627 | Susan Reynolds | 1 | 4 | 3 Apr 1653 early 50s |
| #2432 | <u>Reynolds, Susan</u> ----- | | | | 1 | 4 | 30 Oct 1652 |
| • #2433 | <u>COGGER, George</u> ¹¹¹ | 26 Aug 1627 | | | 0 | 0 | 10 Sep 1627 |
| • #2434 | <u>Cogger, Sarah</u> | 8 Feb 1629 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • #2435 | <u>Cogger, Anne</u> | 20 May 1636 ¹¹² | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • #2436 | <u>Cogger, Alice</u> | 11 Dec 1642 | | | 0 | 0 | |

Francis, son of William Coggar was baptised on 12th May 1611.

¹¹¹ George was buried two weeks after his baptism which was only four months after the marriage of his parents

¹¹² although there was seven years between the baptisms of Sarah and Anne, Anne was described as the daughter of "George and Susan"

There were four Coggar (or Cogger) marriages recorded in Seal:

William Cogger (#1662) married Johane Pierce (#1663) on 8th October 1593

William Cogger (#2439) married Margaret Conneway (#2442) on 16 Mar 1646

Margaret Cogger, widow, married John Hughes (#2443) in June 1649

Mary Cogger (#2400) married John Hawes (#2441) on 30 Nov 1649

Sir Raff Colcloff, priest, of Hadlow

In his will (CKS: Drb/Pwr: 7.30) written in 1514 and proved on 24th April 1515, Sir Raff Colcloff, priest, asked to be buried within the church of Hadlow. He willed “to the high altar of Hadlow my best coverlet to be laid before the high altar when need is”.¹¹⁴

114 Testamenta Cantiana, London 1906, A Series of Extracts from 15th and 16th Century Wills, p. 43

Richard Coldgate of Speldhurst

Richard Coldgate had a large family: three sons, two married daughters and two unmarried daughters both under twenty-one. In his will (CKS: Drb/Pw 32; Drb/Pwr 23.43) he is described as a “couper”, possibly a cooper but, whatever his trade he owned his own house which he left to his wife for the rest of her life and was wealthy enough to leave his two unmarried daughters £8 each. He does not, however, make any bequest to the poor or for “good works”.

When his wife died the house was to go to his youngest son who was to pay each of his elder brothers £3. His two married daughters had probably been given money on their marriage since they were both left only a shilling as a token of his love towards them.

The will was possibly written by George Children, the only witness to have signed his name. This George could have been the son of the George Children of Tonbridge who died in 1632. It is unusual for a number of reasons:

- the layout on the page is unusual in that each item is set out as a new subsection as shown in the transcript below
- the date of writing is not given at the beginning of the will but in the last

paragraph

- whilst the sentiment expressed regarding his soul and unexceptional, the actual expression used is: “I bequeath my soul unto Almighty god that gave it, not doubting but that for his dear son Christ’s sake, my only saviour, he will accept it”
- If the youngest son did not pay the £3 legacy to either or both of his brothers, then “it shalbe lawful for those, my said two sons, or any one of them, to distress. strain or sell such goods and commodities as shalbe in or upon the said land and tenement and to pay themselves thereof the said legacies”. This is the only mention found giving the legatees the right to actually sell the goods distrained and use the proceeds to pay their legacies, the usual phrase giving them the authority “to enter and distrain and the distresses to hold, impound and keep until payment thereof”

The Will of Richard Coldgate of Speldhurst

written 18th April 1646

transcript from original

- 1 In the name of god Amen. I, Richard Coldgate of Speldhurst in the county of Kent,
- 2 couper, infirm and weak in body but, thanks be to god, sound in

mind, do ordain

3 and make this my last will and testament in form and manner
following, viz.

4 **First** of all I bequeath my soul unto Almighty god that gave it, not
doubting but that for his
5 dear son Christ's sake, my only saviour, he will accept it. **Next** I
bequeath my

6 body to the earth from whence it was taken. And to be buried in the
churchyard of Speldhurst aforesaid.

7 **Item:** My will and mind is that **Lettice Coldgate, my dear and wellbeloved**
wife, shalbe my full and

8 sole executrix. And that she shall have to her proper use and
maintenance that tenement

9 or house wherein I now live, situated and being in Speldurst withall
the land and buildings

10 thereunto belonging during all the term of her natural life.

11 **Item:** my will and mind is that after the decease of my said wife and
executrix, **Robert Coldgate**,

12 **my youngest son**, shall have unto himself, and to his heirs forever
lawfully of his

13 body begotten, all the said tenement or house wherein I now live,

situated and being in Speldhurst
14 aforesaid with all the lands and buildings thereunto belonging.
Paying to **Richard**
15 **Coldgate, my oldest son, his brother**, the sum of three pounds of
lawful money
16 within one year next after the decease of my said wife, his mother.
And paying to **Henry**
17 **Coldgate, my second son, his brother**, the like sum of three pounds
within two
18 years next after the decease of my said wife. And if he fail in the
payment of both or any
19 of these sums according to my will and mind herein specified, that
then it shalbe lawful
20 for those, my said two sons, or any one of them, to distress. strain or
sell such goods
21 and commodities as shalbe in or upon the said land and tenement
and to pay themselves thereof
22 the said legacies.

23 **Item:** my will is that if my son Robert Coldgate die without heirs or an heir
of his body lawfully
24 begotten, that then Richard Coldgate, my eldest son, shall have for
himself, and his heirs

25 forever, all the aforesaid Tenement, lands and buildings thereunto
26 belonging after the
27 decease of my said executrix. Paying to Henry Coldgate, my second
28 sum, the sum
29 of six pounds of lawful money within one year next after he is
30 possessed of the premises.
31 And if he, or any of his, shall fail in the payment hereof, then it
32 shalbe lawful for the said
33 Henry to distress, strain and sell such goods and commodities as
34 shalbe in or upon the said
35 lands and tenements and to pay himself the said legacy.

31 **Item:** I give to my **daughter Elizabeth, the wife of Henry Smith in Surrey,**
32 for a token of my love towards
33 her, one shilling to be paid by my executrix. **Item:** I give to **my**
34 **daughter Martha, the wife**
35 **of John Humphrey of Greensted,** her sister, one shilling to be paid
36 by my said executrix. **Item:**
37 my will is that my executrix shall pay unto **Mary Colgate, my third**
38 **daughter,** the sum
39 of eight pounds at her age of one and twenty years. Also I give unto
40 her, the said Mary,
41 one flockbed, one flock bolster, two blankets, one coverlet thereto

37 belonging and a joined bed
stead standing in the outer chamber of the house wherein I now
live. Also I give unto her the
38 table and cupboard standing in the hall of the said house after the
decease of my said executrix.

39 **Item:** I give to **Joane Coldgate, my youngest daughter**, the sum of eight
pounds of lawful money
40 to be paid by my executrix unto her at the age of one and twenty
years . Also I give unto
41 her one featherbed, one bolster, one pair of blankets, one coverlet
and a joined bedstead,
42 one joined table standing in the ?? chamber of my said house.
Also I give unto her one brass
43 bottle, all which she shall have after the decease of my said
executrix.

44 This is the last will and testament of me the said Richard Colgate in
witness whereof I have
45 hereunto set my hand and seal, the eighteenth day of April in the
year of our
46 Lord Christ one thousand six hundred forty and six in the presence
of my loving friends
47 and neighbours.

The mark of **Giles Waghorn**

The mark of Robert Coldgate

R¹¹⁵

George Children

The mark of Richard
Coldgate, the testator

115 with a "C" on its side above it; the testators mark was a "C" on its side (both with the open side at the bottom

Johane Colgate, widow of Leigh

Johane's will (Drb/Pw 15; Drb/Pwr 18.52) was written by Nicholas Hooper who wrote a large number of will between 1574 and 1618. She may only have been able to make her mark but she seems to have been well organised concerning her financial position :

“And as concerning all that annuity of twelve shillings which I have of **John Walter of Tonbridge, cutler**, I give and bequeath the same, with the sum of six pence to come of the said annuity if it be not forfeited, together with all the evidence of the same . .

This, together with all her goods except those given to her son William, was to go to her brother Richard Carrier because he had “**taken great pains and trouble with me during my life**”.

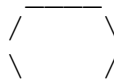
The will of a Richard Carrier of Penshurst written in 1604 has survived and one of its witnesses was Michael Colgate.

1 In the name of god Amen. The nineteenth day of November
2 in the year of our lord god one thousand five hundreth and
3 four score and ten and the three and thirtieth year
4 of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the
5 grace of god Queen of England, France and Ireland,
6 defender of the faith, I, Johane Colgate of
7 Leigh next Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **widow**,
8 being¹¹⁶ sick and weak in body but yet of perfect
9 mind and remembrance, thanks be given
10 to god, do make and ordain my last will and testament
11 in manner and form following: That is to say, **First** and
12 principally I give, commit and bequeath my soul
13 into the hands of Almighty god, my maker and to Jesus
14 Christ, his dear son, my only saviour and redeemer,
15 by whose merit and precious death I assure my
16 self to be saved and my body to the earth to be
17 buried where it please god.

116 "beeing", "bee" throughout

18 **Item:** I give and bequeath to my son William my bed
19 in the hands of **Reginald Carrier**, a little bolster, a
20 coverlet and a blanket, also in the hands of the said Reginald.
21 And as concerning all that annuity of twelve shillings
22 which I have of **John Walter of Tonbridge, cutler**,
23 I give and bequeath the same, with the sum of six pence
24 to come of the said annuity if it be not forfeited, together
25 with all the evidence of the same and all other my goods
26 whatsoever unto **Richard Carrier, my brother**, in confidence
27 that he hath taken great pains and trouble with me during my
28 life, to have and to hold the same ?? of the same unto
29 the said Richard, his heirs and assigns, forever, which
30 Richard I make my whole and sole executor. In witness
31 whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal yeven the
32 day and year first above written in the presence of
33 **Nicholas Hooper, ??**

signed



Johane
Colgate

The Collyers of Shipbourne & Ightham

In Shipbourne: **Francis Collyer** (\$735¹¹⁷) married **Joan Alcock** (\$736) on 31 October 1602. Three and a half months later, on 13th February 1603, their daughter, **Francis** (\$737), was baptised.

On 13th November 1623, **George Collyer** (\$1360) married **Katherine Farmer** (\$1361); Katherine was buried on 1st April 1626 and George on 24th August 1637.

In Ightham:

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M | C | Died |
|-------|---|------|------------|---------------------------|---|---|-------------|
| i2668 | <u>COLLYER, William</u> | | | | 1 | 1 | 28 Aug 1638 |
| | ----- a "householder" when he was buried; he could have been the father of #2514 | | | | | | |
| • | i2514 <u>COLLYER, William</u> | | | Joyce Collyer(m) i2515 | 1 | 1 | |
| • | • i2516 <u>COLLYER, Henry</u> | | 6 Sep 1640 | | | | 0 0 |

117 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

The Collyns of Seal

There were a number of Collyns in Shipbourne and the Tonbridge area but their only known connection with Seal is the **Thomas Collyns of Shipbourne (#1022)** who married **Dorothy Teboldof Seal** in 1580 - see the **Collyns of Shipbourne**, below. It is possible, however, that some of the other Collyns who appeared in the Seal parish register came from Shipbourne.

For example: Edward Collyns (#2444) had a son, Edward (#2446), baptised in Seal on 22nd October 1620. He might have been the Edward, son of Richard Collyns, who was baptised in Shipbourne in May 1589; his wife could have come from Seal and returned there for the birth of her first child.

The Nicholas Collyns below who married into the Porters, a large wealthy Seal family, could have been the Nicholas, son of John Collyn, who was baptised in Shipbourne on 20th April 1612 and would thus have been twenty-four when he married.

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M | C | Died |
|---------|--|-------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|-------------|
| #2447 | <u>COLLYNS, Nicholas</u> ----- | | 18 Oct 1636 | Thamar Porter | 1 | 9 | |
| | | | listed in Knole MS 1649 - Godden and Fawke | | | | |
| #2451 | <u>Porter, Thamer</u> ----- | 23 Dec 1610 | | married at 25 | 1 | 9 | |
| • #2452 | <u>Collyns, Mary</u> | | | died only 4 months after the marriage | 0 | 0 | 27 Feb 1637 |
| • #2453 | <u>COLLYNS, Richard</u> | 14 Jan 1638 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • #2454 | <u>COLLYNS, John</u> | 1 Mar 1640 | | died at 19 months | 0 | 0 | 31 Oct 1641 |
| • #2455 | <u>Collyns, Mary</u> | 30 Jan 1642 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • #2456 | <u>Collyns, Helen</u> | 27 Mar 1644 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • #2457 | <u>COLLYNS, Nicholas</u> | 10 Mar 1647 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • #2458 | <u>Collyns, Elizabeth</u> | 11 Jun 1648 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • #2459 | <u>COLLYNS, William</u> | 14 Apr 1650 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • #2460 | <u>COLLYNS, John</u> | 19 Apr 1652 | | | 0 | 0 | |

Jane Collyns (#2248) married James Gates (#2450) on 21st October 1639; nothing more is known about either Jane or James

The Collyns of Shipbourne and Wrotham

This name can be spelt in a number of ways: Collyns (on which this document has standardised), Collin, Collyn, Collins, Collens, etc. With Collyns a common name a large number of wills have survived from the Tonbridge area only some of which have been transcribed. Here the wills of a large Shipbourne family are given including that of Henry Collins, weaver of Wrotham who could have been the weaver who witnessed Richard's will in 1596.

| | | will | buried | ¹¹⁸ | |
|------------------|------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Richard Collyns | Shipbourne | 4 Feb 1550/1 | | CKS: 11.162; 4 | page 2.c.215 |
| Thomas Collyns | Shipbourne | 29 Jun 1587 | 30 Jun 1587 | CKS: 17.205; 14 | page 2.c.226 |
| Henry Collyns | Shipbourne | 27 Dec 1588 | 16 Jan 1588/9 | CKS: 17.338; 15 | page 2.c.234 |
| Susan Collyns | Shipbourne | 23 Feb 1588/9 | 24 Oct 1589 | CKS: 17.371; 15 | page 2.c.259 |
| Richard Collyns | Shipbourne | 20 Dec 1596 | 31 Dec 1600 | PCC: Woodhall 37 | page 2.c.276 |
| Frauncis Collyns | London | 13 Feb 1600 | 1602 | PCC: Montague 14 | page 2.c.299 |
| Henry Collyns | Wrotham | 8 May 1614 | 19 Apr 1625 | PCC: Clarke 68 Prob 10/423 | page 2.c.322 |

118 CKS: Drb/Pwr reference followed by Drb/Pw

Over fifty years before the first of these wills, John Colyn of Shipbourne wrote his will in 1495 (CKS: Drb/Pwr 5.268, proved 1496). In it he left some money for the window between the south door and the steeple of the church.¹¹⁹

There were, however, a large number of Collyns in Shipbourne who do not appear in the wills which have survived.

Henry who died at the beginning of 1589 was the son of Richard whose will was written in 1551 and the husband of Susan who died less than a year after him. Richard and Francis were two of the sons of Henry and Susan and Francis wrote the wills of his mother and father and was also their executor.

Henry's House Broken Into

It could be this Henry whose house was broken into in 1560. At the July 1562 Assizes, **Lawrence Pemberton** of St. Clement Danes, Middlesex, clothworker, was indicted for grand larceny. On 20th April 1560 he broke into the house of Henry Collens at Shipbourne and stole a purse containing 40s in money from a chest and

119 Testamenta Cantiana, London 1906, A Series of Extracts from 15th and 16th Century Wills, p. 67

another purse containing 3 gold pistolets (17s 6d) and a gold sovereign (10s)¹²⁰. Pemberton was found guilty and sentenced to hang.¹²¹

The Land of the Shipbourne Collyns

The Richard Collyns who died in 1551 owned land in Hadlow and Meopham as well as in Shipbourne and also two houses with gardens in the town of Sevenoaks and two shops in the market place there. The Sevenoaks houses and shops were left to his son James but nothing more is known of them and Sevenoaks is not mentioned again by any of the Collyns.

Richard left his land in Shipbourne to his son Henry, that in Hadlow to his son Francis and that in Meopham to his son Giles.

The Francis who wrote his will in 1600 (son of Richard's son Henry) owned land in Hadlow but in 1551 Richard left his Hadlow land to his son Francis.

120 a pistolet was a gold coin worth about 30p; from the time of Henry VII to Charles I a sovereign was a gold coin worth from 10s to 22s 6d (£0.5 to £1.125)

121 Cockburn (Eliz.); 161

Richard's son Henry 1588

Richard's son Henry also owned land in Hadlow which he had arranged for his son Thomas to inherit by a deed written some time before his death. Thomas died eighteen months for his father and this land was to go to Thomas's son, Stephen.

Henry mentioned a large number of pieces of land in Wrotham, Plaxtol, Meopham and Shipbourne and it is interesting to compare their description in his will and twenty-two years later in Francis's will - see the table below.:

Richard, will 1596

The Richard who died in 1600 was a gentleman when he married his second wife and when he was buried. He described his property in great detail. That in Shipbourne which he left to Henry consisted of “[houses, edifices and buildings, lands, tenements, closes, meadows, pastures, woods, waters and ways and all other my rents, reversions and hereditaments whatsoever, with their appurtenances](#)”. He also left to Henry his “[Manor or Lordship of Dodmer . . . in Meopham . . . withall and singular the houses, edifices and buildings, lands,](#)

tenements, meadows, leasures¹²², pastures, commons, waste grounds, woods, water ways, rents, reversions, service, courts, profits of courts, fees, wards, marriages of these, reliefs, heriot, fines, ameracements¹²³, liberties, privileges and all other profits, commodities, emoluments and hereditaments whatsoever”.

His second son Edward was to receive his house in Wrotham which was called Workehouse. Richard had bought this from his brother Edward Collyns, who was a citizen and grocer of London and it was described in similar detail to his property in Shipbourne. .

Francis, will 1600

Francis Collyns was a wealthy citizen and grocer of London who owned land in a number of different parishes with Shipbourne being the parish from which he came having inherited from his father, Henry Collyns, the tenement and lands called Willcocke with a large number of other parcels of land all in Shipbourne.

In addition he owned land in Gillinham and Howe (Hoo?) in Kent, a tenement, etc.

122 leases?

123 Similar to fines

in Hadlow and mansion house or inn called The Bull in the city of Rochester.

| 1588 in Henry's will | 1600 in Francis's will |
|---|--|
| <p>Buckes Land (3½ acres); one cottage and 3 acres of meadow called the Stracke and the Little Meadow and 12 acres of sandland and meadow called Cragthangle ?? meadow and Renfield;</p> | <p>one parcel of land called or known by the name of Buxleaze 6 parcels of land, two called Renfields, the others Spayge Haugh, Spage Mead, The Strack and little meade</p> |
| <p>tenement and lands called Willockes withall the edifices, houses and buildings, one garden, two orchards; two parcels of land adjoining, called Barnefield and Willockes; three parcels of land called Meadfield, Lialloways Hange and The Pighwell; three parcels of land and meadow called Rolystland; lands lately purchased of Wyatt Plane (60 acres) called Lytelens, Matteres, Brodfield and Styles.</p> | <p>Willocke and two parcels of land adjoining called Barne Field and Willox, 3 parcels of land called Meatfield, Hollowas Haugh and the Pightell, 3 parcels of land and meadow called Roweland; all the lands known by the names of Houldenes, Matters Broadfield and Kniles, (46 acres)</p> |

Richard Collyns of Shipbourne

Richard's land in Hadlow, Meopham and Shipbourne were left to his wife Isabel until the feast of Saint Michael the Archangel next after his decease. Isabel was to be Richard's executrix and was presumably left this property for this time so that she could use the income from the land to pay the expenses of Richard's burial, etc.

Richard's will is very long because three of his four sons each inherited some land with the proviso that they paid an annuity to Isabel and money, over a number of years, to Richard's grandchildren. Each bequest was then followed with details of the distraint which could be put on the land in the case of non-payment.

After the feast of Saint Michael the lands in Shipbourne were to go to his son Henry on condition that he paid Isabel 13s 4d as her jointure, an annuity of 20s and allowed her the use of three pieces of land which included half of his dwelling house. At the second and third feasts "of the nativity of our Lord next after the decease or marriage of Isabell", Henry was to pay 33s 4d (20 marks) to be equally divided between the daughters of Richard's daughter, Johane Towne. For eight years, starting from the following feast of the nativity, Henry was to pay 33s 4d to be divided between all the children of Richard's son James.

Richard's lands and tenements in Hadlow were to go to his son Francis paying Isabel an annuity of 13s 4d. Francis was also to pay 13s 4d to be divided between the daughters of Richard's daughter Margaret Hartridge at the second and third feast after the death or marriage of Isabel. Francis was also to pay 5 marks to Henry's son Richard when he reached the age of twenty. From this part of the will we know that Henry five other children who were, in turn, to be paid these 5 marks if the elder children died before receiving it.

Richard's son Giles was to receive all his father's lands in Meopham with Giles paying his mother an annuity of 20s. Giles was also to pay Margaret Hartridge's daughters 20s at the second and third feast after Isabel's death or marriage

Richard also owned two houses with the gardens in the town of Sevenoaks and two shops in the market place there. These were to go to his son James immediately on his death.

There were a large number of witnesses to this will including four of Richard's sons but it is not possible to decide who wrote the will.

Richard's Family

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|----------------------|--------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|----------|--|---------|---|-------------------------|--|------------------------|--|--------------|--|--------|---|-------------|--|---------|--|------------------------|------|
| | | \$2233 | Richard - Isabella | \$2234 ¹²⁴ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>will:</i> | | | 4 Feb 1551 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | \$2235 | | \$2241 | | \$2236 | | \$2238 | | \$2239 | | \$2240 | | \$2237 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Henry | - | Susan | | Johane ¹²⁵ | - | ?? Towne | | Francis | | Margaret - ?? Hartridge | | Giles | | James | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>will:</i> | 27 Dec 1588 | | 23 Feb 1589 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>bur:</i> | 16 Jan 1589 | | 24 Oct 1589 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | \$67 | | \$2243 | | \$2244 | | \$2254 | | \$45 | | \$44 | | \$66 | | \$2261 | | \$2249 | | #1022 | | #308 | | \$2250 | |
| | Richard | - | William | | Elizabeth | - | John | | Alice | - | William | | Dorothy ¹²⁶ | | Myldred - ?? | | Edward | - | Thomas | | Dorothy | | Francis ¹²⁷ | |
| | | | | | | | Waghorne | | | | Porter | | | | | | Saxby | | | | | | Tebold | |
| <i>born:</i> | <1545 | | <1547 | | <1548 | | | | <1550 | | | | <1551 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>will:</i> | 20 Dec 1596 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 13 Feb 1600 | | | | | |
| <i>died:</i> | 31 Dec 1600 | | <1588 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1602 |
| | | | \$2245 | | \$2255 | | \$2256 | | \$2257 | | | | \$2263 | | \$2264 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Susan - ?? | | Jane | | Dorothy | | Thamar | | | | John | | Susan | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | Royse | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | see page 2.c. 274 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | for Richard's family | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | \$2258 | | \$2259 | | \$2260 | | | | \$2266 | | \$2267 | | \$2252 | | \$2253 | | | |
| | | | | | | | Dorothy | | Alice | | Susan | | | | Edward | | Susan | | Stephen | | Susan | | | |

- 124 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database; # in that for Seal
- 125 both Joane and Margaret had some daughters and James either had, or was expected to have, children
- 126 see page 2.c.257 for Dorothy's two marriages and children; the five children, Richard, William, Elizabeth, Alice and Dorothy were mentioned by their grandfather in 1551; William was not mentioned by his father
- 127 Susan, daughter of Henry was buried on 7 Nov 1560, Francis, son of Henry, baptised on 21 Sep 1561 and buried on 28 Feb 1562 and another Francis baptised on 22 Sep 1563. Henry mentions his youngest son Francis in his will.

1 In the name of god Amen. The fourth day of the month
2 of February in the year of our Lord god 1550. And in the 5th year
3 of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord Edward the sixth, I,
4 Richard Collyns of the parish of Shipbourne in the county of Kent,
5 being sound? of mind and of good remembrance, thanked be god, make,
6 ordain and declare this my testament and last will in manner and
7 form following: **First:** I bequeath my soul to god Almighty and
8 my body to the earth. **Item:** I will that there be bestowed in
9 alms to poor people at my burial, month's mind and
10 mind, by the discretion of mine executors and overseers of this
11 my testament and last will¹²⁸
12 and 4d. The residue of my goods and chattals, my debts paid
13 and my funeral performed, I give and bequeath to **Isabell, my**
14 **wife**, whom I make my sole executrix of this my present testament
15 and last will. Also I will that after the decease
16 of Isabell, my wife, to **Henry Collyn, my son**, my ??

17 quern, my ?? quern¹²⁹, my great chest, the cupboard in the hall,
18 my great cauldron, my great branding iron, my table in
19 the hall.

page 2:

20 This is the last will of the foresaid Richard Collyns as
21 concerning the disposition of all my lands and tenements, made
22 the day and year above written. **First:** I bequeath to Isabell, my wife,
23 all the profits of my whole¹³⁰ Land in the parishes of Shipbourne,
24 Hadlow and Meopham till the feast of Saint Michael the
25 Archangel next and immediately after my decease. **Item:** I
26 will and bequeath to Henry Collyn, my son, all my lands and
27 tenements, with their appurtenances, in the parish of Shipbourne, to
28 him and to his heirs and to the only use and behoof of the said
29 Henry, his heirs and assigns, forever under this ??
30 and condition as hereafter followeth: first that the same
31 Henry, his heirs, executors and assigns shall pay to Isabel,
32 my wife, his said mother, her jointure, the which is 13s 4d,
33 so it do appear in a deed thereof to her made, during her

129 were these the malt and mustard querns which Henry left to his son in 1588?

130 "?holl"

34 natural life. And shall suffer Isabell, my said wife, his
35 mother to have and occupy to her use as long as she liveth
36 as a self sole widow three pieces of land, the one is called
37 **Windersland**, the second **Parkfield**, the third **Treffetrid**
38 the one half of my dwelling house gardens and meadow¹³¹
39 next lyeth under one closyar? for so long as she keepeth her
40 self sole widow. And that she shall have sufficient fire and
41 flett at the cost and charge of the said Henry, his heirs, executors
42 or assigns. Also the same Henry, his heirs, executors or
43 assigns shall pay to Isabell, my wife, his said mother, every year
44 during as long as she keepeth herself sole widow, 20s of good
45 lawful money of England, by even portions half yearly, to
46 be paid. And for lack of payment at the time appointed
47 as shall be lawful to the said Isabell and her assigns at every
48 time, in any part or parcel of the said lands and tenements in the
49 said parish of Shipbourne to distrain. Also Henry Collyn,
50 his heirs, executors or assigns, shall pay at the
51 second feast of the nativity of our Lord next after the
52 decease or marriage of Isabell, my wife, to the **daughters of**

131 no comma between house and gardens but commas are often not included (none appear in this will) so that this probably means one half of Richard's dwelling house, gardens and meadow rather than one half of the gardens belonging to the house and the meadow

53 **Johane Towne, my daughter**, a 33s 4d equally to be divided.
54 And at the third feast of the nativity of our Lord next after
55 the decease or marriage of Isabell, my wife, to the daughters
56 of Johane Towne, my daughter, a 33s 4d equally to

page 3:

57 be divided. And for lack of payment at any of the feasts
58 before rehearsed, it shalbe lawful for the daughters of Johane
59 Towne¹³², my daughter, or their assigns, in any of my lands
60 and tenements in the parish of Shipbourne, to distrain.
61 And the distresses there so found lawfully to lead, drive
62 and carry away and them withhold until the said £3
63 6s 8d¹³³, or any part thereof so being behind, unto the
64 daughters of the said Johane Towne or their assigns
65 be fully contented and paid. Also I will that Henry Collyn,
66 my son, his heirs, executors or assigns, shall pay to the
67 **children of my son James's body** lawfully begotten, as well
68 to the daughters as to the sons, twenty marks of lawful

132 "Tonwyne" here

133 £3 6s 8d = twice 33s 4d; although these amounts are given in shillings and pence, there are based on marks with £3 6s 8d being 5 marks (1 mark = £0.67)

69 money of England equally to be divided for to be paid
70 in 8 years by every portion, that is 33s 4d at each
71 payment, the first payment to be paid the fourth feast of
72 the nativity of our Lord next after the decease or marr-
73 iage of Isabell, my wife. And so every year a 33s 4d at
74 the same feast till the sum of twenty marks be fully ??
75 and paid¹³⁴. And if all the children of my son James die
76 before the 20 marks be paid in part or in whole, then I will
77 that my son James be their heir. And if my son James die
78 and all his children before the 20 marks be paid in part or in all,
79 then I will that the payment shall cease and remain to Henry
80 Collyns, my son, and his heirs forever. And for lack of
81 payment ?? it be lawful after the end of the feast
82 before rehearsed in which it ought to be paid, it shalbe lawful
83 for my son James or his children into my lands and tenements
84 within the parish of Shipbourne and distrain. And the dis-
85 tresses there so found lawfully to lead, drive and carry
86 away and them to withhold until the said 20 marks or any
87 or every part thereof so being behind unto the children of my said son
88 James, or if they all depart, unto my said son James

134 20 marks = £13.33; 33s 4d = £1.67; thus it would have taken eight years to pay the total amount as stated in the will

89 as aforesaid be fully contented and paid. Also I will
90 and bequeath to **Francis Collyns, my son**, at the feast of Saint

page 4:

91 Michael th'archangel next after my decease, all my lands and
92 tenements in the parish of Hadlow, to him and his heirs
93 and to the only use and behoof of the said Francis, his heirs
94 and assigns for ever under these forms and conditions as
95 hereafter followeth: first that the same Francis, his heirs,
96 executors or assigns, shall pay to Isabell. my wife, his said
97 mother, every year as long as she keepeth her self sole widow
98 13s 4d of good and lawful money of England by even
99 portions half yearly to be paid. And for lack of payment
100 at the end of the time appointed, it shalbe lawful to the said
101 Isabell or her assigns at end time in any part or parcel
102 of the said lands and tenements in the parish of Hadlow to
103 distrain. And the distresses there so found lawfully to
104 lead, drive and carry away and them to withhold until the
105 said 13s 4d unto the said Isabell, his mother, be fully
106 contented and paid. Also the said Francis Collyns, my son,
107 his heirs, executors or assigns, shall pay at the second
108 feast of the nativity of our Lord god next after the dec-
109 ease or marriage of Isabell, my wife, to **the daughters**

110 **of Margaret Hartridge, my daughter**, 13s 4d equally
111 to be divided. And at the third feast of the nativity of
112 our Lord next after the decease or marriage of Isabell,
113 my wife, to the forsaid daughters of Margaret Hartridge,
114 my daughter, 13s 4d equally to be divided. And for
115 lack of payment at any of the feasts afore rehearsed it
116 shalbe lawful for the lawful daughters of Margaret
117 Hartridge, my daughter, and their assigns, into any of my lands
118 and tenements in the parish of Hadlow to distrain and the
119 distresses so found lawfully to lead, drive and carry away
120 and them to withhold until the said 26s 8d unto the said
121 daughters of Margaret Hartridge, my daughter, be fully
122 contented and paid. Also I will that Francis Collyns, my son,
123 his heirs, executors or assigns, shall pay to **Richard Collyns, my**
124 **godson, son of Henry Collyns**, my son, five marks of lawful
125 money of England at the age of 20 years if that Richard Collyns

page 5:

126 my godson, die before the age of 20 years, then I will **William Collyns, his**
127 **brother**, shalbe his heir and he to be paid at the age of 20 years.
128 If they die both before the age of 20 years and unpaid, then I
129 will the aforesaid five marks to **Elizabeth Collyns, Alice Collyns**
130 and **Dorothy Collyns**, the daughters of Henry Collyns, my son,

131 equally among them to be divided and to be paid at their age of 20
132 years. If any of them die before they be paid then each of them
133 to be others heirs. And for lack of payment at the time before rehearsed,
134 it shalbe lawful for the forsaid Richard Collyns, my godson, and
135 William Collyns, his brother, or Elizabeth, Alice and Dorothy Collyns
136 or any of them or their assigns into any of my said lands and
137 tenements in the parish of Hadlow to distrain and the
138 distresses there so found to lead, drive and carry away and
139 that withhold til they be fully paid. Also I will and bequeath
140 to **Giles Collyns, my son**, at the feast of Saint Michael Th'arch-
141 angel next after my decease, all my lands and tenements in the parish
142 of Meopham to him and to his heirs and to the only use and behoof
143 of the said Giles, his heirs and assigns, in fee simple forever
144 under form and conditions as hereafter followeth. First that the
145 said Giles Collyns, my son, his heirs, executors or assigns,
146 shall pay to Isabell, my wife, his said mother, every year during
147 year as long as she keepeth her self sole widow 20s of good
148 and lawful money of England by equal portions half yearly
149 to be paid. And for lack of payment it shalbe lawful for the
150 said Isabell or her assigns at end time in any part or
151 parcel of the said lands and tenements in the parish of
152 Meopham to distrain. And the distresses there so found
153 lawfully to lead, drive and carry away and them to withhold

154 until the said 20s, and every part thereof, unto the said
155 Isabell, my wife, be fully contented and paid. Also Giles
156 Collyns, my son, his heirs, executors or assigns, shall
157 pay at the second feast of the nativity of our Lord
158 next after the decease or marriage of Isabell,

page 6:

159 my wife, to the daughters of Margaret Hartridge, my daughter,
160 20s to be equally divided. And at the third feast of the nativity
161 of our Lord next after the decease or marriage of Isabell, my
162 wife, to the foresaid daughters of Margaret Hartridge, my
163 daughter, 20s to be equally divided. And for lack of payment
164 at any of the feast afore rehearsed, it shalbe lawful for the
165 for the lawful daughters of Margaret Hartride, my daughter,
166 or their assigns in any of my lands and tenements within the parish
167 of Meopham to distrain. And the distresses there so found
168 lawfully to lead, drive and carry away and them to withhold
169 until the said 40s unto the said daughters of Margaret
170 Hartride, my daughter, be fully contented and paid. Also
171 I will and bequeath to James Collyns, my son, immediately
172 after my decease, my two houses with the gardens called
173 Keporch? in the town of Sevenoaks and two shops in the
174 market place, to him and to his heirs and to the only use

175 and behoof of the said James, his heirs and assigns, in
176 fee simple forever. These being witnesses **William**
177 **Collyns, my brother, John Godwyn, th'elder, George Cardmall**
178 **Henry Collyns, my son, John Stapbold, William Tugney,**
179 **?? William Blatcher, John Goodhews, Thomas Pelset,**
180 **Richard Goodhews, George Goodhews,** Giles Collyns, Francis
181 Collyns and James Collyns.

Thomas Collyns of Shipbourne

Thomas was buried on 30th June 1597, the day after the date on his will and the short interval of time is indicated by the memorandum at the end of the will. Thomas's father and mother were still alive so that he had not come into father's land in Penshurst. Eventually this land was to go to his son, Stephen, for whom a baptism has not been found in either Seal or Shipbourne.

His wife, Dorothy, whom he married in Seal on 4th July 1580, was Dorothy Tebold, daughter of John(3) Tebold (#1). In addition to Stephen, they had a daughter, Susan, baptised in Shipbourne on 5th April 1582.

Dorothy's brother, John(4) (#1750), who was one of the witnesses of the will, was born in November 1561. See [Tebold in Families & Transcripts](#) for more information on Dorothy.

Although Thomas was Henry's son since he was associated with the Tebolds of Seal before the Collyns family was investigated, he and his wife have numbers in the Seal database but his children who feature in a number of Shipbourne wills have numbers in the Shipbourne database.

The will of Thomas Collyns of Shipbourne
in Kent made the 29th day of June 1587 ??

To **Stephen Collyns, my**

- **son**, all my reversion of all the land and tenements
- in Shipbourne given me by deed of my father after
- the death of my father, to him and to his heirs, paying
- unto his grandmother all such covenants as are
- set down between them and us. **Item:** I will that
- my body shall be buried in the church chancel of
- Shipbourne. Also if my wife be with child
- with a son, I give it all my reversion of land
- lying in **Penshurst** after the decease of my
- father and mother, to him and to his heirs forever.
- **Item:** I give unto **Susan, my daughter**, one
- hundred marks of lawful money and
- if it so chance that my wife be with child with
- a daughter, that then that daughter shall have
- the one half of the hundred marks and if the

- one daughter die before the other, that then the other
- shalbe heir to her sister. **Item:** I give unto
- **Dorothy, my wife**, paying my debts and
- legacies, all my moveables and debts
- excepting ?? and the bedstead which I
- lie in and my great chest which I had
- when I was a single man and a chest which my
- brother gave me, the which I give unto Stephen,
- my son, and to his heirs, and also a gold ring.
- I make Dorothy, my said wife, my sole and
- whole executor to prove this my last will
- and testament. **Item:** my will is that **my brother,**
- **Richard Collyns**, and **my brother, John Tebold**,
- shalbe my overseers for the ?? and
- execution of this my last will and
- testament and I give to either of them 10s
- for their pains. **Item:** I give to **James**
- **Croucher?** my best buck leather doublet and a
- pair of ??¹³⁵ breeches thereto belonging.

- **Memorandum** that this will is confirmed and by his

- own hand delivered to Dorothy, his wife,
- in the presence of us under written

- **Henry Collyns, John Tebold, junior, Clemence Tebold,**
- **Susan Collyns, the elder, Dorothy Everest,**¹³⁶
- **Lore Page, widow, and Margaret Coker**

136 probably his father, brother-in-law, mother-in-law, mother and sister

Henry Collyns, yeoman

His House Broken Into

At the July 1562 Assizes, **Lawrence Pemerton** of St. Clement Danes, Middlesex, **clothworker**, was indicted for grand larceny. “On 20th April 1560 he broke into the house of Henry Collens at Shipbourne and stole a purse containing 40s from a chest and another purse containing 3 gold pistolets (17s 6d) and a gold sovereign (10s)”. He was found guilty and sentenced to hang.¹³⁷

A pistollet was a gold coin worth about 6s (£0.30). In this case they were valued at 5s 10d each, just under 6s. A gold sovereign at this time could be worth anything from 10s to 22s 6d (£0.50 to £1.125).

137 Cockburn (Eliz.I); 161

His will, 1588

Henry, a yeoman, was one of the few men who mentioned armour in their will. He left his “best corselet, pike, sword and dagger” and “a coat of ?? with bill, sword and dagger” both with the furniture belonging to it to his eldest son Richard.. This does not seem to have been the only weapons he had since his wife Susan left a “sword or dagger” to their grandson Henry Everest.

Included amongst the items he made standers to his mansion house were some wainscot and a malt quern, a mustard quern and an apple mill.

Henry also had a testament in English and Latin which he left to his grandson Stephen, an English psalter left to Stephen's sister Susan and a “great English Bible” left to his youngest son Francis.

Henry left to his eldest son Richard his “lease of the rectory or parsonage of Shipbourne” and also his Lordship of the manor of Dodmer in Meopham.

His will was proved on 16th January 1589.

Henry's Family

See page 2.c.214 for the family tree. The reason for knowing that Susan was the widow of the Henry Collyns whose will was dated a year earlier is because of the children each mention. Both mention three daughters, Elizabeth, Alice and Dorothy with Alice being Alice Porter and Dorothy married to Thomas Everest.. John Wagthorne was one of the witnesses to Henry's will and he is mentioned as Elizabeth's husband in Susan's will. Susan also mentions a fourth daughter, Myldred.

Dorothy was one of the three granddaughters, daughters of his son Henry mentioned by Richard in his will of 1551. When Henry wrote his will in 1588 he had connections with London having purchased land from John Pelsant, citizen and grocer of London and two of his sons, Edward and Francis became citizens of London. This connection must, however, have gone back at least to the 1560s since Dorothy married Thomas Everest, butcher of Shipbourne, on 2nd July 1567 at St. Katherines, Tower Hill, London.

Henry, throughout his will describes Thomas as his second son, deceased, with Edward as his third son whilst Susan has Thomas as her third son and Edward as her second. Since their baptisms were too early to have been recorded, which was right we cannot tell.

Although Henry is described as “the elder” in his will, and as “[Henry Collyns, senior, deceased](#)” when his wife was buried, neither he nor his wife Susan mention a son Henry.

Henry's Land

Henry owned many leases and lands in Shipbourne, Meopham. Wrotham and Plaxtol which seems to have been partly in the parish of Wrotham and partly in Shipbourne.

His heirs were his three sons, Richard, Edward and Thomas and his grandson, Stephen, the son of his son Thomas who had died before him. Henry's father, Richard, mentioned William, son of his son Henry. William must have died between 1551 and 1558 and Henry, whilst mentioning Thomas his “third” son who had deceased him, counts only Thomas and his three living sons.

Some of his leases and lands were left to his wife Susan until her death (or remarriage) and then to one of his sons or Stephen. The arrangements were made even more complicated in that Richard was to have **Syliandes**, his mansion house, for fifteen years and then it was to go to Stephen.

The Shipbourne leases given to Stephen on Susan's death included Park meadow, the Bore and Little Croft. If Stephen died without male heirs or did not conform to Henry's conditions, these were to go to Henry's fourth son Francis and it was Francis who owned them in 1600 when he wrote his will.

Henry's three sons, Richard, Edward and Francis and his grandson Stephen (or their lawful deputies) were to meet at Willockes, Henry's mansion house in Shipbourne, within three days of being summoned by his overseers. There, "with the consent and help of a learned clerk, my chest wherein my writings are lying" was to be opened and each of his heirs (or their deputy) was to "have and take, every one of them, such indentures and writings" as appertained to the lands, etc. willed to them "by deed or other conveyance whatsoever". The chest was to "remain to Francis". If, after being summoned any of them were not present, the distribution of the writings, etc. was to go ahead without them.

1 In the name of god Amen. The seven and twentieth day of December in
the year
2 of our lord god one thousand five hundreth four score and eight and in the
one and thirtieth
3 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, Henry Collyns the
5 elder of Shipbourne in the county of Kent and diocese of Rochester,
yeoman, being,
6 at the time of making hereof, thanks be to god, in good and perfect health
as well
7 of mind and remembrance as of body but, notwithstanding being aged,
and thereby
8 put in mind of the sudden change of this mortal and transistory life Do
make
9 and ordain this my present testament and last will in manner and form
following:
10 And **First** and principally I give, commend and bequeath my soul to
Almighty God, my

11 maker, saviour and only redeemer Jesus Christ and my body to be buried in
the
12 high chancel of Shipbourne aforesaid. **Item:** I will there shalbe bestowed
at my
13 burial among poor people 20s. **Item:** I give and bequeath to the box or
chest
14 of the poor of Shipbourne aforesaid 20s to be paid in manner and form
following:
15 (that is to say) 10s parcel thereof within one month next after my decease
and other
16 10s residue thereof in full payment of the same within one whole year
thence next
17 following. **Item:** I will and give to every of my godchildren demanding the
same of
18 mine executor within one whole year next after my decease 4d a piece.

from probate copy:

- Item:** I will to
- every of my children's children 12d a piece to
 - be paid within one whole year next after my
 - decease. **Item:** I will and give unto **my eldest**
 - **daughter, Elizabeth**, £5 to be paid unto her
 - within one whole year next after my decease

- **Item:** whereas I laid out for **William Porter, my son-in-law**, the sum of £27 13s 4d for to
- for to reclaim his cattle, I do clearly
- forgive it unto him and unto **Alice, his wife**.
- **Item:** I will unto **Thomas Everest** and unto his
- **wife, Dorothy**, £5 the which £5 he doth at this
- time owe unto me, of the which I do clearly
- requit and forgive him by these present. **Item:**
- whereas **George Saxby** doth owe unto me
- £5 at this present I do clearly acquit and
- forgive him the said £5 unto him and unto
- **Auyldred, his wife**, by those present. **Item:**
- I give and bequeath unto **my eldest son,**
- **Richard Collyns, my son**, my best corselet, pike,
- sword and dagger withall the furniture to it.

page 2:

- 1 And my coat of pla?? with bill, sword
- 2 and dagger and other furniture thereto
- 3 likewise belonging. **Item:** I will and be
- 4 queath to the said Richard Collyns, my
- 5 son, my lease of the rectory or parsonage
- 6 of Shipbourne, aforesaid, to have and

7 to hold the same, withall and singular the
8 commodities, ?? and appurt
9 enances thereto belonging unto the said
10 Richard Collyns and to his heirs immedi
11 ately after my decease for, by, during
12 and unto the end and term of all
13 the years which I have it to come of and
14 in the same ?? as ample manner and ??
15 form to all interests and purposes
16 as I have and hold the same. Also I give
17 and bequeath to the said Richard Collyns, my
18 leases of the lands called **Puddenden**, payens,
19 ?? and **Bramble Croft** with the ??
20 to have and to hold the same with th'appurtenances
21 ?? ?? to my said son Richard
22 Collyns and his heirs during and unto the
23 end and term of all the years which have
24 yet to come of and in the same in as ample
25 and large manner as I hold the same. Also I
26 will and give to the said Richard all
27 my Slat?? Beasts? whatsoever. **Item:**
28 I give and bequeath to the said Richard
29 Collyns, my son, my lease of a parcel of land

30 called **Little Ayleasse** to have and to hold
31 him and his heirs for, by and during the
32 years which I have yet to come of and in the same.
33 **Item:** I will and bequeath unto **Stephen Collyns,**
34 **son of my third son, Thomas Collyns deceased,**
35 my testament which is in English and Latin and
36 to **Susan Collyns, sister unto the said Stephen,**
37 my English psalter. **Item:** I will and bequeath
38 unto **Susan, my wellbeloved wife,** my lease
39 of the park, **Park meadow,** the **Bore** and
40 **Little Croft** as they lie together containing,
41 by estimation, thirty acres of land and wood
42 with th'appurtenances, to have and to hold
43 the same lands with th'appurtenances to
44 ?? ??
45 during the time of 40 years if she so
46 long live. **Item:** After her decease I will
47 and bequeath the same to the said Stephen
48 Collyns, aforesaid, and to the heirs male
49 of the body of the said Stephen lawfully
50 to be begotten during . . .
51 of all yet years which then shalbe to come of and
52 in the same or any of them under form

53 and . . . following that
54 is to say that the said Stephen and his
55 heirs male shall suffer my said son Richard
56 Collyns, his executors ??
57 ?? ??
58 ?? ??
59 any lease not already by me sealed, declared
60 and made to the late **Richard Meringe**
61 dated the thirtieth day of the month

page 3:

1 of November 1587 containing in it all that
2 capital messuage or tenement called
3 **Syliandes** wherein the said Richard Collyns
4 now dwelleth with ?? lands therein contained
5 for fifteen years from ?? next then
6 ensuing according to the true ?? and
7 ?? of the same and covenant is therein
8 contained. And if the said Stephen happen for
9 to decease without heirs male of his body
10 lawfully begotten as is aforesaid or shall
11 not suffer the said Richard, his executors
12 administrators or assigns quietly for to

13 enjoy the said lease and term of years of
14 the said tenement called Syliande
15 and other the said lands as is aforesaid,
16 then I will, give and bequeath all the
17 said leases of lands called it parke,
18 **Park meadow**, the **Bore** and **Little Croft**
19 with th'appurtenances to them belonging
20 to **Francis Collyns, my fourth son**, to
21 have and to hold the same, withall and singular
22 th'appurtenances, to the foresaid Francis
23 Collyns and to his heirs and assigns during
24 all the years which shalbe then to come of and
25 in the same. **Item:** I give and bequeath to the
26 fore said Francis Collyns, my fourth and
27 youngest son, my two leases whereof
28 the one is of the lands called **Eyland**
29 otherwise **Newfield Wood** and **Hurst** lease
30 and the other is of the **Great ?ort** meadow
31 to have and to hold the same leases and
32 lands withall thier appurtenances
33 unto my foresaid son Francis and to
34 his heirs and assigns during the term
35 of years which shalbe thereof to come after my

36 decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath to
37 **Edward Collyns, my second son,** the sum
38 of ten pounds lawful money to be
39 paid to him, the said Edward, within one whole
40 year next after my decease which then
41 shalbe due by ?? ??
42 ?? ??
43 ?? And I will that the said
44 Edward Collyns, my son, shall have the
45 same obligation and forfeiture and bond
46 therein contained. **Item:** I will that all
47 these parcels hereafter named shalbe
48 standers and implements to my man
49 sion house wherein Richard Collyns now
50 dwelleth ?? and called Syliande
51 viz. in the hall, a ?? table, a
52 plain table with a joined form and two
53 pieces of wainscot to stand before the
54 chimney in some time. In the ??
55 ?? ?? of wainscot

page 4:

1 and a trundlebed and my malt quern¹³⁸ as it
2 standeth and my apple mill as it standeth
3 and also one mustard quern as it standeth and
4 also one iron plate which standeth before the other
5 holt? The residue of all my goods and cattells,
6 as well moveable as unmoveable, unbequeathed
7 and debts to me owing, I give and bequeath to the
8 foresaid Susan, my well beloved wife, the which
9 Susan I make my whole and sole executor of
10 this my last will and testament, to see the same
11 proved, my debts and legacies paid and my body
12 honestly brought to the earth, provided always
13 and my very will and true meaning is that if
14 Susan my wife happens or chances for to decease
15 before me, that the Francis Collyns, my fourth
16 and youngest son, shalbe my executor in as full, ??
17 and ample manner as Susan, my wife, should have
18 been to prove this my will and paying my debts and
19 legacies as aforesaid. Also I make and ordain
20 my said son Richard Collyns and **Thomas Everest**
21 **my son-in-law**, to be supervisors and overseers of

138 a stone hand mill for corn, etc.

22 this my will to whom I will shalbe allowed all such
23 charges and expenses as shalbe by them, or any
24 of them, expended or laid out about ??
25 of this my will or anything therein contained.

26 **This is** the last will of me the said
27 Henry Collyn, the elder. made and declared the say
28 and year first above written concerning the ??
29 and disposition of all my lands, tenements and hereditaments
30 whatsoever. And first I will and bequeath to the foresaid
31 Richard Collyns, my eldest son, immediately after
32 my decease, my **manor or lordship of Dodmer**
33 withall lands, tenements, rents ?? and
34 other permits thereto belonging, situated, lying
35 and being in **Meopham** in the said county of
36 Kent and all other my lands, tenements
37 and hereditaments whatsoever withall and singular
38 th'appurtenances, severally situated, lying and
39 being in Meopham aforesaid. And also all
40 that parcel of meadow called **Pratts Meadow**
41 with a way there unto leading, lying and
42 being in Shipbourne aforesaid To have
43 and to hold ?? ??

44 tenements with th'appurtenances to him
45 the aforesaid Richard, his heirs and assigns,
46 to the only use and behoof of the aforesaid Richard
47 ?? ?? his heirs and assigns
48 for ever notwithstanding my will
49 is that the aforesaid Richard Collyns, my son,
50 his heirs, executors or assigns shall ??
51 during the natural life of the aforesaid Susan
52 my wife if she keep herself ??
53 ?? sole and unmarried ??
54 and pay, or cause to be paid, to the foresaid
55 Susan, my wife or her assigns, out of
56 the said lands and ?? to him the said
57 Richard, my son, willed, the sum of four
58 pounds of good and lawful money of England
yearly

page 5:

1-7 at

8 decease. And for lack of payment of the

9-25

26 late bought

27 of **John Brig?** and also one ??

28
29 lying and being at **Plaxtol** in
30 the foresaid county of Kent to have
31 and to hold all those three parcels to her
32 the foresaid Susan and her assigns
33 during the whole term of her natural
34 life and after her decease I will and
35 bequeath all the three said parcels of land
36 aforesaid in **Wrotham** with their appurtenances
37 unto Edward Collyns my foresaid second

38 son. And also other three parcels of
39 land late bought of **Edward Herne**
40 called by the name or names of **Hall**
41 **Well** lying and being in Plaxtol
42 aforesaid within the parish of Wrotham and
43 also one obligation wherein Richard

44-45

46 To
47 have and to hold all those five said parcels

48-51

52 I will
53 and bequeath to Francis Collyns

54 my fourth and my youngest son immediately
55 after my decease all that my
56 tenement and lands which I late
57 ?? of one **John Roger** called

page 6:

1 called **Willockes** withall the edifices, houses
2 and buildings thereto belonging, one garden
3 two orchards, one ?? and two
4 parcels of land there unto adjoining, called
5 **Barnfield** and **Willockes** together lying
6 under one closure in Shipbourne aforesaid.
7 three other parcels of land called **Meadfield**,
8 **Lialloways Hange** and **The Pighwell**
9 severally lying and being in Shipbourne
10 aforesaid. Three other parcels of land
11 and meadow called **Rolystland** with a
12 way there unto leading together
13 lying under one closure in Shipbourne
14 aforesaid and also the lands which I late
15 purchased of **Wyatt Plane** containing
16 in the whole, by estimation, three score acres
17 called or known by the name of **Lytelens**

18 **Matteres, Brodfield and Styles** as they
19 lie together under one closure in Shipbourne
20 aforesaid withall th'appurtenances, edifices
21 ?? belonging except those lands
22 parcels of the same which the foresaid Henry
23 Collyns by lawful conveyance have ??
24 ?? ?? to Thomas Collyns, my third
25 son now deceased containing by esti
26 mation fourteen acres ?? also one
27 parcel of land late purchased of one **Charles**
28 **Allen** called or known by the name
29 of **Buckes Land** lying or being in
30 Shipbourne aforesaid containing by
31 estimation three acres and a half, to
32 have and to hold all those tenements
33 lands, ?? and hereditaments
34 withall and singular their appurtenances
35 thereunto belonging (except those
36 fourteen acres as is afore said
37 given unto my son Thomas by lawful
38 conveyance unto the foresaid
39 Francis Collyns, my fourth and youngest
40 son, his heirs and assigns, and to

41 the only use and behoof of the aforesaid
42 Francis Collyns, his heirs and assigns.
43 ?? ?? that **Thomas**
44 **Ondest?** and **Timothy**, his wife, shall have
45 occupy the foresaid Buckes Land as
46 long as and during the term ??
47 ?? the which he hath in my tenement?
48 called Willockes not paying any more
49 than is already mentioned in the lease,
50 the lord's rent thereof only excepted.

51 **Notwithstanding** my will is that the foresaid
52 Francis Collyns, my son, his heirs,
53 executor or assigns shall yearly during
54 the ?? life of the foresaid Susan,
55 my wife, (if she keep herself ??
56 ?? sole and unmarried)) satisfy, content
57 and pay, or cause to be paid

page 7:

1 unto the said Susan, my wife, or her
2 assigns, out of the said landsand tenancy
3 to him willed, the sum of three pounds of

4 good and lawful money of England at the
5-12 feasts
13 my decease and for lack of payment of
14-25

26 be fully satisfied, contented and paid.
27 Also whereas Susan, my wife, hath and
28 holdeth for term of her natural life
29 one cottage and three acres of meadow called
30 the **Stracke** and the **Little Meadow** and
31 also twelve acres of sandland and meadow
32 called **Cragthangle** ?? meadow
33 and **Renfield** which I late purchased
34 of **James Oxturd** lying and being in
35 Shipbourne aforesaid, as by a deed thereof
36 made it date appear. **Item:** I will and
37 bequeath the same, withall and singular
38 th'appurtenances thereunto belonging
39 immediately after the decease of the
40 foresaid Susan, my wife, to my foresaid
41 son Francis Collyns, his heirs and assigns.
42 To have and to hold the said cottage with
43 all those lands before ?? with
44 all and singular th'appurtenances

45 to the only use and fit benefit and behoof
46 of the foresaid Francis Collyns,
47 his heirs and assigns for ever. **Item:** I will
48 and bequeath unto Francis Collyns, my
49 son, one annuity of eight shillings a
50 year issuing out of one house and garden

page 8:

1 of **James Buysonden** of **Basted** within the
2 parish of Wrotham and also one bond with
3 forfeiture therein contained. To have and
4 to hold the said annuity of 8s and also
5 one bond with forfeiture
6 withall and singular
7 th'appurtenances thereunto belonging
8 unto the foresaid Francis Collyns, my son,
9 and unto the only use of it, benefit and
10 behoof of the said Francis, his heirs and
11 assigns for ever. **Item:** I will and bequeath
12 unto **Susan Porter?**, my servant, all
13 that annuity of 20s which I have out of
14 the lands of **Richard Chowne** of Plaxtol
15 within the parish of Shipbourne aforesaid

16 by virtue of a writing indented thereof
17 from him to me, made to have and to hold
18 the same withall the deeds and writings thereof
19 made and promises, conditions and forfeitures
20 therein contained and bonds there upon
21 made to her, the said Susan, her heirs
22 and assigns for and in such manner and form
23 as I have or mine heirs, executor or assigns
24 may yet have or should have ?? and enjoy
25 the same. **Item:** whereas I the foresaid Henry
26 Collyns, together with Thomas Collyns, my said
27 son deceased, late bought and purchased
28 to us and our heirs jointly of **John Pelsant**
29 **citizen and grocer of London**, now also
30 deceased, the rendition¹³⁹ of and in four parcels
31 of land and meadow called **Symond,**
32 **Blages** and **Aperlethanghe** containing
33 by estimation, 12 acres and a half whether
34 more or less, severally lying and being
35 in Shipbourne aforesaid as by the emi?
36 and writing thereof it may appear the

36 which purchase by reason ?
37 Thomas is deceased, is to me the said Henry
38 Collyn and my heirs forever. Now my
39 will and mind is that the said Susan,
40 my wife, shall have all the same land
41 and rendition of the same with th'appurtenances
42 To hold to her the said Susan and her
43 assigns during the whole term of her
44 natural life. And after the decease
45 of the said Susan, I will and bequeath
46 all the said four parcels of land
46 withall and singular their appurtenances

page 9:

1 and ?? of the same unto Stephen
2 Collyns, son of the said Thomas Collyns, my
3 son, deceased. To have and to hold the
4 same, with th'appurtenances and ??
5 of the same unto the said Stephen Collyns,
6 his heirs and assigns forever under condition
7 and form following: that is to say that he,
8 the said Stephen Collyns, his heirs or
9 executors, administrators and assigns

10 shall and will quietly permit and suffer my
11 said son Richard Collyns, his executors,
12 administrators and assigns, to have,
13 hold, occupy and enjoy one lease before
14 herein mentioned bearing date
15 the thirteenth day of November 1587
16 from me to him made, sealed and ??
17 containing in it all that capital
18 messuage or tenement called **Syliandes**
19 wherein Richard Collyns, my son,
20 now dwelleth, with divers lands therein
21 contained for 15 years according
22 unto the true tenor, effect of the same
23 and covenant therein contained during
24 all the term and time therein contained.
25 And if the said Stephen or his heirs,
26 or any other by or for him, shall not suffer
27 the said Richard, his executors, administrators
28 or assigns, quietly to have, hold and enjoy
29 the said lease and term of years therein
30 contained accordingly as is aforesaid,
31 Then I will all those said four parcels
32 of land and ?? of and in the same

33 shall be unto the said
34 Richard Collyns, his heirs and assigns,
35 to have and to hold the same with th'appurtenances
36 unto the said Richard Collyns, his heirs
37 and assigns for ever ?? ??
38 or other things whatsoever herein contained
39 to the contrary hereof in any wise
40 notwithstanding. **Item:** I will that my
41 three sons, Richard, Edward and Francis
42 Collyns, together with Stephen Collyns,
43 son of Thomas, deceased, or their
44 lawful deputy or deputies shalbe all
45 together present in my mansion house
46 called Willockes and I will that with
47 the consent anf help of a learned clerk,
48 my chest wherein my writings are lying

page 10:

1 being opened, my said three sons and Stephen
2 Collyns, or their lawful deputy, shall have and take
3 every one of them, such indentures and writings
4 as appertain to all, every or any of the lands,
5 tenements and hereditaments and leases to them

6 or any of them herein before willed or at any
7 time heretofore by me given by deed or
8 other conveyance whatsoever. And the
9 chest wherein they lie and are shall remain
10 unto Francis Collyns, my son, and
11 also I will unto Francis, my son, my great
12 English Bible. And if any of the said
13 my sons or Stephen or their sufficient
14 deputy or deputies will not be present
15 within three days next after notice or
16 warning by my overseers or any one of
17 them to be given, then I will that those
18 of them which will be present, shall have and
19 take (as is aforesaid) all the writings
20 and evidences to them and every of them
21 there being present belonging, any
22 thing herein mentioned to the con
23 trary notwithstanding. **Item:** my will
24 and mind is that the said Susan, my wife,
25 shall have and take ?? upon the
26 lands which Thomas Everest accepteth
27 of mine and herein before
28 willed unto Francis Collyns, my

29 son, yearly at her will and pleasure
30 during her natural life if she
31 so long keep herself sole and
32 unmarried and shalbe resident and
33 dwelling at my said mansion house
34 called Willcockes four cords of
35 wood for her spending and burning
36 ?? In witness whereof
37 to this my present testament and last
38 will I, the foresaid Henry Collyns have
39 hereunto set my seal and subscribed
40 with my own hand my name unto every
41 leaf yeven the day and year first
42 above written in the presence of me
43 Francis Collyns, writer hereof
44 Thomas Everest, Richard Collyns, **John**
45 **Wagthome, Martin Couleman, Sylvester**
46 **Page**, sign. **John Godwyn, the**
47 **elder**, by me Henry Collyn.

Francis Collyns, writer hereof

Susan Collyns, widow of Henry

The will of Susan, Henry's widow was written in February 1589 about a month after Henry died but she lived until the October of that year with her will being proved only a few days after her burial. Susan, like her husband before her, wanted to be buried in the high chancel of Shipbourne church. Thomas, the son who died before his mother and father asked to be buried in the chancel and their son Richard, in 1596, in the high chancel.

Susan and Henry had four daughters all of whom married well before the 1580s, Elizabeth having a married daughter by 1589. We gain more information about them from Susan's will; the families of Elizabeth, Alice and Myldred are included in the tree on page 2.c.214 with details of Dorothy's two marriages being given below.

Dorothy, daughter of Henry and Susan, the Everests & Bennets

Dorothy married twice, the first time in 1567. Her husband died a year after Susan and Dorothy married again and had four more children, the last in 1597 when she must have been in her late forties.

The baptisms of ten of Dorothy's children were recorded in the parish registers, Thamar, is known from her grandmother's will. Of the thirteen children, four died in infancy and the first Dorothy Bennet at 4½ years.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|-------------|--|-------------|--|-------------|--|-------------|---------------------|------------|-----------------|--------|---|---------------|-------|-------------|--|-------------|--|
| | | | | | | | | \$65 Thomas Everest | - | Dorothy Collins | \$66 | - | Robert Bennet | \$548 | | | | |
| mar: | | | | | | | | 2 Jul 1567 | | | | | 6 Aug 1591 | | | | | |
| bur: | | | | | | | | 6 Feb 1590 | | 8 May 1613 | | | | | | | | |
| | \$86 | | \$87 | | \$88 | | \$119 | | \$170 | | \$855 | | \$324 | | \$325 | | \$497 | |
| | Susan | | Susan | | Henry | | Mildred | | Frauncis | | Thamar | | Frauncis | | Frauncis | | Susan | |
| bap: | 14 Nov 1569 | | 8 Jul 1571 | | 29 Jun 1572 | | 14 Feb 1575 | | 2 Mar 1581 | | | | 13 Jun 1585 | | 22 Jun 1587 | | 23 Sep 1589 | |
| bur: | 8 Dev 1569 | | 15 Jul 1571 | | | | | | 3 Mar 1581 | | | | 26 Jun 1586 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| bap: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| mar: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| bur: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Theft of a Ram

At the August 1645 Assizes, Ralph Avery of Shipbourne, labourer, was indicted for grand larceny. On 24th March 1645, at Shipbourne, he had stolen a ram (5s) from Francis Everest. The indictment was endorsed as a true bill by Francis Everest

140 a Richard Bennet married **Joane Davies** on 2nd April 1627 and a Dorothy Bennet married **James Godden** (\$1421) on 14 Jul 1627; both Richard and Dorothy could have been the children of Dorothy and Robert

but Avery was found not guilty.¹⁴¹

The name “Frauncis” was obviously important to Thomas and Dorothy since three of their sons were given this name, the first two dying in infancy. Nothing other than his baptism is known of their third son with this name (\$325) but he would have been fifty-eight in 1645 and could have been the owner of the ram.

The Will of Susan Collyns of Shipbourne

written 23rd February 1588/9

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 The three and twentieth day of February in the year
3 of our lord god one thousand five hundredth,
4 four score and eight and in the one and thirtieth
5 year of the reign of our sovereign Lady
6 Elizabeth, by the grace of god Queen of England
7 France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc.

141 Cockburn (Chas.I); 2269

8 I, Susan Collyns the elder of Shipbourne in
9 the county of Kent and diocese of Rochester,
10 **widow**, being at the time of making hereof,
11 thanks be to god, in good and fit health as
12 well of mind and remembrance as body but
13 notwithstanding being aged and thereby put
14 in mind of sudden change of this mortal life
15 and transistory life, do make and ordain
16 this my present an testament and last will in
17 manner and form following: And **First** and prin-
18 cipally I give, commend and bequeath my soul
19 to Almighty God, my maker, saviour and only
20 redeemer Jesus Christ and my body to be buried
21 in the high chancel of Shipbourne aforesaid.
22 **Item:** I will there shalbe bestowed at my
23 burial amongst poor people, at the discretion of
24 my executor hereafter named 3s 6d. **Item:** I
25 give and bequeath unto **my eldest daughter,**
26 **Elizabeth Waghorne**, these parcels following:
27 viz: two . . . {*line not readable*}
28 . . . and gown with lace and fringe,
29 one great standing chest with flax lid,
30 one ?? kettle, one little feather bed, one fine

31 table cloth ?? ??
32 ?? , 6 pieces of pewter, one cauldron, one
33 iron chafer, one chamber pot of pewter,
34 To have and to hold all those fore mentioned parcels
35 to her, the said Elizabeth, and to her heirs
36 for ever. Also, whereas the said Elizabeth

page 2:

37 my daughter doth owe unto me at this time the
38 sum of forty shillings, I do ?? ??
39 forgive and discharge her the foresaid
40 Elizabeth and **John Waghome**, her husband, and
41 their heirs of the said forty shillings for
42 ever by these ??. Also I will, give and
43 bequeath unto the foresaid Elizabeth, my eldest
44 the sum of forty shillings to be
45 paid unto her within three months next
46 after my decease. **Item:** I give and
47 bequeath unto **Susan Royse, daughter**
48 unto my eldest daughter, Elizabeth Waghome,
49 the sum of forty shillings to be paid unto
50 her within three months next after my decease.
51 Also I will, give and bequeath unto **Jane Wagthorne**,

52 daughter unto my eldest daughter Elizabeth,
53 two table napkins, one of the diaper and the other
54 wrought with blue. And also I will unto her,
55 the said Jane, the sum of forty shillings
56 to be unto her within three months next
57 after my decease. Also I will and bequeath
58 unto **Dorothy Wagthorne**, daughter unto
59 my eldest daughter Elizabeth, two table
60 napkins one of diaper and the other wrought
61 with blue. Also one joined chest. **Item:** I
62 will and give unto the foresaid Dorothy
63 Wagthorne the sum of three pounds 6s 8d
64 to be paid unto her within three months
65 next after my decease. **Item:** I will
66 and give unto **Thamar Wagthorne**, daughter
67 unto my eldest daughter Elizabeth, the
68 sum of thirteen shillings and four pence
69 to be paid unto her within three months
70 next after my decease. **Item:** I will, give
71 and bequeath unto **Alice Porter, my second**
72 **daughter**, these parcels following, viz.
73 ?? ?? my gown with of ?? coloured
74 cloth with lace and fringe, my best christening

75 ?? wrought with black silk, a white
76 ?? pillowcoat . . .
77 of my best neckerchiefs , a fine table
78 cloth, one brass kettle, 6 pieces of pewter,
79 one little feather bed. Also whereas willing
80 . {*line not readable*}
81 my second daughter doth owe unto me at
82 this present time the sum of fifteen

page 3:

83 pounds, I will give and bequeath, discharge¹⁴²
84 forgive the foresaid William Porter and
85 Alice, his wife, ten pounds part of the foresaid
86 fifteen pounds by these ?? and my very
87 will and mind is that the foresaid William Porter
88 and Alice his wife shall pay unto their two
89 daughters, that is to say unto **Dorothy Porter**
90 and unto **Alice Porter**, the sum of five pounds,
91 that is to say, unto either of them fifty
92 shillings to be paid unto them, by their father
93 or mother, William or Alice Porter, within

142 "dischardge"; probate copy

94 one whole year next after my decease. **Item:**
95 I will and give unto Alice, my second daughter,
96 the sum of twenty shillings to be paid unto
97 her within three months next after my decease.
98 **Item:** I will, give and bequeath unto **Susan**
99 **Porter**, daughter unto my second daughter
100 Alice Porter, these parcels following: viz. my
101 best featherbed, 2 bolsters, 2 pillows, 2 blankets,
102 one ?? called a ?? ??, one ??
103 of yellow and black, one fine sheet, a ??
104 ?? lace, three other plain sheets, one fine
105 canvas table cloth, one large ?? cloth
106 wrought with blue, two table napkins wrought with
107 blue, two white ?? pillowcoats, one cross
108 cloth with white ??, one taffety ??, my
109 best petticoat of red, one great brass kettle,
110 one little brass pot, one pair of pothooks
111 one little brass chafer, one little spit, my
112 best dripping pan of iron, one little bottle of brass,
113 one iron ??, one brewing ??, my best
114 shawl?, one ?? ?? ?? . . .
115 one platter, two pewter dishes, two ??,
116 one great basin, my best latten candlestick,

117 ?? ?? ?? Also I will and bequeath unto
118 the foresaid Susan Porter the sum of forty
119 shillings to be paid unto her within three months
120 next after my decease. **Item:** I will, give and
121 bequeath unto **Dorothy Porter**, daughter
122 unto my foresaid second daughter Alice Porter,
123 these parcels following, viz: one white ??
124 pillowcoat with ??, one table napkin
125 wrought with blue. Also I will unto the said
126 Dorothy Porter the sum of ?? shillings

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127 to be paid unto her within three months next after
128 my decease. **Item:** I will, give and bequeath unto **Alice**
129 **Porter**, daughter unto my foresaid second
130 daughter Alice Porter, one white seamed
131 pillowcoat with ??, one table napkin wrought with
132 blue and one jointed box. Also I will and
133 bequeath unto the forsaid Alice Porter,
134 daughter unto my second daughter Alice
135 Porter, the sum of ten? shillings to be paid
136 unto her, the said Alice, within three months
137 next after my decease. **Item:** I will and bequeath

138 unto **Dorothy Everest**, my third daughter
139 these parcels following, viz. one ??
140 ?? , one pair of ??
141 ?? , my best diaper tablecloth, 8 diaper
142 napkins, my second velvet hat, one pair of
143 great iron racks, one great set of iron,
144 one frying pan, three brass pans, a brass
145 kettle and a brass chafer the which she hath
146 already, 6 pairs of pewter, one brass ??
147-152 ??
153 all my brass ware ?? **William Everest**
154 bequeathed unto the foresaid Dorothy, my third
155 daughter, the sum of forty shillings
156 to be paid unto the said Dorothy Everest
157 within ?? months next after my decease.
158 **Item:** I will and give unto **Henry Everest, son**
159 unto my third daughter Dorothy Everest
160 one sword or dagger ??
161 **Item:** I will and give unto **Frances Everest, son** unto
162-3 ??
164 will and bequeath unto Francis Everest
165 son of my third daughter Dorothy
166 one joined chest with ?? and also

167 forty shillings in money to be given unto him
168 within ?? month next after my decease.
169 **Item:** I will and give unto **Myldred Everest**
170 daughter unto my said daughter
171 Dorothy Everest, my
172 daughter, one sheet with a seam of black,

page 5:

173 one chafer, one long shelf, one latten candlestick
174 and also, in money, the sum of twenty shillings to be
175 paid unto her within three months next after
176 my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
177 **Thamar Everest**, daughter unto my said daughter
178 Dorothy Everest, one of my best plain sheets,
179 one black chest, one latten candlestick and also
180 the sum of twenty shillings to be paid unto her,
181 the said Thamar, within three months next
182 after my decease. **Item:** I will, give and bequeath
183 unto **Mildred Saxby, my fourth and youngest**
184 **daughter**, one ??
185-7 ??
188 ?? , my best velvet
189 hat, my best neckerchief, my best fine

190 sheet, ??
191 diaper table cloth, one white seamed pillow
192 coat, 6 pieces of pewter, one great brass
193 pot, one iron ?? , one skillet of latten,
194 one little brass kettle, one ?? bottle,
195-6 ??
197 ?? **Item:** I will, give and bequeath unto **John**
198 **Saxby, son** unto my fourth and youngest
199 daughter, the sum of ten shillings to be
200 paid unto him within three months next after
201 my decease. **Item:** I will, give and bequeath
202 unto **Susan Saxby, daughter** unto my
203 fourth and youngest daughter Mildred
204 Saxby, one joined chest, one joined box, one
205 ?? and also the sum of
206 forty shillings to be paid unto the foresaid
207 Susan within three months next
208 after my decease. **Item:** I will and bequeath
209 unto **Thamar Collyns, daughter** of my eldest
210 son, Richard Collyns, the sum of twenty shillings
211 to be paid unto her, the said Thamar
212 Collyns within three months next after my decease.
213 **Item:** I will and bequeath unto **Edward Collyns,**

214 son unto my second son Edward
215 Collyns, the sum of ??
216 paid unto him within three months next after my

page 6:

217 decease. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto **Susan**
218 **Collyns**, daughter unto my second
219 son Edward Collyns, the sum of forty
220 shillings paid unto her within three months
221 next after my decease. **Item:** I will and
222 bequeath unto **Susan Collyns**, daughter
223 unto my third son **Thomas Collyns**, deceased,
224 one diaper napkin, one joined box. **Item:** I
225 will, give and bequeath unto my eldest daughter,
226 Elizabeth Waghorne, and unto my third
227 daughter, Dorothy Everest, my salt seller
228 which is silver and gilt between them two
229 equally for to of destined? **Item:** I give and
230 bequeath unto Alice Porter, my second
240 daughter and unto Myldred Saxby, my
241 fourth and youngest daughter, my great
242 covering of tapestry equally for to be divided
243 between the foresaid Alice and Mildred.

244 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto my four
245 daughters, Elizabeth, Alice, Dorothy and
246 Myldred, fourteen pairs of plain sheets
247 equally for to be divided between them
248 at the discretion of my executor here
249 after named. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto
250 my four daughters. Elizabeth, Alice,
251 Dorothy and Myldred, all my neckerchiefs,
252 ??, bales and ??cloths
253 with napkins, aprons and towels, not before
254 given or bequeathed, unto my four daughters
255 equally for to be divided between them
256 at the discretion of my executor here
257 after named. The residue of all my goods
258 and chattels, as well moveable as unmoveable,
259 unbequeathed and debts to me owing, I
260 give and bequeath unto **Francis Collyns**,
261 my fourth and youngest son, which
262 Francis I make the whole and sole
263 executor of this my last will and testa
264 ment to see the same executed, my debts and le
265 gacies paid and my body honestly brought
266 to the earth. Also I do make and

267 ordain my eldest son, **Richard Collyns**,
268 and my son-in-law **Thomas Everest** to be
269 supervisor of this my last will to whom
270 I will shalbe allowed all such charges
271 and expenses as shall by them, or any of them, be

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272 expended or laid out about the execution of this
273 my will or anything therein contained. In
274 witness whereof, to this my present
275 testament and last will, I the foresaid Susan
276 Collyns, widow, have here unto set my seal
277 and subscribed with my own hand my mark
278 unto every leaf, yeven, the day and year first
279 above written in the presence of me, Francis
280 Collyns, writer hereof. The mark of
281 Susan Collyns. Sealed and
282 subscribed and as my Attended ? detailed
283 in the presence of Thomas Everest, Richard
284 Collyns, **Henry Everest**, **Henry Collyns**.

Richard Collyns, gent. of Shipbourne

Richard asked for a “godly and fruitful sermon” to be preached at his burial “or very shortly after, in the said parish church of Shipbourne . . . for the better edification and instruction of those who shall repair and resort” there..

Richard's will is very long partly because of the complicated arrangements for the paying of twenty shillings yearly, for ever, to the poor of the parish of Shipbourne This was to be paid out of a messuage in Shipbourne which he had bought from Henry Hunter.

The Family of Richard Collyns, gent.

Richard, the eldest son of Henry and Susan, married in 1568 and his wife Elizabeth Page died in 1593; the baptisms of five children were recorded between 1571 and 1589 with over six years between the two eldest. One of those recorded died at about six weeks and the other four, plus Thamar, the middle daughter, were mentioned by Richard in his will which was written at the end of 1596. At

that time Susan was married but Henry, the eldest son who was appointed executor, was only eighteen. Richard did not die until December 1600 so that Henry would, by then, have been of age.

Richard's son-in-law, John Combes, was one of the supervisors, overseers and witnesses of his will. A John Combes (\$1308) was buried, in Shipbourne, on 19th December 1625, twenty-nine years after this will was written but no children were recorded for him.

After Elizabeth's death Richard married again but the only mention of his wife Anne is the bequest to her of "[all that household stuff which she had and which was hers before I married with her and being in my possession at the time of my decease](#)". Presumably Anne would have had some claim to a portion from Richard's estate.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| | \$68 | | \$67 | | \$586 | \$2249 | | \$2250 | |
| <i>will:</i> | Elizabeth Page | - | Richard | - | Anne Smyth | | Edward ¹⁴³ | | Francis |
| <i>bur:</i> | 28 Feb 1593 | | 20 Dec 1596 | | 31 Dec 1600 | | | | |
| | \$69 | | \$1308 | | \$141 | \$2242 | \$242 | \$302 | \$493 |
| <i>bap:</i> | 11Nov 1571 | Susan | - John Coombes | Henry | - Thamar ¹⁴⁴ | Edward | Elizabeth | Edward | |
| <i>bur:</i> | | | | 2 Feb 1578 | | 17 Dec 1582 | 25 Oct 1584 | May 1589 ¹⁴⁵ | |
| | | | | | | 3 Feb 1583 | | | |
| <i>bap:</i> | | Katherine | \$2248 | | Ann | \$776 ¹⁴⁶ | | | |
| | | | | | | 12 Oct 1603 | | | |

Richard's second daughter, Thamar, whose baptism was not recorded in Shipbourne, and Elizabeth, his youngest daughter, were both to have £100 when they reached the age of twenty-one and, if they were not twenty-one when he died, £10 a year each, for their maintenance, until they reached that age. Elizabeth was twelve when her father wrote his will and sixteen when he died.

Richard left to his son Henry his "[lease of the rectory or parsonage of Shipbourne](#)"

¹⁴³ Citizen and grocer of London

¹⁴⁴ left 20s by her grandmother Susan Collyns in 1589

¹⁴⁵ on Whitson Monday

¹⁴⁶ \$141 could be Ann's father but there are numerous Henry Collyns in Shipbourne

which he had inherited from his father but in his will the lease i described in more detail. It included the “[glebe lands, tenements, edifices and buildings with the appurtenances, together with all tithes, oblations, obventions, emoluments and profits](#)” for all the time remaining for the lease. Tithes were a tax paid by the parishioners for the upkeep of the church and the clergy. Oblations were offerings made for religious or charitable purposes.

As intimated in the will, these were paid to the leaseholder who was responsible for paying the rector and/or the vicar and the upkeep of the church but how much he passed on of the money (or taxes paid in kind) which he received seems to have depended on the generosity of the leaseholder.

Edward, Richard's Youngest Son

The arrangements to be made if Edward was still under twenty-one were complicated and unusual. Edward was seven when his father wrote his will and eleven when he died. Henry was to receive all the rents, etc. from the premises which Richard had bequeathed to Edward until Edward came of age "[keeping the reparations and doing no manner of waste](#)"

In return Henry was to have the governance of Edward during his minority, bringing him up and keeping him "at school and to learning" providing him with "sufficient diet, boarding and apparell, books and all other necessaries" allowing "him money in his purse which shall be meet and sufficient for him according to his education". What is particularly unusual was that Henry did not have to make "any account unto the said Edward for the receipt of the said rental . . . or any part thereof when he the said Edward shall accomplish the age of twenty one years or at any time before or after." Nor did Edward have to make any account to Henry for the money he received "in his purse".

The Will of Richard Collyns of Shipbourne

written 20th December 1596; proved 1601
transcript from probate copy

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The twentieth day
- 2 of December in the year of our lord god one thousand, five hundred, four
score and sixteen
- 3 And in the nine and thirtieth year of the reign of our sovereign lady
Elizabeth

4 by the grace of God, Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the
faith, etc.
5 for as much as there is nothing more incident and certain unto man than
death and
6 nothing more secret and uncertain than the hour and time of death, I
therefore, Richard
7 Collyns of the parish of Shipbourne in the county of Kent and within the
diocese of
8 Rochester, **gent.**, being at the making and in sealing hereof as well in good
health of body as of
9 good and perfect mind and memory, thanks I give unto Almighty god for
the same, do
10 make and ordain this my present testament containing herein my last will
as well of, for and
11 concerning the disposition of all and singular my lands, tenements and
hereditaments what
12 soever, as also all other my goods, cattell, chattels and rights in manner
and form following:
13 **First** and above all things, I commend and bequeath my soul into the
hands of Almighty god assured
14 ly hoping and believing to have clear remission and forgiveness of all my
sins by and through

15 Christ Jesus, his mercy and merits. And I will my body to be buried in the
16 high chancel
17 of the parish church of Shipbourne aforesaid. Also I will that there shalbe
18 given and be=
19 stowed at my burial, among the poor people that thither shall resort, forty
20 shillings to be
21 distributed at the appointment and discretion of mine executor in this ??
22 hereafter
23 nominated. And further my will is that there shalbe a godly and fruitful
24 sermon preached
25 in the day of my burial, or very shortly after, in the said parish church of
26 Shipbourne
27 at the charges¹⁴⁷ and appointment of mine executor, for the better
28 edification and instruction
29 of those who shall repair and resort to th'other. **Item:** I will and bequeath
30 for and towards
31 the relief of the poor inhabitants of the said parish of Shipbourne one
32 annual rent of
33 twenty shillings of good and lawful money of England to be distributed
34 amongst them yearly

147 this is the probate copy but charges is spelt "chardges" throughout

25 and to have continuance forever and to be paid for evermore yearly
amongst them at the feast
26 of Easter or within six days next immediately ensuing the said feast of
Easter yearly and for
25 evermore by those who by this my said testament shalbe thereunto named
and appointed. And
26 my desire, will and mind is that the said twenty shillings so to be
distributed as aforesaid shalbe
27 yearly issuing, perceived, had taken, levied and paid and to have
continuance forever out of all
28 that my message or tenement with the appurtenances which I heretofore
bought and purcha
29 sed of one **Henry Hunter**, situated and being in Shipbourne aforesaid. And
my will and
30 mind is that, if the said twenty shillings be not satisfied and paid yearly
and from time
31 to time for evermore according to this my will as is aforesaid, that then it
shalbe lawful,
32 from time to time, yearly and for evermore, to and for those who shalbe
thereunto, by this my
33 present testament named and appointed to levy and distribute the same, to
enter into all or any the

34 said message or tenement with the appurtenances and there to distrain
and the distress or the
35 distresses there being so taken and found from there lawfully to bear, load,
drive, distrain and
36 keep until said yearly rent of twenty shillings withall arrearages, if any be,
shalbe
37 fully satisfied and paid to such uses and in such manner and form as is
above mentioned. And
38 my will and mind is that this said yearly rent of twenty shillings, and every
part there
39 of, shalbe yearly and from time to time for evermore be levied and
distributed to such uses as is
40 aforesaid by **mine eldest son, Henry Collyns**, or by those whom he shall
thereunto nominate
41 and appoint during his natural life and to be bestowed and distributed
yearly amongst
42 such the poor inhabitants of Shipbourne aforesaid as the said Henry, or his
assigns,
43 shall think meet and most expedient to receive the same during the natural
44 said son Henry Collyns. And after the decease of my said son Henry
Collyns, I will that
45 the said yearly rent of twenty shillings to be levied and distributed, in like
manner and form

46 and to such uses aforesaid, by **my second and youngest son, Edward**
47 **Collyns**, or his assigns
48 during his natural life. And after the decease of both the said Henry and
49 Edward, my sons,
50 then my will and mind is that the said yearly rent of twenty shillings shalbe
51 levied and
52 distributed always by the eldest and nearest of my blood so that he be the
53 name of the
54 Collyns and dwelling within the said parish of Shipbourne. And if it
55 happen that there
56 shalbe none of my blood or alliance and being of the name of Collyns
dwelling within the said
parish of Shipbourne, then my will and mind is that the said yearly rent of
twenty
shillings shalbe levied and distributed by any one of the eldest of that
name of the Collyns
and dwelling within the said parish of Shipbourne. And if at any time
there be not
dwelling within the said parish of Shipbourne any of that name of the
Collyns or
any of that name that shall refuse to levy and distribute as aforesaid, then
my will and

57 mind is that the said yearly rent of twenty shillings shalbe from time to
time levied
58 and distributed to the uses as is aforesaid by the churchwardens of
Shipbourne aforesaid,
59 or one of them, for the time being that there dwelleth not any such within
the said parish
60 of Shipbourne of the name of Collyns or any being of that name there and
refuseth so
61 to levy and distribute as aforesaid. Also I will and give unto every one of
my godchil
62 ren demanding the same of mine executor within one whole year next after
my decease
63 twelve pence. And I will and give unto every of my servants that shalbe
dwelling with me
64 at the time of my decease, over and above their wages, ten shillings to be
paid unto them within one
65 whole year next after my decease. Also I give and bequeath unto **Anne,**
my present wife, all
66 that household stuff which she had and which was hers before I married
with her and being in
67 my possession at the time of my decease. Also I give and bequeath unto
Susan Combes,

68 **my eldest daughter**, my partir gilt cup of silver. And I give and bequeath
unto Edward,
69 my youngest son, my white bowl of silver. Also I will and give unto
Thamar, my second
70 **daughter**, six silver spoons. And I give and bequeath unto **Elizabeth, my**
third and young
71 **est daughter**, six silver spoons. Moreover, I give and bequeath unto the
said Susan Combes,
72 Thamar and Elizabeth, my daughters, and unto the said Edward, my son,
to every of
73 them, one pair of my best sheets to be delivered unto them immediately
after my decease at
74 the discretion of mine executor. Also I give and bequeath unto **Katherine**
Combes, my
75 **goddaughter**¹⁴⁸, ten shillings. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto Thamar, my
second daughter, one
76 hundred pounds of good and lawful money of England to be paid unto the
said Thamar
77 at her age of one and twenty years by mine executor. And if it happen that
I decease before

148 the daughter of Susan?

78 my said daughter, Thamar, shall accomplish and be of the said age of
twenty one years,
79 then my desire, will and mind is that mine executor shall pay, or cause to
be paid, unto the
80 said Thamar, my daughter, for and towards her maintenance ten pounds
by the year
81 of good and lawful English money until such time she shall accomplish
and be of the full
82 age of twenty one years, to be paid unto her quarterly at four severall feasts
in the year, that is
83 to say, in the feast days of Saint John the Baptist, Saint Michael the
Archangel,
84 the Nativity of our Lord god and the Anniversary of the Virgin Mary, by
equal portions
85 to be paid. And the first feast day pf payment thereof to begin that feast of
the feasts
86 aforesaid which shall first and next happen after my decease. **Item:** I will
and bequeath unto
87 Elizabeth, my third and youngest daughter, one hundred pounds of like
lawful English
88 money to be paid unto the said Elizabeth, by mine executor as aforesaid,
at her age of one

89 and twenty years. And if it happen that I decease before my said daughter,
Elizabeth,
90 shall accomplish and be of the said age of twenty one years, then my will
and mind is
91 that mine executor shall pay, or cause to be paid, unto the said Elizabeth,
my daughter, for
92 and towards her maintenance ten pounds by the year of like lawful English
money
93 until such time as she cometh to the said age of twenty one years, to be
paid quarterly
94 at four severall feast days in the year, that is to say, in the feast day of Saint
95 John the Baptist, Saint Michael the Archangel, the Nativity of our Lord god
and
96 the Anniversary of the Virgin Mary, yearly, by equal portions, to be paid.
The first
97 feast day pf payment thereof to begin at that feast of the feasts aforesaid
which shall
88 first and next happen after my decease. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto the
said Henry
89 Collyns, mine eldest son, all that my lease of the rectory or parsonage of
Shipbourne afore
90 said. To have and to hold the same withall and singular the glebe lands,
tenements, edifices

91 and buildings with the appurtenances, together with all tithes, oblations,
obventions,
92 emoluments and profits whatsoever unto the said rectory or parsonage
belonging or
93 appertaining unto the said Henry Collyns, my eldest son, and to his heirs
and assigns
94 for and during all the residue of those years yet to come and unexpired of,
in and to the same
95 and in as ample manner and form, to all and intent and purposes, as I now
have, or of right
96 ought to have and hold the same. Provided always, that if it happen my
said son,
97 Henry to decease before he accomplish and be of the age of one and
twenty years, then my
98 will and mind is that my said son Edward shall have and enjoy the said
lease of the
99 rectory or parsonage of Shipbourne in as large and ample manner as it is
before given
100 and bequeathed unto my said son Henry Collyns. The residue of all and
singular my
101 goods, cattell, chattells, debts, credits and rights whatsoever, not before
bequeathed nor

102 given I do freely give and bequeath unto the said Henry Collyns, mine
eldest son,
103 whom I do make and ordain my full and whole executor of this my present
testament and
104 last will, to see the same proved and my other legacies and funeral ?aight
and expenses in
105 all things well and truly discharged, satisfied, performed and paid. And I
do nominate, make
106 and appoint **my brother, Edward Collyns, my brother Francis Collyns, my
son-in-law,**
107 **John Combes and my kinsman, John Double,** to be supervisors and
overseers of this my testa-
108 ment and last will. And I will and bequeath to every of them ten shillings.
And also
109 I will that they, and every one of them, shall have their costs and charges
borne and allowed
110 by my said executor at all such times as they, or any of them, at the request
of my said executor
111 shall travail or take any pains in and about th'execution of this my present
testament
112 and last will or about any thing or things needful for or concerning the
performance
113 or probaton of the same or any thing therein contained.

This is the last

114 will of me the said Richard Collyns made and declared the day and year
first above written
115 concerning the giving, ordering and disposing of all and singular my lands,
tenements
116 and hereditaments whatsoever as followeth. **First** and principally I give,
will and bequeath,
117 unto the said Henry Collyns, mine eldest son, and to his heirs forever, all
those my houses,
118 edifices and buildings, lands, tenements, closes, meadows, pastures,
woods, waters and
119 ways and all other my rents, reversions and hereditaments whatsoever,
with th'appurtenances,
120 severally set, lying and being within the said parish of Shipbourne in the
said county
121 of Kent to have and to hold to all those my said houses, edifices and
buildings, lands, tenements,
122 closes, meadows, pastures, woods, waters and ways and all other my rents,
reversions and here=
123 ditaments whatsoever, with th'appurtenances in Shipbourne as aforesaid,
unto the said Henry
124 Collyns, my son, his heirs and assigns forever to the only proper use and
behoof of him,

125 the said Henry Collyns, my son, his heirs and assigns forever. **Also** I give,
will
126 ans bequeath unto the said Henry Collyns, mine eldest son, and to his heirs
forever, all
127 that my Manor Lordship **Dodmer** with the appurtenances within the parish
of
128 **Meopham** in the said county of Kent withall and singular the houses,
edifices and buil=
129 dings, lands, tenements, meadows, leasures¹⁴⁹, pastures, commons, waste
grounds, woods, water
130 ways, rents, reversions, service, courts, profits of courts, fees, wards,
marriages of these¹⁵⁰,
131 reliefs, heriot, fines, ameracements, liberties, privileges¹⁵¹ and all other
profits, commodities,
132 emoluments and hereditaments whatsoever unto the said manor or
lordship of Dodmer

149 leases?

150 marriages of wards?

151 spelt "priviledges"

133 belonging or in any wise appertaining. And also I, the said Richard
Collyns, do give and
134 bequeath unto the said Henry, mine eldest son, all other my lands and
tenements, wood and
135 water ways and hereditaments whatsoever with th'appurtenances
severally set, lying and
136 being in Meopham aforesaid, to have and to hold all the said Manor or
Lordship of
137 Dodmer with the appurtenances and all and singular other the premises
with their appurte=
138 nances whatsoever in Meopham aforesaid unto the said Henry Collyns, my
son, his heirs
139 and assigns forever to the only proper use and behoof of him, the said
Henry Collyns, my
140 son, his heirs and assigns forever. And furthermore, my very will and mind
is that the
141 the said Henry Collyns, my son, shall have, perceive and enjoy to him and
his heirs all those
142 my annuities and rent charges whatsoever to me given and granted by any
person or persons,
143 issuing and payable out of any lands or tenements within the said county
of Kent or

144 elsewhere. All which I do give and bequeath unto the said Henry Collyns,
my son, to
145 have and to hold all and every such the annuities and rent charges as
aforesaid unto
146 the said Henry Collyns, my son, his heirs and assigns, to his and their own
proper use
147 and behoof forevermore. **Item:** I give, will and bequeath unto my second
and youngest
148 son, Edward Collyns, and to his heirs forever, all that my capital messuage
or tenement
149 called **Workehouse** with the appurtenances situated, lying and being
within the parish of
150 **Wrotham** in the said county of Kent and all and singular other my edifices
and buildings,
151 lands, tenements, meadows, pastures, woods, waters and ways, rents,
reversions and
152 hereditaments whatsoever withall and singular th'appurtenances, severally
set, lying and being
153 within the said parish of Wrotham in the said county of Kent. All which I
late
154 bought and purchased to me and mine heirs of **my brother Edward Collyns,**
citizen and

155 **grocer of London.** To have and to hold all that the said messuage or
tenement called Workehouse
156 with the appurtenances in Wrotham and all and singular other the edifices
and buildings, lands,
157 tenements, meadows, pastures, woods, waters and ways, rents, reversions
and hereditaments
158 whatsoever with the appurtenances as aforesaid within the said parish of
Wrotham unto the
159 said Edward Collyns, my second and youngest son and to his heirs and
assigns forever, to the
160 only proper use and behoof of him the said Edward Collyns, my son, his
heirs and assigns
161 forever. Notwithstanding my very will and mind is that, if it happen that I
decease
162 before my said son Edward shall accomplish and attain unto the age of one
and twenty
163 years that then my will is that my said son Henry shall from time to time
take up and
164 receive all the farm and rent of and for the said premises with the
appurtenances for
165 to him, the said Edward given and bequeathed as aforesaid, with all other
duties and arrea

166 rages thereof whatsoever until such time as my said son Edward shall
accomplish and
167 be of the age of one and twenty years keeping the reparations and doing
no manner of
168 waste in or upon the premises or any part thereof and without making any
account
169 unto the said Edward for the receipt of the said rental, farm or arrearages of
rents
170 or any part thereof when he the said Edward shall accomplish the age of
twenty one
171 years or at any time before or after. Provided always notwithstanding and
my very
172 will and mind is that my said son Henry, or his assigns, shall have the
governance
173 and keeping of my said son Edward during his minority and shall maintain,
bring up
174 and keep the said Edward at school and to learning always and from time
to time
175 until he, the said Edward, shalbe of the age of twenty one years. And also
that he, the said
176 Henry, my son, shall find and provide for him, the said Edward, until the
said age of

177 twenty one years sufficient diet, boarding and apparell, books and all other
necessaries
178 whatsoever and shall always allow him money in his purse which shalbe
meet and suffi
179 cient for him according to his education at the only costs and charges of
him, the said
180 Henry or his assigns. And that he, the said Edward, shall not make any
account
181 to the said Henry for any thing which he, the said Henry hath laid out or
disbursed
182 for the said Edward towards his learning or bringing up when the said
Edward
183 shall accomplish the said age of twenty one years or at any time after. In
witness where
184 of unto this my present testament and last will, I, the said Richard Collyns,
have put my
185 seal and subscribed my hand to every leaf of the same yeven the day and
year first
186 above written. These being witness ?? Richard Collyns, J. Combes, **Oliver
Mylles¹⁵², Henry**

152 There was an Olyver Mylls in Shipbourne (\$332) having children between 1585 and 1594

- 187 **Collyns, weaver**¹⁵³, John Double, the mark of Oliver Milles, the mark of Henry Collyns, weaver,
188 **Robert Frenche**, the mark of Robert Frenche

The only witness who did not make a mark was John Combes and he probably wrote the will.

153 \$501 who wrote his will in 1614 but was probably about the same age as Richard

Francis Collyns, citizen and grocer of London

Francis Collyns was a wealthy citizen and grocer of London who, although still with some attachment to Shipbourne, lived in London and all his beneficiaries, whose relationship to him is not known, were Londoners. Francis Collyns was the youngest son of Henry (will 1588) and the brother of Richard (will 1596). Their brother Edward was also a citizen and grocer of London. In 1600 Francis owned Park meadows n Shipbourne which Henry left to his grandson Stephen and then to his son Francis if Stephen died without heirs.

This is another long will with Francis a rich man owning land in a number of different parishes including Shipbourne. His bequests start with:

- Joseph Fenton, citizen and barber chirurgion of London £40
 - Joseph's daughter Wynnick, who was Francis's goddaughter £10
 - Thomas Smith, citizen and barber chirurgion of London £20
 - Edmund Houghton, citizen and draper of London
- two leases of land in Shipbourne
lease of Park meadows (30 acres) in Shipbourne

Edmund Houghton was to be his executor and he was left all Francis's other leases and his goods and chattells and the tenement and lands called Willcocke with a large number of other parcels of land all in Shipbourne all of which he had

inherited from his father, Henry Collyns. Joseph Fenton and Thomas Smith were to be his supervisors. The will was written by Timothy Percival, scrivener.

Francis's Land

Francis left considerable amounts of land to two women:

- to Margaret Townesend, the daughter of John Hearne of the city of London, skinner, and the wife of John Townesend, gentleman, he left five parcels of land (24 acres) called Puckells in Howe (Hoo?) in Kent.
- to Anne Tailer, widow, daughter of James Sale, late of London, barber chirurgion deceased, he left, for the period of her life, a tenement, etc. in Hadlow, called Poulters alias Loughfrith with other parcels of land totalling about 55 acres.

Neither of these lands were previously mentioned although, in 1551, Francis's grandfather had left to his son Francis (this testator's uncle) land and tenements in Hadlow.

By a codicil to his will, the tenement, etc. left to Anne was to go to John Townesend and his wife Margaret who, within a year of Anne's death were to pay £100 to the mayor and those men of the city of London who were the governors of

Christ's Hospital “for and towards the relief of the poor children harboured in the said hospital”.

Francis gave two annuities to the church of Shipbourne for the use of the poor people there:

- £2 a year from two parcels of land, Yokeham and Jackett, in the parish of Gillingham
- £1 a year from a mansion house or inn called The Bull in the city of Rochester

These were to be administered by churchwardens and sidemen of the parish of Shipbourne who were to give them to those poor people “which do most need relief”. Again these Gillingham and Rochester were parishes not previously mentioned by the Collins.

The will was proved on 19th February 1601/2, practically two years after it was written with Edmond Houghton being appointed executor.

Will of Francis Collyns, citizen and grocer of London

written 13th February 1599/1600; codicil 26th February 1599/1600

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The thirteenth day
2 of February, one thousand, five hundred, ninety nine and in the two and
3 fortieth year of the
4 reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of
5 England, France
6 and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc, I, Francis Collyns, **citizen and grocer
of London**, for
7 divers good causes and considerations me especially moving, being weak
8 and feeble of body and
9 yet of good and perfect remembrance of mind, thanks be to god therefore,
do make and ordain
this my present testament and last will, in manner and form following:
First: I will and bequeath
my soul unto Almighty god, my maker and unto Jesus Christ, my saviour
and redeemer, And my
body to be buried at the discretion of my executor hereafter named. **Item:** I
will that

10 there shall be also bestowed, or given, unto the poor people inhabiting
within the City of London, at my burial,
11 in money forty shillings to be bestowed at the discretion of my said
executor. **Item:** I will that
12 there shall be also bestowed, or given, unto the poor people inhabiting
within the parish of **Shipbourne**,
13 in the county of Kent, within three months after my decease, in money ten
pounds, at the
14 like discretion of my said executor hereafter named. **Item:** I do give and
bequeath unto **Joseph**
15 **Fenton, citizen and barber chirurgion of London**, the sum of forty pounds of
lawful english
16 money to be paid unto him within one whole year next after my decease if
she¹⁵⁴ shall be then
17 living. **Item:** I do give and bequeath unto **Wynnich Fenton, my**
goddaughter (and daughter unto the
18 forsaid Joseph Fenton) the sum of ten pounds of lawful english money to
be paid unto
19 her within one whole year next after my decease, if she shall be then living.
Item: I do give

154 definitely "she", at least in the probate copy

20 and bequeath unto **Thomas Smith, citizen and barber chirurgion of**
21 **London**, the sum of twenty
22 pounds of lawful english money to be paid unto him, the said Thomas
23 Smith, his heirs, executors
24 administrators or assigns, or some of them, within one whole year next
25 after my decease. **Item:** I do give
26 and bequeath unto **Edmund Houghton, citizen and draper of London**, all
27 those my two leases whereof
28 th'one is of the lands called **Eylands**, otherwise now **Fieldwood** and
29 **Horselease**. And th'other is
30 of the **Great Court Mead** lying in Shipbourne aforesaid. To have and to
hold all those said
leases and lands, with their appurtenances, unto the said Edmund
Houghton, his executors and
assigns during the term of years which shall be thereof to come after my
decease. **Item:** I do give
and bequeath unto the said Edmund Houghton, all that my lease, interest
and term of years yet
to come which I have, or may have, in and to all those lands and grounds
now or late called the
Park, Park meadows, the bore and the little croft, as they lie together,
containing, by estimation, thirty

31 acres of land and wood with th'appurtenances, unto the said Edmund
Houghton, his executors
32 and assigns, during the term of years which shall be thereof to come after
my decease. The residue
33 of all my leases, goods and chattells, as well moveable as unmoveables,
and debts to me owing, I give
34 and bequeath unto the said Edmund Houghton, whom I do make and
ordain my sole and only
35 executor of this my last will and testament, to see the same proved, my
debts and legacies
36 paid and my body in decent manner brought to the earth. Also I do make
and ordain my
37 wellbeloved in Christ maister Joseph Fenton, citizen and barber chirurgion
of London, and
38 Thomas Smith, **citizen and barber chirurgion of London**, to be supervisors
of this my last
39 will and testament.

This is the last will and testament of me the fore
40 said Francis Collyns made and declared the day and year first before
written concerning th'order
41 and disposition of all my lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever.
Item: first I do give

42 and bequeath unto Edmund Houghton, afore named citizen and draper of
London, immediately
43 after my decease, all that my tenement and lands in Shipbourne aforesaid
in the said county
44 of Kent which I late had by the last will of **Henry Collyns, my father**
deceased, called **Willocke**
45 withall the edifices, houses and buildings thereunto belonging, one garden
two orchards and two
46 parcels of land thereunto adjoining called **Barne Field** and **Willox** together
lying under one
47 closure in Shipbourne aforesaid, three other parcels of land called
Meatfield, Hollowas Haugh and
48 the **Pightell** severally lying and being in Shipbourne aforesaid, three other
parcels of land and
49 meadow called **Roweland** with a way thereunto leading, together lying
under one closure in
50 Shipbourne aforesaid, and also all the lands which I hold in Shipbourne
aforesaid by virtue
51 of the last will of my said father Henry Collyns, deceased, called or known
by the names of
52 **Houldenes, Matters Broadfield and Kniles**, containing, by estimation, forty
and six acres. Also

53 one parcel of land called or known by the name of **Buxleaze** being in
Shipbourne aforesaid.

54 Also six other parcels of land whereof two of them are called **Renfields**, the
other **Spayge**

55 **Haugh, Spage Mead, The Strack** and little meade, in Shipbourne aforesaid.
To have and to hold

56 all and singular the said several parcels of land and ground, with their
appurtenances , and the

57 said tenement called Willox withall other the premises before mentioned
whatsoever, lying

58 and being within the said parish of Shipbourne aforesaid, withall and
singular their appur=

59 tenances thereunto belonging, unto the said Edmund Houghton, his heirs
and assigns.

60 To the only use and behoof of the said Edmund Houghton, his heirs and
assigns forever.

61 **Item:** I do give and bequeath unto **Margaret Townesend**, the daughter of
John Hearne of the

62 **city of London, skinner**, and now the **wife of John Townesend, gentleman**,
all those

63 five pieces or parcels of land called or known by the name of **Puckells**
containing, by

64 estimation, four and twenty acres, lying and being within the parish of
Howe¹⁵⁵ in the county
65 of Kent, to have and to hold all those forsaied five parcels of land, withall
and singular their
66 appurtenances, unto the foresaid Margaret Townesend, her heirs and
assigns forever. **Item:**
67 I do give and bequeath unto **Anne Tailer, widow, daughter of maister**
James Sale, late
68 **of London, barber chirurgion deceased,** all that my tenement and lands,
rents and
69 hereditaments in **Hadlow**, called or known by the name of **Poulters alias**
Loughfrith with
70 one barn and orchard. And also eight pieces or parcels of land thereunto
belonging con=
71 taining, by estimation, five and twenty acres. Also one meadow called or
known by the
72 name of **Cobham mead**. Also one lland¹⁵⁶ thereunto adjoining containing
together, by estimation,

155 Hoo?

156 definitely looks like "lland"

73 fifteen acres, To have and to hold all that tenement, lands, rents and
hereditaments
74 before mentioned whatsoever, lying and being within the parish of Hadlow
in the county of
75 Kent, withall and singular their appurtenances thereunto belonging unto
the foresaid Anne
76 Tailer, and her assigns, during her natural life, keeping the reparations and
doing no
77 wilful waste. **Item:** I do give and bequeath unto the **church of the parish of**
Shipbourne,
78 to and for the use of the poor people of the foresaid parish of Shipbourne,
two annuities
79 of three pounds a year, whereof forty shillings yearly issuing out of two
parcels of
80 land called **Yokeham and Jackett,** lying within the parish of **Gillingham** in
the county
81 of Kent and other twenty shillings issueth yearly out of the **mansion house**
or inn called
82 **The Bull** situated and being within the **city of Rochester** in the county of
Kent. To have and
83 to hold to all those foresaid two annuities of three pounds a year, withall
and singular their

84 appurtenances, unto the church of Shipbourne, to and for the use of the
poor people inhabiting
85 within the parish of Shipbourne in the county of Kent, in fee simple,
forever. **Item:** my will
86 and true meaning is that the churchwardens and sidesmen of the foresaid
parish of Shipbourne
87 shall bestow and give the rents or profits yearly arising of the foresaid
annuities unto
88 the poor people inhabiting within the parish of Shipbourne aforesaid which
do most need
89 relief, at the discretion of the churchwardens and sidemen of the foresaid
parish of Shipbourne
90 which shall be, from year to year, and so forever to continue. In witness
whereof, I, the
91 said Francis Collyns, citizen and grocer of London, have caused this my
present testament
92 and last will to be written in this paper book, containing four sheets of
paper, all written
93 upon one side, and to every leaf thereof I have subscribed my name with
my own hand
94 and set to my seal, being fixed through the top thereof, and also upon the
last sheet thereof.

95 And published and delivered the same as my deed and true meaning, the
day and year first
96 above written. By me Franic Collyns, grocer. Read, sealed, published and
delivered as the
97 act, deed and true meaning of me, the said Francis Collyns, the day and
year first before
98 mentioned in the presence and witness of us hereunder written. of me
Robert Thomas,
99 per me **Henry Wollaston,** per me **Thomas Burgess,** by me **Zachary Dowe,**
per me **James**
100 **Palmer, Timothy Percivall, scr.** Anno Domini one thousand, five hundred
101 ninety nine.

This codicil made the six and twentieth day of February, Anno
102 Domini one thousand, five hundred ninety nine and in the two and fortieth
year of the reign
103 of our sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth, etc. maketh mention of such
further legacies
104 gifts and bequests as I, Francis Collyns, citizen and grocer of London, have
hereafter
105 willed and bequeathed, that is to say, first, whereas in the former part of
this my will where
106 unto this codicil is annexed, I the foresaid Francis Collins have given and
bequeathed unto

107 Anne Tailer, widow, daughter of James Salle, late of London, surgeon
deceased, for and
108 during the term of her natural life, all that my tenement called by the name
of
109 Poulterers alias Loughfrith with one barn, one orchard and eight parcels of
land there
110 unto belonging containing in all, by estimation, twenty five acres, and one
meadow called
111 by the name of Cobham mead. And also one lland thereunto adjoining
containing, by
112 estimation, fifteen acres, all which premises are situated, lying and being
in the parish of
113 Hadlow within the county of Kent, **Item:** my will and mind is, And hereby I
do devise,
114 will and bequeath unto **John Townesend of Warwick, gentleman,** and unto
Margaret, his
115 **wife** and unto their heirs, the which said Margaret is daughter unto **John**
Hearne of
116 **London, skinner,** immediately after the decease of the foresaid Anne Tailer,
widow, all
117 the said tenement called Poulterers alias Loughfrith with the barn, orchard
and eight

118 parcels of land before mentioned thereunto belonging, containing, by
estimation, twenty five
119 acres, also the foresaid parcel of meadow ground commony called **Cobham
mead and**
120 **the foresaid** lland thereunto adjoining containing together, by estimation,
fifteen acres with
121 all and singular the appurtenances whatsoever to the said tenement and
premises in any wise
122 belonging, lying and being in the parish of Hadlow aforesaid, to have and
to hold all the before
123 named tenements, lands, rents and hereditaments, withall and singular
their appurtenances
124 in Hadlow before mentioned, immediately from and after the decease of
the foresaid Anne
125 Tailer, widow, unto the foresaid John Townesend of Warwick and unto
Margaret, his wife,
126 and unto their heirs and assigns forever, to the only use of the foresaid
John Townesend
127 and of Margaret, his wife, and of their heirs and assigns forever.
Conditionally and upon
128 condition that he, the foresaid John Townesend, or Margaret his wife or
their heirs or

129 assigns do, within one whole year next after the decease of the foresaid
Anne Tailer,
130 widow, well and truly pay, or cause to be paid, to the **mayor and Commalty**
of the
131 **city of London** which then shall be governors of the Hospital in London
commonly called
132 **Christs Hospital** or to their successors or assigns, the sum of one hundred
pounds of
133 good and lawful money of England, for and towards the relief of the poor
children
134 harboured in the said hospital. Provided always, that if the before named
John Townes=
135 end, or Margaret his wife or their heirs or assigns, do not pay the before
named
136 sum of one hundred pounds of good and lawful money of England, within
the time
137 before appointed to be paid to the mayor and Comminality which then shall
be governors
138 of the foresaid hospital, commonly called Christs Hospital, or to their
successors or assigns,
139 that then it shall be lawful for the mayor and Comminality which then shall
be

140 governors of the foresaid hospital and unto their successors or assigns, into
the foresaid
141 tenement in Hadlow called Poulterers alias Longfrith and unto all the lands
thereunto belonging,
142 and into the foresaid mead, called Cobham meade, with the land thereunto
adjoining, to enter and distrain and the
143 distresses then and there so found to bear, lead, drive, carry away,
impound and withhold
144 until the foresaid sum of one hundred pounds of good and lawfl money of
England, or
145 any part or parcel thereof, be fully satisfied, contented and paid, withall
costs and charges
146 spent in law about the recovery of the said hundred pounds or any part
thereof, if any
147 chance to be. In witness that this present codicil is part and parcel of my
last will and testament,
148 I have annexed the same thereunto and written all this said codicil with
my own hand, pronon=
149 uncing and declaring that this present codicil shall be taken and deemed,
to all intent and purposes,
150 as part and parcel of my said last will and testament and have to the same
codicil, containing

151 two sheets of paper, subscribed my name to either sheet and set my seal at
th'end hereof
152 and published this present codicil as part and parcel of my said last will
and testament, the day
153 and year first before written within this codicil, in the presence of these
witnesses hereunder
154 named. By me, Francis Collyns, grocer. Read, sealed, published and
delivered as the act, deed
155 and true meaning of me, the said Francis Collyns, the the day and year first
before mentioned, in
156 the presence and witness of the hereunder written, By me **Zachary Dowe**,
by me **Michael**
157 **Wike**, by me **Leonard Mountain** and me **Thomas Doughty**.

More Henry Collyns

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|------|-------------|--------|------------------|---|------------|---|-------------|--|
| | | \$13 | Henry | - | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | \$501 | | \$502 | | \$143 | | \$227 | | \$23 | |
| | Henry | - | Elizabeth | | John | - | Thomas | - | William | |
| <i>bap:</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>mar:</i> | 13 Sep 1573 | | | | see page 2.c.316 | | | | | |
| <i>bur:</i> | 19 Apr 1625 | | 22 Mar 1589 | | | | | | 2 Feb 1562 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | \$107 | | \$1296 | | \$268 | | \$229 | | \$349 | |
| | Elizabeth | | Henry | - | Dorothy | | Susan | | Richard | |
| <i>bap:</i> | 4 Mar 1576 | | 14 May 1578 | | 28 Apr 1583 | | 5 Aug 1582 | | 23 Jan 1586 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| | \$1298 | | \$1299 | | \$1548 | | | | | |
| | Dorothy | | Henry | - | Francis (son) | | | | | |
| <i>bap:</i> | 23 Jul 1620 | | 2 Jun 1623 | | 19 Dec 1630 | | | | | |
| <i>bur:</i> | 26 Sep 1621 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>bap:</i> | | | Marie | \$2064 | | | | | | |
| | | | 13 Nov 1646 | | | | | | | |

Whereas the family trees shown earlier were built up from the surviving wills, this one and those following are based on the parish records. Henry, John and Thomas are shown as brothers, the sons of \$13 only, because they were probably all born between 1548 and 1558. William (\$23) was the son of a Henry Collyns.

The Henry Collyns who was buried in April 1625 was Henry senior and is taken as \$501 when his son, Henry would have been Henry, junior. By 1646, when Marie was baptised, her father was Henry, junior. This implies that \$1296 was still alive in 1646 when he would have been sixty-eight.

\$501 was described as a weaver when his children were baptised. Could he have been the weaver of Wrotham whose will, written in 1614 and proved in 1625, has survived?. But the testator mentioned only his wife, Alice - see page 2.c.321.

The Family of John Collyns

| | | | | | | | |
|------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|--|
| | \$143 | John | - | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | ----- | | | | | | |
| | \$145 | \$146 | \$247 | \$248 | | | |
| | Stephen | Elizabeth | John | - | Marie | | |
| bap: | 9 Nov 1578 | 30 Jul 1580 | 6 Jan 1583 | | 8 Nov 1584 | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | ----- | | | | | | |
| | \$1645 | \$1646 | \$1067 | \$1231 | \$1304 | | |
| | John | - Elizabeth Rawlinson | Dorothy | Margaret | Henry | | |
| bap: | | | 17 May 1613 | 18 Jan 1618 | 26 Oct 1623 | | |
| mar: | 9 May 1635 | | | | | | |
| bur: | | | | | 24 Sep 1625 | | |
| | | \$1066 | \$1068 | \$1303 | | \$1305 | |
| | | Nicholas | Alice | Katherine | | Anne | |
| bap | | 20 Apr 1612 | 6 Jan 1615 | 13 Aug 1620 | | 4 Dec 1625 | |
| bur: | | | 24 Aug 1621 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | ----- | | | | | | |
| | \$1647 | \$1649 | \$1768 | \$1650 | \$1651 | | |
| | John | Jane | William | Henry | Anne | | |
| bap: | 20 Mar 1636 | | 1 Jan 1640 | 13 Oct 1644 | | | |
| bur: | | 2 Sep 1638 | 25 Jul 1648 | | twins | | |
| | \$1648 | | | \$1654 | \$2093 | | |
| | Thomas | | | Mathew | Elizabeth | | |
| bap: | 30 Jun 1637 | | | 26 Sep 1642 | 23 May 1647 | | |

John Collins, labourer of Shipbourne/West Peckham

At the March 1648 Assizes there were three entries which included John Collins, labourer¹⁵⁷.

Entry 2563

The first was the was the indictment of **John Collins of Shipbourne**, labourer, for grand larceny. On 18th January 1648, at Hadlow, he stole a grey mare (£7) from Robert Greenaway. This indictment was endorsed as a true bill by Robert Greenaway and Jasper Jessop.

He was also accused of burgling the house of William Peirce at Hadlow on 1st January 1648, stealing a gun (£1). This was endorsed as a true bill by William Peirce.

Collins was found guilty on the first count and sentenced to hang.

157 Cockburn (Chas.I); 2563, 2564, 2575

Entry 2564

The second was the indictment of **John Collins and John Dennis**, labourers of **West Peckham**, for grand larceny. On 7th February 1648, at West Peckham, they stole a grey mare (£8) from George Lansdell.

John Gerrard of Ash, labourer, was indicted as an accessory.

Endorsed as a true bill by George Lansdell and Thomas Ducke.

On 18th January 1648, at Hadlow, Dennis stole a bay mare (£4) from Thomas Ducke. This was endorsed as a true bill by Thomas Ducke and George Lansdell.

Collins and Dennis were found guilty and sentenced to hang.

Entry 2575

John Gerrard of Ash, labourer, was indicted as an accessory to grand larceny. On 7th February 1648 he received and comforted John Collins and John Dennis, labourers of West Peckham, who were convicted at this assizes of stealing a grey mare (£8) from George Lansdell.

This was again endorsed as a true bill by George Lansdell and Thomas Ducke but Gerrard was found not guilty.

According to entry 2575, Gerrard received Collins and Dennis a month before the Assizes at which they were convicted.

Shipbourne, Hadlow and West Peckham are three adjoining parishes.

Mares & Geldings - Valuable Animals

The mares stolen by Collins and Dennis were all valuable animals:

| | | | | | |
|-----------|----|-----------|----|----------|-----|
| grey mare | £7 | grey mare | £8 | bay mare | £4. |
|-----------|----|-----------|----|----------|-----|

Other mares stolen between 1647 and 1648 were valued at:

| | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|-----------|----|
| piebald mare | £8 | roan-grey mare | £8 | roan mare | £8 |
| grey mare | £3, £4.40 | black mare | £4.50, £8 | | |
| dun mare | £5 | brown-bay mare | £3 | | |

Geldings (a castrated horse) were more valuable still:

| | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-----------|----------------|-------|-------|
| black-brown | £9 | bay | £10, £4, £5.50 | black | £3.25 |
| white | £10 | iron-grey | £10.40 | grey | £10 |

The average value of a mare is just under £6, that of a gelding about £7.25.

Thomas & Walter Collyns

Thomas Collyns (\$750) had three daughters baptised in the 1600s:

- Elizabeth \$752 13 Feb 1603
- Jeane \$753 3 Feb 1605
- Mildred \$754 15 May 1607.

Walter Collyns (\$1591) had two daughters baptised in the 1630s:

- Sarah \$1593 3 Feb 1633
- Margaret \$1595 17 Dec 1634

Elizabeth (\$1594) “**daughter of Gualter Collyns, clerk**” was buried on 14th September 1633. Gualter could be a variation on the name Walter in which case, Elizabeth must have been born before Sarah.

The Collyns of Roughey

William (\$106), son of **Henry Collyns of Roughey** baptised on 8th April 1573.

Sixty-five years later, on 17th July 1638, **Stephen** (\$1742), son of **Stephen Collyns of Roughey** (\$1740) was baptised. The only other Stephen mentioned is the son of John (#143) baptised in 1578.

Henry Collyns, weaver of Wrotham

Henry gives as one of the reasons for writing his will his desire that his “loving wife (who hath taken pains to help save that little goods which I have gotten) should enjoy the same after my decease”. In order that this should happen, he makes her his executrix leaving her everything except the 3s 4d left to the poor “resorting to his burial”. His will was proved at the PCC in London although he does not mention any land.

The testator mentions only his wife, Alice. Although the will was written in 1614, it was not proved until 1625. Henry Collyns, senior, was buried, in Shipbourne on 19th April 1625. If Henry, senior, was the testator, why did he not mention his son in his will?

The **Alice Collyns** (\$1389), widow, buried on 1st August 1625, could have been the weaver's widow.

One of the witnesses in 1596 to the will of Richard Collyn of Shipbourne was Henry Collyns, weaver.

Nicolas Hooper's
mark

1 In the name of god Amen. The eighth day of May in the
2 year of our lord God one thousand, six hundred and fourteen. And
3 in the twelfth year of the reign of our sovereign lord James, by
4 the grace of God, king of England, France and Ireland, defender of
5 the faith, etc. And of Scotland the seven and fortieth. I,
6 Henry Collyns of Wrotham in the county of Kent, **weaver**, being
7 at the time of making hereof in perfect health both of body and mind,
8 notwithstanding aged and subject to death, not knowing how soon it
9 may please God to call me¹⁵⁸, And willing that my loving wife (who
10 hath taken pains to help save that little goods which I have gotten)
11 should enjoy the same after my decease, Therefore I do ordain and

158 "mee"; double "ee" throughout except for "being" on line 6

12 make this my last will in manner following¹⁵⁹: **First:** I bequeath my
13 soul to my lord God whom (I trust through the merits of his
14 dear son, Jesus Christ) will receive the same to his most merciful
15 probation. And my body to the earth to be buried in the churchyard
16 of Wrotham aforesaid in sure and certain hope of a joyful resurrection
17 to life eternal. **Item:** I give and bequeath to the poor of the
18 parish of Wrotham resorting to my burial 3s 4d.
19 And all the residue of my goods and cattells, debts, credits and
20 chattells and all other my moveable goods whatsoever, I wholly, fully
21 and with good effect, intent and purpose, give and bequeath to **Alice,**
22 **my wellbeloved wife**, which Alice, my wife, I make and ordain my
23 full and sole executrix of this my will, to see the same proved, my debts
24 paid and my body honestly and decently buried. In witness
25 whereof, to this my last will, I, the said Henry Collyns, hath set my
26 hand and seal yeven the day and year first above written.

Nicolas Hooper's
mark
with initials

signed ¹⁶⁰ Hen:
Collyn

Read, Sealed and acknowledged
by the above named Henry Collyn
as his true and last will in the
presence of me, **Nicholas Hooper, sen, writer**

John Goodwyn and

Henry Hooper¹⁶¹

160 mark like a parallelogram

161 no Henry Hooper otherwise recorded

William Collyns of Tonbridge

William's will (CKS: Dr/Pw 29; Drb/Pwr 22.60) was written, on 1st April 1633, by John Hooper, notary public. and parish clerk of Tonbridge who wrote a large number of wills for people in Tonbridge and the neighbouring parishes.

Others which have survived from Tonbridge and the neighbourhood are:

| | | | Drb/Prw | Drb/Pw | |
|-------------------------------|------------|-------|-----------------|---------|---------------|
| Roger Collyns | Tonbridge | 1549p | CKS: 11.69; | 3 | |
| John Collyns | Leigh | 1585p | CKS: 17.16; | 14 | |
| Thomas Collyns ¹⁶² | Tonbridge | 1590p | CKS: 17.431; | 15 | mercier |
| Margaret Collyns | Speldhurst | 1595p | CKS: 18.440; | 17 | widow of John |
| Jane Collyns | Tudeley | 1615p | CKS: | 23 | widow |
| Nicholas Collyns | Tonbridge | 1642p | CKS: 19IIB.172; | Dra/Pw1 | |

1 In the name of god Amen. I, William Collyns of
2 Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, aged and
3 weak in body but of perfect and good memory and understanding,
4 do ordain and make this my testament and last
5 will in manner and form following: I will that **Mary**
6 **Maisters, my daughter, lately the wife of William**
7 **Maisters, late of Limpsfield in Surrey**, deceased, shall
8 have all my goods and chattels whatsoever. And
9 that she shall be the executrix of this my testament
10 and last will, to see the same proved, my debts paid
11 and my body decently brought to the earth.
12 And as touching my lands and tenements in **Speldhurst**
13 or elsewhere in the county of Kent, I will that the
14 said Mary, my daughter, her executors and assigns,
15 shall have and hold the same and receive, take and
16 enjoy the issues, rents and profits thereof for, by
17 and during the full term of twenty years next
18 after my decease. And the fee simple thereof after
19 the end of the said twenty years, I will to **Richard**

20 **Collyns, my son**, his heirs and assigns forever.
21 In witness whereof I, the said William Collyns, have
22 to this my testament and last will set my hand
23 and seal the first day of April in the ninth
24 year of the reign of our sovereign lord Charles,
25 by the grace of God, king of England, Scotland,
26 France and Ireland, defender of the faith, A D 1633.

Read, sealed, published
and declared in the presence

Thomas Brigg
Marie M Brokebank
John Hooper, sen.

the mark of

X
William Collyns

The Collyns of West Peckham

| | written | Drb/Pwr; Drb/Pw | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Robert Collyns | 17 th March 1557 | CKS: 12.85; 5 | page 2.c.328 |
| John Collyns | 27 th April 1583 | CKS: 16.220; 14 | page 2.c.331 |
| Jonas Collyns | proved 1598 | CKS: 19I.21; 18 | yeoman |
| Thomas Collyns, (senior) | proved 1607 | CKS: 20 | yeoman |

Only the first two of these four Collyn wills from West Peckham have been transcribed. Robert mentions only one son, Thomas, and there is no obvious connection between the two testators nor with the Collyns from other parishes.

The Will of Robert Collyns of West Peckham

written 17th March 1557

transcript from original

- 1 In the name of God Amen. The 17th day of March? in the year of our lord god a thousand, five hundred
- 2 fifty and seven, I Robert Colley of West Peckham within the diocese of Rochester and in the county

3 of Kent, being¹⁶³ n my perfect memory, praising my lord, and therefore **do**
4 **make this** my present testament
5 containing therein my last will in manner and form ensuing **First and**
6 **principally** I bequeath
7 my soul unto Almighty God, my creator and redeemer and to our blessed
8 lady, the virgin saint Mary
9 and all the ?? company in heaven and my body to be¹⁶⁴ buried in the
10 churchyard of West
11 Peckham aforesaid. **Item:** I bequeath unto the high altar of the church of
12 West Peckham aforesaid
13 12d. **Item:** I bequeath to be bestowed at my burial by mine executor
14 amongst poor people 3s 4d.
15 And I will my said executor shall bestow at my burial in such deeds of
16 charity such
17 money as he shall think well? spent ?? ?? The rest
18 ?? ?? and moveables, my debts paid, I will and bequeath unto
19 **Thomas**
20 **Collyns, my son**, whom I make and ordain my sole executor. And also I do
21 make **Constance?** and

163 "beyng", "praysyng", on line 4: "contaynyng", "ensuyng"

164 "bee"

13 ?? ?? ?? my daughter ?? ?? my present testament ?? ??
 14 this ?? ??
 15 In witness thereof **Walter ??** and **John Fosthet?**

John Collyns of West Peckham

John mentions three sons in his will, four married daughters and one unmarried daughter.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|------------|--|----------------|--|-----------|-----------|--------|--------|-------|------------|--------------------|--------|
| <i>will:</i> | | | | | | | | | | | e12 ¹⁶⁵ | John - |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 27 Apr | 1583 |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| e24 | e17 | | e19 | | e26 | e21 | e20 | e28 | e15 | e23 | | |
| John | Alice - ?? | | Elizabeth - ?? | | Richard - | Margery - | James | Robert | Agnes | Johan - ?? | | |
| | Dallie | | Cheeseman | | | | Sybbly | | | Longley | | |
| | | | | | | | e25 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | children | Jane | | | | | |

His will was written by Thomas Brande who did not write any of the other wills investigated.

1 In the name of God Amen. The 27th
2 day of April Anno Dm 1583 and in the 25th year of the
3 reign of our sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of god,
4 Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith,
5 etc. I, John Collin of the parish of West Peckham in the
6 county of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick in body but in good and
7 perfect remembrance, thanks be given to almighty god, therefore
8 do make and ordain this to be my last will and testament in
9 manner and form following, that is to say, **First** and principally
10 I bequeath my soul into the hands of almighty god, my

page 2:

11 maker and redeemer, and my body to be buried within the churchyard of
12 the parish
13 of West Peckham aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **John Collyn,**
14 **my**
15 **son**, and to his heirs forever, my two tenements, withall my lands lying
16 within the parishes of West Peckham and **Wrotham** or elsewhere. **Item:** I
will

15 and bequeath unto **Elizabeth Cheeseman, my daughter**, or to her heirs,
16 eight
17 pounds of good and lawful money of England, the same to be paid by my
18 son John, or his heirs, within two years next after my decease, half yearly
19 by equal portions. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Agnes Collin, my**
20 **daughter**,
21 six pounds of lawful money of England, the same to be paid by my son,
22 John, within four years next after my decease half yearly by equal portions.
23 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Robert Collin, my son**, or to his heirs, six
24 pounds of lawful money of England, the same to be paid by my
25 son, John, within six years next after my decease half yearly by equal
26 portions.. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Johan Longley, my daughter**, or
27 to her heirs, twenty shillings of lawful money of England. **Item:** I will
28 and bequeath unto the children of **my son Richard Collyn** twenty
29 shillings of lawful money of England, equally to be divided among them.
30 And the same two several sums aforesaid to be paid by **James Sybbly**
31 **my son-in-law**, or his heirs, within one year and a half next after
32 my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto Agnes Collyn, my daughter,
33 one flockbed, two pights, one blanket, two flock pillows, one bedstead
34 and two pairs of sheets. **Item:** I give her more one gridiron, one brass
35 cauldron, one cupboard, one cobiron, one pair of tongs and a fire shovell.
Item: I give and bequeath unto **Alice Dallie, my daughter**, one hanging
kettle and two pairs of sheets. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Margery**

36 **Sybbly, my daughter**, one brass pot. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
37 **Jane Sybbly, my daughter's daughter**, one featherbed, one flock
38 bolster, two pillows with feathers, one pight and two blankets.
39 **Item:** I will her more one stupnett of brass, all these things aforesaid
40 to be delivered by mine executor presently after my decease unto James
41 Sybbly, my son-in-law, unto the use of the said Jane.
42 **Item:** I give unto **Abraham Nash** one table with a form. All the¹⁶⁶
43 residue of his goods whatsoever known to be his at the hour of his
44 death being unbequeathed, he gave them wholly unto John Collin, his
45 son, whom he did make his full and whole executor of this my
46 last will and testament. The same John discharging his ??
47 and paying his bequests in such manner and form as is aforesaid.
48 Witnesses hereunto **Richard Salmon, Steven Lorkin and Thomas**
49 **Brande**, the writer hereof with others.

Alexander Collyns of Penshurst

At the March 1627 Assizes the theft from Alexander Collyns of a large amount of cloth was recorded.

William White *alias* **Cherrey** of Penshurst, labourer, was indicted for grand larceny On 14th November 1626, at Penshurst he stole 40 yds of cloth (£4 6s), 30 yds of kersey ((£4 10s), 10 yds of fustian (£1), 9 yds of serge (26s), 11 yds of say (26s 6d), 20 yds of lockram (11s), 18yds of three-quarter cloth (9s), 22 yds of linsey-woolsey (30s) and 30 oz, of silk lace (£3) from Alexander Collyns.

Walter Weekes, labourer, and **Agnes Walker**, widow, also of Penshurst were indicted as accessories.

The indictment was endorsed as a true bill by Alexander Collyns, Richard Hilder and Henry Beecher.

White claimed benefit of clergy but was unable to read and was sentenced to hang; the accessories were found not guilty.¹⁶⁷

The various types of cloth stolen from Alexander Collyns

| type of cloth | amount | value | per/yard |
|---|--------|----------|----------|
| cloth | 40 yds | £4 6s | 10.75p |
| kersey: a coarse woollen cloth | 30 yds | £4 10s | 15p |
| fustian: a coarse twilled cotton fabric | 10 yds | £1 | 10p |
| serge: a strong twilled fabric | 9 yds | £1 6s | 14.4p |
| say: a woollen fabric like serge | 11 yds | £1 6s 6d | 12p |
| lockram: a coarse linen | 20 yds | 11s | 2.75p |
| three-quarter cloth | 18 yds | 9s | 2.5p |
| linsey-woolsey: a thin coarse material made of linen and wool | 22 yds | £1 10s | 6.8p |
| silk lace | 30 oz. | £3 | 30p/oz. |

twill - a woven fabric showing diagonal lines

A year earlier two lengths of hempen cloth had been stolen from Walter Woodgate of Penshurst; these had been valued at 4.7p and 6.7p per yard - see [Penshurst, Charles I Assizes in Section Z of More Families & Transcripts](#).

Stephen Collyns of Biddenden

Stephen Collyns (or Collyn) of Biddenden, a tanner, is known only from his misdemeanours for which he was found guilty and sentenced to hang¹⁶⁸

At the July 1565 Assizes he was indicted for grand larceny:

- on 20th October 1564 he broke into the close of **William Wygsell** at Kemsing and stole a grey mare (£3)
- on 6th November 1564, at Biddenden, he stole 2 oxen (£4) from Richard Wekes.
- on 30th November 1564, at Biddenden, he stole a brown-bay mare (40s) from Catherine Burges.
- also on 30th November 1564, he broke into the close of Thomas Turte at Brenchley and stole 4 heifers (£6)
- on 29th March 1565, he broke into the close of Edmond Roberts at Hawkhurst and stole 2 cows (£3) and 2 calves (10s).

It was also recorded that, at the Maidstone sessions held on 24th April 1565, before a number of JPs, a grand jury presented, that on 21st December 1564 Collyn broke into the close of Elizabeth Rytche at Yalding and stole 2 mares (£3).

William Colman, Blacksmith of Ightham

During **Wyatt's rebellion** in 1554 against the proposed marriage of Queen Mary with Philip of Spain, Wyatt's troops suffered a defeat at Blacksole field near Wrotham. **William Colman, a blacksmith of Ightham**, made a deposition saying that **William Isley** came to his shop two hours before daylight to have his horse shod and tried to encourage the men of Ightham to join the rebels.¹⁶⁹

The Colvyns of Ightham

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M | C | Died |
|---------|---|-------------|---------|--------|---|---|-------------|
| i1489 | <u>COLVYN, Richard</u> ----- | | | | 1 | 6 | |
| • i1491 | <u>Colvyn, Margaret</u> | 8 Feb 1590 | twin | | 0 | 0 | 23 Feb 1590 |
| • i1492 | <u>Colvyn, Alice</u> | 8 Feb 1590 | twin | | 0 | 0 | 23 Feb 1590 |
| | Margaret and Alice died within three weeks of birth; were recorded just as the "daughters of -- Colvyn" | | | | | | |
| • i1493 | <u>COLVYN, James</u> | 19 Mar 1592 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • i1494 | <u>Colvyn, Marie</u> | 10 Mar 1594 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • i1495 | <u>Colvyn, Alice</u> | 18 Mar 1599 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • i1496 | <u>COLVYN, Francis</u> | 14 Dec 1600 | | | 0 | 0 | |

The Court held on 5th April 1592 found that the wives of **William Millis**¹⁷⁰ (i1100) **John Finche** (i903) and Richard Colvyn were "[common breakers and spoilers of](#)

170 see [Millis in More Families & Transcripts](#)

hedges of their neighbours within this View and that with the known permission of their husbands" who were fined 12d each. (CRI 1937, p.217). This Court was held 2½ weeks after James was baptised.

On 11th October 1592, **William Chownings** (i1300) was brought before the Court for having received and taken care of Richard Colvyn and his wife; this was seven months after the baptism of James. Were the couple befriended by William the parents of the above children and the Colvyns charged with being spoilers of hedges?

The Combes of Shipbourne

The will of **Susan Combes, widow**, of Shipbourne (CKS: Drb/Pw 28, Drb/Pwr 21.379) has survived but it has not been investigated. Susan was buried on 27 July 1629 and the will proved in 1629.

She and her husband **John Combes (\$583)** had two daughters baptised in Shipbourne:

| | | | |
|-------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| \$585 | Katherine | baptised: | 14 May 1593 |
| \$659 | Elizabeth | | 27 Jul 1600 |

The *Combridges* of Chiddingstone and Penshurst

A number of wills have survived for the Combridges of Chiddingstone and Penshurst:

Penshurst:

| | written | proved | | |
|---------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Robert Combridge | 21 Feb 1597/8 | 14 Apr 1598 | PCC: Lewyn 31; Prob 11/91 | page 2.c.348 |
| Olyver Combridge | 4 Sep 1610 | 7 Jun 1615 | CKS: Prs/w/3/133 | page 2.c.357 |
| Elizabeth Combridge | 17 Sep 1623 | 4 Oct 1623 | PCC: Swann 101; Prob 11/142 | page 2.c.375 |
| Anthony Combridge | 1 May 1623 | 1 May 1637 | PCC: Goare 80; Prob 11/174 | page 2.c.385 |

Chiddingstone:

| | | | | |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Andrew Combridge | 31 Mar 1619 | Nov 1624 | PCC: Bryde 104; Prob 11/144 | page 2.c.408 |
| Joan Combridge | 2 Jul 1634 | 17 Nov 1637 | PCC: Goare 142; Prob 11/175 | page 2.c.422 |

Elizabeth was the widow of Olyver and Joan the widow of Andrew.

The will of Olyver Combridge was written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618. The original of this will has survived so that the decorated letters which Nicholas Hooper often included in his wills can be seen and also the alterations. The will of his wife, Elizabeth, was written by Robert Marchant. The original of this has not been found.

Nicholas's son, John, who was a notary public and parish clerk of Tonbridge, wrote the will of Anthony Combridge in 1623 but the original has not been found. It is a long and complicated will, obviously written by someone who had specialised legal knowledge and the additional work which would follow on when the will came to be executed is obvious. One case is an annuity given to Robert Ashdowne who is then to give his sister and two brothers £30 at the same time giving them an acquittance to sign, drawn up at his cost, and "[subscribed and witnessed by honest persons or neighbours](#)". Robert is then to show Anthony's executor the acquittance who will then give him the evidences, etc. for the annuity. John Hooper was also one of the supervisors or overseers to the will which is quite explicit that the forty shillings there were to receive was definitely in addition to "[their charges to be laid out about any business or travel . . . to be undertaken or sustained](#)".

The Combridge Family

From the details given in the wills and the parish records it is possible to assemble a complex family tree. Anthony and Olyver were brothers but, although they had a brother Andrew he was not the testator of the will of 1619 since Olyver mentions his nephew and nieces, children of his brother Andrew whilst Andrew the testator just had one daughter, Joan.

Robert was a very popular name in the Combridge family and there are problems deciding which one is referred to in a number of instances.. Olyver and Anthony had a brother Robert but so also did Andrew, the testator of 1619. Andrew mentions in his will the children of his brother Robert whose names match those of the children of the testator of 1598.

Two Elizabeths, daughters of Robert Combridge were baptised in 1590:

- on 16th February 1590; “daughter of Robert Combridge, senior”
- on 5th December 1590, “daughter of Robert Combridge, deceased”

Robert Combridge, junior; was buried in August 1590 and must therefore have been the father of the Elizabeth baptised in December. Robert Combridge, senior, was thus the father of the Elizabeth baptised in February and the testator of 1598 who had a daughter Elizabeth and other children whose baptisms were also recorded in the parish register. The testator was definitely the father of these children born in the 1590s since he mentions in his will that his wife was pregnant.

Who, therefore, in 1590 was Robert, junior? In February 1590, the father of the Elizabeth baptised in December was still alive. These two Roberts could have been cousins and it seems that the descriptions “senior” and “junior” were being

used to differentiate between two cousins rather than the more usual father and son.

The following diagram shows the relationships obtained from the wills and parish records, the fathers of each family could have been brothers.

| | |
|---|---|
| <p><i>bur:</i> </p> <p>-----</p> <p>p630¹⁷¹ x785 </p> <p>Robert Andrew</p> <p><i>bap:</i></p> <p><i>will:</i> 21 Feb 1598 21 May 1619</p> <p><i>bur:</i></p> <p><i>proved:</i></p> <p style="color: orange;">Andrew of Chiddingstone mentions Robert's children</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Robert - 16 Jan 1584 </p> <p>-----</p> <p>p637 p640 p661 p662 </p> <p>Robert Olyver Anthony Andrew</p> <p>28 Nov 1563 15 Feb 1568</p> <p>4 Sep 1610</p> <p>3 Aug 1590 29 May 1615 14 Mar 1637 <May 1623</p> <p>7 Jun 1615 1 May 1637 -----</p> <p style="color: orange;">mentions his bro. Anthony and father Robert</p> <p style="color: orange;">mentions children of his brother Andrew and daughter of his brother Robert</p> |
|---|---|

Olyver, in 1610, mentions his father Robert Combridge, deceased. Robert Combridge, senior, was buried in Penshurst on 16th January 1583/4; was he the father of Anthony, Olyver, Andrew and Robert?

171 p indicates a reference in the Penshurst database, x a reference in the miscellaneous database which includes Chiddingstone

The baptisms of Olyver and his brother Andrew were recorded and from the baptisms of their children, it is likely that all six were born between 1560 and 1568. The two Roberts died in their thirties and Andrew of Chiddingstone is the only one to have lived into his late fifties, perhaps just reaching sixty.

In the trees which follow, where a person is mentioned in one or more of the wills, this is indicated by a superscript:

- r.^r mentioned in Robert's will of 1598
- o.^o mentioned in Olyver's will of 1610
- a.^a mentioned in Andrew's will of 1619
- e.^e mentioned in Elizabeth's will of 1623
- y.^y mentioned in Anthony's will of 1623
- j.^j mentioned in Joane's will of 1634

Robert Combridge, died 1598

The testator of 1598 had four young children and his wife, Elizabeth, whom he made his executrix, was pregnant. Mary was baptised four months after Robert's death so that his son, another Robert, was his sole male heir and, as such, inherited all of his land. The baptisms of the four children he mentioned in his will were recorded in the 1590s. As mentioned above he was Robert, senior, when his daughter Elizabeth was baptised in 1590.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--|--------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| | | p630 ¹⁷² | Robert ¹⁷³ | - Elizabeth ^r | p631 | | | | |
| <i>will:</i> | | 21 Feb 1598 | | | | | | | |
| <i>bur:</i> | | 26 Feb 1598 | | | | | | | |
| | | ----- | | | | | | | |
| | p632 | | p633 | | p634 | | p635 | | p636 |
| | Elizabeth ^{ary} ¹⁷⁴ | | Jone ^r | | Robert ^{ar} | | Anna ^{ar} | | Mary ^a ¹⁷⁵ |
| <i>bap:</i> | 6 Dec 1590 | | 25 Oct 1591 | | 3 Mar 1594 | | 14 Mar 1596 | | 18 Jun 1598 |

-
- 172 p indicates a reference in the Penshurst database
 - 173 "senior" when daughter Elizabeth was baptised and also when buried; Andrew, the testator of 1619, left money to his brother Robert's children, Elizabeth, Robert, Anne and Mary but not Jone who had presumably died before 1619. Andrew does not mention that his brother Robert had died but since the children mentioned agree, Andrew's brother must have been this Robert.
 - 174 in Anthony's will of 1623 she was Elizabeth Simons and had some children.
 - 175 born posthumously

Robert's wife, Elizabeth was left with four, soon to be five, young children but Robert owned a considerable amount of land in Kent and Sussex and was able to leave £20 to each of his three daughters. His lands were left to his wife "in consideration of her charges bringing up of my children" until Robert was twenty-one which would not be until 1615. In the meantime Elizabeth was to keep the "said housing wind tight and water tight" and commit no "strip or waste". When a wife inherited property it was common to instruct her to keep it in good repair and not to indulge in any strip or waste but instructions to keep the house wind tight and water tight was most unusual.

If the child which Elizabeth "now goeth withall" was a boy, he was to have all his father's lands in Kent (presumably leaving all those in Sussex for Robert) but, if a girl, she was to have £20 like her older sisters.

Will of Robert Combridge of Penshurst

written 21st February 1597/8
transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The one and twentieth day of
2 February one thousand five hundred ninety seven, I, Robert Combridge of
3 Penshurst in the county of Kent being sick in body but in good and perfect

4 remembrance, thanks be to Almighty God, therefore do make this my
present
5 testament and last will in manner and form following: **First:** I bequeath my
6 soul into the hands of Almighty God, my creator, redeemer and saviour, my
7 body to be buried in the church yard of Penshurst aforesaid. **Item:** I
bequeath unto
8 **Robert Combridge, my son,** my bed that I now lie in with all that belongeth
to the
9 same bed, my great cauldron, a chafing dish and my great trivet. Also I
10 bequeath unto **Elizabeth, Joan and Anne, my three daughters,** twenty
pounds a piece
11 of good and lawful money of England to be paid unto them at their full
ages of
12 one and twenty years. The residue of all my moveable goods and chattels
13 unbequeathed, my debts, legacies and funeral expenses first paid and
done, I will,
14 give and bequeath unto **Elizabeth, my wellbeloved wife,** which Elizabeth I
do
15 make my sole and lawful executrix of this my present testament and last
will.
16 And I do make and ordain **my brother Andrew Combridge** and **David Webb**
17 to be the supervisors of the same and they to have all their charges bourn
and paid

18 to them by mine executrix which they shalbe at to see the same will and
testament
19 well and faithfully performed.
20 This is the last will of me the said Robert Combridge made and declared
the day and
21 year first above written of all my lands and tenements, situated, set, lying
and
22 being within the counties of Kent and **Sussex** withall and singular their
23 appurtenances. **First:** I will unto Elizabeth, my wife, in consideration of her
24 charges bringing up of my children, all my whole tenements and lands in
the
25 counties of Kent and Sussex. To have and to hold unto her and her assigns
26 until Robert, my son, shall accomplish and come to his full age of one and
27 twenty years without strip or waste and keeping my said housing wind
28 tight and water tight during the said term. And immediately after the
29 said Robert cometh to his full age of one and twenty years aforesaid, then I
30 will all my tenements and lands, with all and singular their appurtenances,
31 in Sussex aforesaid unto the said Robert, my son. To have, hold and enjoy
32 to him, his heirs and assigns for ever. Also further, I will unto the child
33 my wife now goeth withall if it please god that it be a man child, then I
34 will that the same child shall have, hold and enjoy to him, his heirs and
35 assigns for ever when he cometh to his full age of one and twenty years,

36 all my tenements and lands set, lying and being in within the county of
Kent.
37 But if it shall happen to be a woman child then I will all my tenements and
38 lands aforesaid in the county of Kent unto the said Robert, my son, when
39 he cometh to his full age of one and twenty years upon the condition
40 that he pay, or cause to be paid, unto the said child twenty pounds
41 of good and lawful money of England at her full age of one and twenty
years
42 according to the true meaning of this my last will. But if he pay not the
said
43 money as is aforesaid, then I will that the same child that is yet unborn
44 shall have, hold and enjoy to her and to her heirs forever, all my tenements
and lands
45 in Kent aforesaid, anything mentioned or sounding in this my last will to
the
46 contrary notwithstanding. These witness **Drue Webb, Andrew Combridge,**
Thomas
47 **Budgin, Thomas Crundell, William Sexten; Robert Combridge** mark.

Olyver and Elizabeth Combridge

The Olyver who wrote his will in 1610 is likely to have been the Olyver who was buried in May 1615 since the will was proved in July 1615; the baptisms of his children were also recorded. He made his brother Anthony one of his supervisors and left land in Chiddingstone, which had once belonged to his brother Robert, to one of his sons.

Elizabeth whose will was written on 17th September 1623 was Olyver's widow and she was probably the widow Combridge buried on 24th September; her will which was had been written by Robert Marchant, was proved on 4th October 1623.

The children and grandchildren of Olyver and Elizabeth are known from the parish register for Penshurst. He would have been twenty-eight when his eldest child was born, forty-seven when he wrote his will and fifty-two when he died.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|--|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|-----|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| | p640 Olyver ^{ey} - Elizabeth ^o | | p641 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| bap: | 28 Nov 1563 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| will: | 4 Sep 1610 | | 17 Sep 1623 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| bur: | 29 May 1615 | | 24 Sep 1623 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| proved: | 7 Jul 1615 | | 4 Oct 1623 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | p642 | oey | p643 | oey | p644 | oey | p645 | oey | p646 | oey | p647 | p648 | p649 | p650 |
| | Elizabeth | | Anna | | Christopher | | Mercy | | Andrew | | Joane | Joane | Margaret | Olyver ^{oey} |
| bap: | 1 Aug 1591 | | 16 Sep 1593 | | 1 Feb 1596 | | May 1598 | | 24 Feb 1601 | | 6 May 1603 | 22 Jul 1604 | 1 Mar 1607 | 24 Aug 1608 |
| bur: | | | | | | | | | | | 26 Jul 1603 | 24 Feb 1606 | 10 Mar 1607 | |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | p652 | | p653 | | p654 | | p655 | | | | | | | |
| | Sara | | Olyver | | Andrew | | Elizabeth | | | | | | | |
| bap: | 27 Oct 1627 | | 25 Mar 1629 | | 9 Jan 1631 | | 10 Feb 1632 | | | | | | | |
| bur: | | | | | 4 Apr 1631 | | 12 Sep 1634 | | | | | | | |

Olyver's Legacies

Olyver left his three surviving daughters £40 each. This was to be paid to the two eldest when they reached the age of twenty-two or when they married. His wife, Elizabeth, was to have all the income from Olyver's land for the maintenance of the children and it was she who was to be responsible for these two payments. That to Mercy was to be paid when she was twenty-four and since, by that time, Christopher would have come into his inheritance and it was he who was to pay her the £40.

In 1610, Olyver's three sons, Christopher, Andrew and Olyver were fourteen, nine and two respectively. When he was twenty-one, Christopher was to inherit his father's mansion house and a large amount of land. Olyver, when he was twenty-

one was also to inherit another mansion house and a considerable amount of land. The middle son, Andrew, however, was to receive £10 at the age of twenty-one and two annuities each of twenty shillings. Why this great difference. Although only nine, had a different career already been organised for Andrew?

Since Olyver lived for another five years after his will was written and his eldest daughter would have been due to receive her money within three months of his death with Christopher coming into his inheritance within two years. Meanwhile, whilst receiving all the profits from his lands and some annuities which Olyver had had, his wife Elizabeth was to keep the reparations of the “houses barns and edifices . . . doing . . . no wilful or voluntary waste in or upon the same land . . . or any of them, other than in such fuel and firewood and timber for necessary reparations”.

Christopher's inheritance consisted of the mansion house in which the family were living including “all the houses, edifices, lands, gardens, closes, orchards, meadows, pastures and feedings, woods and underwoods” belonging to it and also another mansion house occupied by William Everest. But there were responsibilities attached to this inheritance.

Provision for his Widow

Having inherited the mansion house, Christopher was to provide his mother with a good home. During all the time of her widowhood, she was to “have, hold and enjoy . . . the parlour of my said mansion house and the buttery thereto adjoining, the loft over the parlour with the closet or little chamber thereto adjoining, and the garret over the kitchen with free liberty to come and go, to and from all the said rooms at her will and pleasure.”

She was also to have “free liberty to sit and be by the fire of my said son Christopher . . . in any part of my said mansion house and to bake and brew, wash and do any other such business at any place and places of and about my said mansion house fit for any the purposes aforesaid and to take herbs, hang and dry clothes, in the orchards, gardens or closes of the said mansion house, freely at her will and pleasure during her said widowhood without let or interruption of any person or persons”

Christopher was also to provide her yearly with “three cords of good wood for her necessary burning in any the rooms aforesaid appointed to her, my said wife, freely without paying any thing for the same”. A cord was a measure of cut wood (128 cubic feet - about the volume of a 1.5 metre cube). He was also to keep for her, winter and summer during her widowhood, two cows to be kept with his own

milk cows, “freely without any thing there fore to be paid”. Finally, he was to pay her an annuity of £5.

Son Olyver's Inheritance

The youngest son also inherited a considerable amount of land:

- a mansion house called Fowrde in Penshurst “with the barns and buildings, closes, land, meadows and pastures”, containing about fourteen acres
- two more parcels of lands and wood also in Penshurst of about ten acres
- some land and woodland in Chiddingstone which had belonged to his brother Robert.

He did not seem to have responsibility for providing anything for his mother.

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

1 **In the name of god Amen**¹⁷⁶ The fourth day of September
2 in the year of our lord God, One thousand, six hundredth and ten. And in
3 the
4 eighth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord James by the grace of God,
5 king of
6 England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. And of Scotland the
7 four and fortieth,
8 **I, Olyver Combridge** of Penshurst in the county of Kent, **yeoman**,
9 being¹⁷⁷ at
10 the time of the ensealing and making hereof sickly and weak of body but
11 yet of perfect mind

176 decorated "I"

177 "beeing", "bee", etc. throughout including "beefore"

7 and remembrance, thanks therefore be given to Almighty God,
notwithstanding put in mind of
8 my last end and of the brittleness and uncertainty of life and willing to set
in order
9 those transitory possessions which God hath made me steward of in this
world that
10 no contention fall out above the same after my decease, Therefore I do
ordain and make
11 this my present last will and testament in manner and form following¹⁷⁸:
And **First** and
12 principally I give and bequeath my soul into hands of Almighty God and to
his son¹⁷⁹ Jesus Christ, trusting by his
13 merits, precious death and bloodshedding¹⁸⁰, that the said shalbe
presented pure and without spot before
14 the Throne of his majesty and my body to the earth to be buried in the
church

178 "folowing", usual with Nicholas Hooper

179 words "Almighty son" inserted

180 "bludshedding"; "death" and "shalbe" inserted on this line

15 of Penshurst aforesaid or where mine executrix shall think good, in sure
and certain
16 hope of a joyful resurrection to life eternal. **Item:** I will there shalbe
distributed
17 and given to the poor of Penshurst aforesaid, at my burial, the sum of forty
shillings of lawful
18 money, at the discretion of mine executrix and overseers hereafter named.

page 2:

19 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Elizabeth, Anna and Mercy, my three**
daughters, to every
20 of them the sum of forty pounds a piece whereof I will that **my wife and**
executrix
21 shall pay the portions of my two eldest daughters, Elizabeth and Anna, at
their full several ages
22 of two and twenty years or days or several days of their marriage which
shall first happen.
23 And the portion of my said daughter Mercy, my youngest daughter, I will
shalbe paid to her at

24 her age of four and twenty years¹⁸¹ by **mine eldest son Christopher**
25 **Combridge**, his heirs, executors or assigns, as hereafter in this my will
shalbe set down.

26 And I will that if any of my said daughters happen to decease before their
said ages
27 or marriage aforesaid, that then the portion of her and them so deceased
shalbe equally
28 divided and paid to the survivor or survivors of them. **Item:** I give and
bequeath to **Andrew Combridge, my son**, the sum of ten pounds to be paid
to him at his age of one and twenty
29 years, by the said **Elizabeth, my wife**.

30 **The Residue** of all my said goods and cattells, debts, credits and chattels
and all other
31 my moveable goods and chattels whatsoever, I wholly, fully and with good
effect, intent and

181 this first half of the line originally read "her like age or day of her marriage which shall first happen". Elizabeth and Anna were older than Christopher whilst Mercy was two years younger so that he would have come into his inheritance by the time Mercy came of age.

32 purpose, give and bequeath to Elizabeth, my wellbeloved wife, whom I
make and ordain my whole and sole executrix¹⁸², to see my debts and such
33 legacies paid as (by virtue of this my will) she ought to pay and my body
honestly and
34 decently buried. **And I** desire **my natural brother Anthony Combridge** and
my very
35 friend and loving **kinsman, William Woodgate**, to be supervisors and
overseers of

page 3:

36 this my will, to whom I give as a token of my goodwill, to either of them,
ten shillings
37 a piece, over and besides all their charges about this my will to be laid out.
Item: I will that
38 those parcels of household stuff, hereafter presently named, shalbe and
remain to my mansion house where
39 I now dwell as implements and standards for ever, viz. in the house the
table with the frame,
40 and the forms and cupboard there. In the parlour, the table and joined
stools there,

182 this phrase inserted

41 In the loft over the parlour, the bedstead and press there, And in the
kitchen, the furnace there,
42 And in the chamber over the hall, my great chest wherein my evidences
lie. **Item:** I give and
43 bequeath to Andrew Combridge, my son, the bedstead standing in the
chamber over the hall
44 with the bed, bolster and furniture thereto belonging. **Item:** I give and
bequeath to my
45 **son, Oliver Combridge,** the bedstead standing in the chamber over the
kitchen with the bed,
46 bolster and furniture thereto belonging,¹⁸³ **Item:** I will
47 and give to the said Christopher, my son, the bed and furniture thereto
belonging which lieth on the
48 bedstead in the parlour before appointed as standard. All which bedsteads
and¹⁸⁴ bedding to my
49 said sons severally willed, I will shalbe delivered to them, my said sons, at
their several full age

183 "all which two bedsteads and furniture thereto belonging" crossed out

184 "bedsteads" crossed out

50 of one and twenty years, notwithstanding I will my said wife shall have the
occupation of
51 them, and every of them, during the time ¹⁸⁵ that she shalbe, and remain, a
widow.

page 4:

52 **This is the last will**¹⁸⁶ of me the said Olyver Combridge made and
declared
53 the day and year first above written, concerning the order and disposition
of all my lands,
54 tenements, annuities and hereditaments¹⁸⁷, situated, lying and being
within the parishes of Penshurst aforesaid and **Chiddingstone**
55 in the said county. **Item:** I will that the said Elizabeth, my wife, shall
have, hold, and enjoy
56 all and every my said lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever and
receive and take the issues and

185 "of h" (beginning of "of her") crossed out and "shalbe" spelled "shilbee"

186 decorated phrase with small version of Hooper mark vertically hanging from "T"

187 "annuities and hereditaments" inserted

57 profits as well thereof as also of all my ¹⁸⁸ annuities, for by and during such
time as my sons
58 Christopher and Olyver shall severally attain their ages of one and twenty
years, towards
59 the bringing up of my children, keeping the reparations of my houses,
barns and edifices, ¹⁸⁹
60 and every of them, and doing or making no wilful or voluntary waste in or
61 upon the same land, or any of them, other than in such fuel and firewood
and timber for
62 necessary ¹⁹⁰ reparations as my said overseers, or either of them ¹⁹¹, or either
of
63 their heirs and assigns, shall limit and appoint, and not otherwise. **And**
after that the said
64 Christopher, my son, shall attain and come to his age of one and twenty
years, I will and

188 "said" crossed out

189 "and" at end of this line and "edifices" at beginning of the next crossed out

190 "hedgeboot" crossed out

191 "their" crossed out

65 give to him, the said Christopher my son, all that my mansion house
wherein I now dwell called
66 **Hawden** withall the houses, edifices, lands, gardens, closes, orchards,
meadows, pastures and
67 feedings, woods and underwoods to the said message or tenement
belonging now with
68 the occupation of me, the said Olyver Combridge. As also all those lands
and grounds belonging also
69 to the said mansion house called **the Pawles** and medehopes now in the
occupation of **William**

page 5:

70 **Everest.** All which message, land and premises severally and situated,
lying and being in Penshurst
71 aforesaid, to have and to hold the same and every of the same, withall and
singular the appurtenances,
72 unto the said Christopher, my son, his heirs and assigns, to the only use
and behoof of the
73 said Christopher, my son, his heirs and assigns, for ever.
Notwithstanding my
74 will and meaning is that the said Elizabeth, my wife, shall have, hold and
enjoy (after the said age

75 of one and twenty years of the said Christopher, my son, during all the time
of her widowhood,
76 all those rooms within my said mansion house hereafter presently named,
viz. the parlour of my said
77 mansion house and the buttry thereto adjoining, the loft over the parlour
with the closet or
78 little chamber thereto adjoining, and the garret over the kitchen with free
liberty to come and
79 go, to and from all the said rooms at her will and pleasure during her said
widowhood. Also
80 I will my said wife shall have, during her said widowhood, free liberty to sit
and be by the
81 fire of my said son Christopher, his heirs and assigns, in any part of my said
mansion house
82 and to bake and brew, wash and do any other such business at any place
and places of and
81 about my said mansion house fit for any the purposes aforesaid and to take
herbs, hang and dry
82 clothes, in the orchards, gardens or closes of the said mansion house, freely
at her will and pleasure
83 during her said widowhood without let or interruption of any person or
persons. **Also** I will that

84 my said son Christopher, his heirs or assigns shall provide and lay in some
part of the close of my
85 said mansion house, yearly, every year during the widowhood of my said
wife, three cords of

page 6:

86 good wood for her necessary burning in any the rooms aforesaid appointed
to her, my said wife, freely
87 without paying any thing for the same. **Also** I will that the said
Christopher, my son, his
88 heirs or assigns, shall keep winter and summer for her, my said wife,
during her said widowhood,
89 two kyne to be by her provided, as well as his own, and with his own milch
kyne, in the land
90 and ground to him afore given, freely without any thing there fore to be
paid. **As also** my
91 like full mind, intent and meaning is that he, the said Christopher, my son,
his heirs or assigns,
92 shall give and pay every year, yearly, to her my said wife¹⁹² during the
whole term of her natural life, the sum

93 of five pounds of good and lawful money of England, quarterly by equal
portions,
94 viz. at the feast of St. Michael Th'archangel, the nativity of our lord Christ,
95 Th'annunciation of the blessed virgin Mary and the nativity of Saint John
the Baptist¹⁹³, by equal
96 portions. And I will that for lack of payment thereof, or any part thereof, it
shalbe lawful for her,
97 my said wife, and her assigns, to distrain in and upon any part of my said
lands to the said
98 Christopher, aforesaid, willed¹⁹⁴ and the distress or distresses¹⁹⁵ there so
taken, from thence to bear,
99 lead, drive and carry away and the same to withhold, impound, detain and
keep until the
100 same, with all arrearages thereof, be fully paid. **Furthermore** my like will
and
101 mind is that the said Christopher, my son, his heirs and assigns, shall pay
to the said Mercy,

193 "Baptist" spelled incorrectly, crossed out and replaced

194 "willed" inserted

195 "distresses" spelled incorrectly, crossed out and replaced

102 my youngest daughter, or other afore specified, the said sum of forty
pounds to her afore in
103 this my will given¹⁹⁶ at such time and in such manner as afore in this my
will is set down. And that
104 for lack of payment thereof, or any part thereof, it shall and may be lawful
for her, the said
105 Mercy (or others aforesaid) to enter upon all the said messuage, lands and
premises to him, my said

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106 son willed, and the same shall hold and enjoy until she shall have received
of the issues and
107 profits thereof, the said whole sum of forty pounds withall such damage as
shalbe sustained by
108 reason of the same. **Item:** I give and bequeath to Olyver Combridge my
third and
109 youngest son, all that my mansion house called **Fowrde** with the barns and
buildings, closes,

110 land, meadows and pastures, thereto belonging, containing, by estimation,
fourteen¹⁹⁷ acres, more or less,
111 ¹⁹⁸ severally situated, lying and being in Penshurst aforesaid, all which I
late purchased of
112 **Thomas Clerke, gent.**, deceased. And also two parcels of lands and
wood¹⁹⁹ more in Penshurst aforesaid,
113 one called **The Byrche** and the other **The Birchet**, by estimation ten acres,
more or less, together
114 lying and being in Penshurst aforesaid. And also all and every my lands
and woodground,
115 lying in the parish of **Chiddingstone** which sometimes were **my brother**
Robert Combridge's, to
116 have and to hold to all the said messuage, lands, meadows and premises
bought of the said ²⁰⁰
117 Thomas Clerke, the said profits of land and wood, called The Byrche and
Birchet, and all

197 changed from "twelve"

198 "lyeth" crossed out

199 "and wood" inserted

200 "William" crossed out at the end of this line

118 my said land and woodground in Chiddingstone, withall and singular
th'appurtenances, unto the
119 said Olyver Combridge, my third son, his heirs and assigns. To the only
use and behoof
120 of the said Olyver, his heirs and assigns, for ever. **Item:** I give and
bequeath to
121 Andrew Combridge, my second son, two²⁰¹ annuities of twenty shillings a
piece, the first which²⁰² I have
122 out of the land late of **William Sexten**, deceased, and the other out of
certain lands late **Robert Denjoy?**, deceased²⁰³ and which the said William
and Robert granted to **my late**
123 **father, Robert Combridge**, deceased, together with the evidence
concerning both the same. To have
124 and to hold the same annuities and evidence thereof unto the said Andrew
Combridge,

201 originally "one"

202 "a piece, the first which" inserted

203 "and the other . . . deceased" inserted

125 my son, his heirs and assigns, to the only use and behoof of the said
Andrew²⁰⁴

page 8:

126 my son, his heirs and assigns for ever. **In witness** whereof to this my
present last
127 will and testament, I, the said Olyver Combridge, have to every sheet
thereof, containing
128 eight sheets of paper, subscribed my name, and to this eight and last sheet
have set my
129 seal and subscribed my name, yeven the day and year first above written.

Nicholas Hooper's
mark with initials

Read, Sealed, published and
declared as the true and
last will of the said Oliver
Combridge, in the presence of me,

Oliver Combridge

Nicolas Hooper, writer hereof, and
Robert Baker
the mark of ²⁰⁵ Robert Baker

Elizabeth's Legacies

When Elizabeth died she left £80 to her daughter Elizabeth and £60 each to Anna and Mercy, all to be paid within a year of her death. None of them seem to have been married although they were 32, 30 and 25 respectively. Andrew was to receive £20 within two years. The youngest son, Olyver, was only fifteen and would have to wait another six years before receiving £20 from his mother who had, presumably, continued to enjoy the profits from the land left to him by his father.

Christopher's eldest child was baptised in 1627 so it is possible that all the family continued to live in Olyver's mansion house after it had become Christopher's with Christopher marrying a year or so after his mother's death.

She also left household items and linen to all of her children, making Christopher her executor but with her brother-in-law, Anthony, one of her overseers. What would have happened to the land which Olyver was eventually to inherit during the remainder of his minority?

Elizabeth appointed her "[cousin](#)" William Woodgate as one of her overseers. A William Woodgate had been appointed overseer and supervisor of her husband's will thirteen years earlier. Joane, the daughter of Andrew of Chiddingstone,

00married a William Woodgate probably about 1610. Perhaps his father was also a William and it was he who was overseer to both Olyver's and Elizabeth's will.

Will of Elizabeth Combridge of Penshurst

written 17th September 1623

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The seventeenth
2 day of September in the one and twentieth year of the reign of our most
3 gracious and sovereign Lord James by the grace of god king of England, France
4 and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. And of Scotland the seven and fiftieth,
5 Anno
6 dm 1623. I, Elizabeth Combridge of Penshurst in the county of Kent,
7 **widow,**
8 the **relict of Oliver Combridge**, late of Penshurst, yeoman deceased, sick of
9 body
10 but of good and perfect memory, god be praised, do make and ordain this
11 my last will
12 and testament in manner and form following: (that is to say) **First:** and
13 principally

9 I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty god, my creator and to
Jesus Christ,
10 my only saviour and redeemer, hoping through his precious death and
bloodshedding to
11 be made partaker of life everlasting and my body to the earth whence of it
was made.
12 **Item:** I give to the poor people of Penshurst aforesaid forty shillings to be
13 distributed unto them at the day of my burial by the discretion of my
executor
14 and overseers hereafter named. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my**
daughter Elizabeth
15 **Combridge** the sum of four score pounds of good and lawful money of
England
16 to be paid unto her within one year next after my decease. **Item:** I give and
17 bequeath unto **my daughter Anna Combridge** three score pounds of lawful
money
18 of England to be paid unto her within one year next after my decease.
Item: I
19 give unto **Mercy Combridge, one other of my daughters**, three score pounds
20 of like lawful money of England to be paid within one year next after my
page 2:
21 decease. **Item:** I give unto **Andrew Combridge, my second son**, twenty
pounds of good and

22 lawful money of England to be paid unto him within two years next after
my decease. **Item:** I
23 give and bequeath unto **Oliver Combridge, my youngest son**, twenty
pounds of like lawful
24 money of England to be paid unto him at the age of one and twenty
years²⁰⁶. And also I give
25 unto the said Andrew and Olyver, my sons, to each of them a pair of
sheets, two table
26 cloths, one half dozen of table napkins, six pieces of pewter and a dozen of
spoons. Moreover I
27 give unto my said daughter Elizabeth one joined bedstead with a
featherbed and bolster, co=
28 verlet and blankets belonging unto the same as it now standeth in the
north end of
29 the loft over the hall, two pewter candlesticks, one salt and one brass pan.
And further I
30 will and bequeath unto my said three daughters, Elizabeth, Anna and
Mercy, all my linen
31 (except six pairs of sheets, three tablecloths, two towels, six table napkins
and two pillow

32 beres) which I will shalbe equally divided between my said daughters. The
residue of all
33 my goods unbequeathed, my debts and legacies first paid and my funeral
expenses discharged,
34 I give and bequeath unto **Christopher Combridge**, my eldest son whom I
make my sole and
35 whole executor of this my last will and testament. And I ordain and
appoint my very
36 **loving friends Anthony Combridge, my brother-in-law, my cousin William
Woodgate** and
37 **my very good neighbour James Beecher**²⁰⁷ my overseers of this my said
testament and last will
38 to see the same executed and performed according to the true meaning
hereof. In witness whereof
39 I have hereunto set my hand and seal yeven the day and year first above
mentioned. Signed
40 Elizabeth Combridge. Read, sealed, published and acknowledged in the
presence of **Anthony**
41 **Combridge, his wife, William Woodgate, James Beecher and Robert
Marchant, scrip.**

Anthony Combridge of Penshurst

Anthony's will was written in May 1623, four months before his sister-in-law wrote her will making him one of her overseers, but it was not proved for another fourteen years. Anthony was buried on 14th March 1637 with the will being proved on 1st May. His executor was to be Andrew, the son of Anthony's brother Olyver, who would have been only twenty-two in 1623 but by then Anthony was the only one of his brothers and cousins still living.

Anthony wanted a “godly preacher (to be provided by my executor)” to “make a sermon at my funeral (not that I shall thereby be benefited) but for their benefit that shall hear the same”. After the sermon and burial his wife, at her charges and discretion. was to “provide a drinking or dinner for those of my good neighbours and friends” which had accompanied his corpse to burial.

Anthony gave £2 to be distributed to the poor who came to his burial but he also left £20 which, “by the said churchwardens and overseers, and their successors in the same office forever”, was to be invested “to the use and benefit of the poor of Penshurst”. Each year, “during the twelve days next after the feast of the Nativity of our Lord Christ” the profit from this investment was to be “given and distributed to the poor of Penshurst” to those “most needy and of honest fame and report in the judgement and at the discretion of the minister, churchwardens and overseers

of the poor”. But Anthony was aware that such gifts could be used to reduce the amount given to the parish by the others. He therefore added a proviso: “Not hereby minding that this my gift shall in any wise lessen or diminish such stipend or relief as by the godly laws of this land or otherwise shall belong unto them. But it to be as an overplus for the better refreshing of the said poor”.

When Anthony witnessed the will of his cousin Andrew Combridge in 1619 he made his mark as he did to his own will.

Anthony's Legacies

Anthony left £10 to each of the six children of Thomas Everest. One of these was his godson but Anthony does not otherwise give his relationship to them. These children have exactly the same names as the brothers and sisters of Susan Everest whose will of 1640 has survived. Susan made her sister Abia her executor and this unusual name is the same as that of Anthony's wife. Susan also says that “a legacy of ten pounds given unto me by my grandfather Anthony Combridge” was due to be paid “in March next year” that is 1621. Thus Susan's mother was Anthony's daughter. See [Susan Everest in Families and Transcripts](#) for more details.

Anthony also left £60 to his niece Elizabeth, now Elizabeth Simons, and her children. She was the daughter of his brother Robert who had died in 1590 just before Elizabeth was born. There were other sizeable bequests to people whose relationship to him is not known:

- a John Woodgate who had died before 1619 leaving three children: William, Hester (then married to a Wallis) and Elizabeth (then married to a Locking). They were each left £10.
- Katherine Ashdowne, sister of Robert Ashdowne of Chiddingstone, was left £10; other brothers and a sister of Robert Ashdowne were mentioned and these could have been all the same family.
- an annuity of 20s to Joan Homwood, his kinswoman.

His three servants and another godson seem to have sizeable legacies - £5 each - but the proviso that, unlike the other beneficiaries, there were to receive them only after “[the decease of Abia, my wife, if they shall then be living](#)”. Given that he had already left £160 to be paid within, at the most, three years of his decease, it seems hard to make his servants wait so long. Maybe he thought that they would continue serving his wife. As it happened, his will was not proved until 1637, fourteen years after it was written. Were the servants he mentioned in 1623 still working for him. Even if they had left his service, presumably they would have been able to claim their legacies.

Also after his wife died, Anthony's executor and heir was to pay £20 each to Anthony, Sara, Elizabeth and Susan, the children of his brother Andrew who had died sometime before Anthony wrote his will. Within two years of Abia's decease he was to pay £20 to each of his own brothers and sisters, Christopher, Olyver, Elizabeth, Anne and Mercy. "[Alice, wife of Anthony Combridge](#)" was buried on 29th May 1632, nine years after Anthony wrote his will but five years before he died. Since details of the burials were taken from a copy of the parish records, it is likely that Alice was an interpretation of "Abia" or it could even have been written as Alice in the register.

On 15 January 1636, "[Ann, wife of Anthony Combridge](#)" was buried. Did this testator marry again with his second wife also predeceasing him?

Payment of Legacies to Persons under Twenty-One

Anyone to whom Anthony left money who was under twenty-one when it was due to be paid was to receive it "before the minister and churchwardens of Penshurst" or before Anthony's overseers and the payment was to be recorded in a "book or writing" with this being "sufficient discharge and acquittance to my executor . . . for the same".

Anthony's mansion house and lands

Anthony's wife Abia was to have for life or until she remarried the mansion house in which they lived together with all its “barns, buildings, closes, gardens, orchards, lands, meadows, pastures and feedings thereto belonging” which were in Penshurst and Chiddingstone.

Mercy Simons whom Anthony describes as his kinswoman, was however to be allowed to hold for the “term of her natural life, and no longer, one millhouse and two water mills belonging to my tenement aforesaid and the pond water, garden and slip of land used with the said mills, she keeping the same well and sufficiently repaired”. Mercy could not have been one of Elizabeth's children since Elizabeth herself was only thirty-three in 1623. Mercy, one of Olyver Combridge's daughters and therefore Anthony's niece, was twenty-five in 1623 and could therefore have been married.

Abia was to keep every thing in good repair but neither she nor anyone one else “by her means or consent” was to “cut, fell, strip or waste any of the wood and underwood, timber or trees” upon any of the land. She was, however, to be allowed “twelve cords or loads of firewood and the rist²⁰⁸”, spray or faggots thereof

208 “ryste”

arising, for her spending yearly . . . timber for the reparations aforesaid and meet and convenient hedgeboot, stakeboot and temet? necessarily to be employed upon the premises”.

Abia was thus allowed four times as much firewood as Olyver's widow. But, whereas Elizabeth was living in her son Christopher's house when she was to have her three cords a year, Anthony and Abia do not seem to have had any children so that she would be mistress of the house and so need more wood than Elizabeth.

If she married again, she was to receive an annuity of £16 which was to be paid from the profits from the land which, together with the house, was to go to his executor, Andrew Combridge who would, in any case, inherit the house and lands when Abia died. He was to allow Mercy Simons to continue to hold the millhouse and mills.

Land to his nephew Olyver

Although Anthony left most of his land to Andrew, his executor and nephew, he gave to Olyver, one of Andrew's brothers, about six acres of land and wood in Chiddingstone called Fren den which adjoined to land Olyver already owned. “In

consideration of which” Anthony’s desire was Olyver would grant to William Woodgate, one of the overseers, “by feoffment or other lawful conveyance in the law at the charges in the law of the said William” one acre of woodland next to the house called Frenden which Olyver owned. William was to pay for this “so much money as the said acre of woodlands with the woods or spring there upon shall be thought to be worth by two indifferent neighbours” one chosen by William and the other by Olyver “or otherwise as the said William and Olyver . . . shall agree between themselves”.

Will of Anthony Combridge of Penshurst

written 1st May 1623; proved 1st May 1637

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The first day of
2 May in the one and twentieth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord James
by the
3 grace of God king of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith,
etc. And
4 of Scotland the six and fiftieth, Anno domini one thousand six hundred
twenty
5 and three, I, Anthony Combridge of Penshurst in the county of Kent,
yeoman, being

6 in reasonable good health and of perfect remembrance, thanks be given to
Almighty God,
7 knowing assuredly that I shall change this life and that the ?? thereof is
most
8 certain though to me most uncertain, willing to set in order those transitory
possessions

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9 whereof God (of his goodness) hath endowed me ?? in this world that
contention there
10 about may be avoided and myself be the readier and better prepared for
death do therefore
11 advisedly ordain and make this my testament and last will in manner and
form following:
12 And **First** and principally I recommend and yield my soul unto Almighty
God who gave it,
13 trusting by a steadfast faith which I have in the merit and precious death of
his dear
14 son Jesus Christ that I shalbe saved. And my body to the earth to be
buried in the
15 church or churchyard of Penshurst aforesaid as my executor shall think fit
in sure and

16 certain hope of a joyful resurrection. **Item:** I will that a godly preacher (to
be provided by my
17 executor) shall make a sermon at my funeral (not that I shall thereby be
benefited) but
18 for their benefit that shall hear the same. And that preacher to have
twenty shillings
19 for his pains. **Item:** I will that my wife shall provide a drinking or dinner for
those of
20 my good neighbours and friends which shall accompany my corpse to
burial at her charges
21 and at her discretion. **Item:** I will that there shalbe distributed and given to
such poor (especially
22 at Penshurst) as shall resort to my burial and have most need in the
judgement of my
23 executor or any other whom he shall appoint the sum of forty shillings.
And I further
24 will that my executor or his executors or assigns shall within one year next
after
25 my decease give and deliver into the hands of the churchwardens and
overseers for the
26 poor of Penshurst aforesaid for the time being the sum of twenty pounds of
lawful

27 english money. The which twenty pounds I will shalbe by the said
churchwardens and
28 overseers, and their successors in the same office forever, employed in
stock for and to the
29 use and benefit of the poor of Penshurst aforesaid. And the profit and
benefit of the said
30 stock which shall yearly be made and arise, I will shalbe yearly, within the
compass of
31 the twelve days next after the feast of the Nativity of our Lord Christ
ensuing, given and distributed to the
32 poor of Penshurst aforesaid such as shalbe most needy and of honest fame
and report
33 in the judgement and at the discretion of the minister, churchwardens and
overseers of
34 the poor of the said parish from time to time being. Not hereby minding
that this my
35 gift shall in any wise lessen or diminish such stipend or relief as by the
godly laws of
36 this land or otherwise shall belong unto them. But it to be as an overplus
for the better
37 refreshing of the said poor. **Item:** I will that mine executor, his executors or
assigns,

38 shall also within one year next after my decease give and pay to the
churchwardens
39 of **Chiddingstone** forty shillings. And to the churchwardens of **Cowden**
twenty shillings
40 to be paid by them, given and distributed amongst the poor of those two
places at their
41 discretion. **Item:** I give to every of my godchildren, personally demanding
the same of
42 my executors within one year next after my decease, one shilling a piece.
Item: I give and
43 bequeath unto **Elizabeth Everest**, daughter to **Thomas Everest** and to
William Everest, her brother, my
44 **godson**, ten pounds a piece of lawful english money to be paid to them,
and either of
45 them, within two years next after my decease. **Item:** to **Anne, Edward,**
Sara, Abia and Susan,
46 brother and sisters to the said William Everest, my godson, I will also the
sum of ten
47 pounds a piece of like money. And the first forenamed three of them to be
paid within
48 three years next after my decease. And the other two of them within four
years next

49 after my death. And if any of the said children, viz. Elizabeth, William,
Anne, Edward, Sara,
50 Abia and Susan shall decease before the time assigned for the payment of
the several
51 legacies aforesaid, that her and their legacies so deceasing shalbe equally
paid amongst the
52 survivors and overlivers of them with their other legacies. **Item:** I give and
bequeath unto
53 **Elizabeth Simons, daughter of my brother Robert Combridge and to her
children** the sum
54 of three score pounds to be paid to her and them equally within two years
next after my
55 decease within which time if any of them decease, the overlivers to have
her and their part
56 so deceasing equally between them. **Item:** I will that all and every legacy
herein
57 before willed shalbe paid by mine executor, his executors or assigns. And
that if any
58 person or persons legators in this my will shall not be of the age of twenty
and one
59 years at the time assigned for the payment of their legacies, that they and
every of

60 them so not of age shalbe paid their legacy before the minister and
churchwardens

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61 of Penshurst aforesaid then being or before my overseers or any two of
them. And it
62 being inscribed by them or any two of them that such legator and legators
were
63 paid their legacies before them such subscription in any book or writing
shalbe
64 sufficient discharge and acquittance to my executor, his executors and
assigns for the
65 same. **Item:** I will that these parcels of goods in my mansion house
wherein I now dwell
66 shalbe and stand there as implements and standers for the use and behoof
of **Andrew**
67 **Combridge my executor**, hereafter named, his executors and assigns for
ever after the
68 decease of **Abia, my wife**, viz: the table frame and form in the parlour, the
best
69 joined bedstead in the chamber over the said parlour with the featherbed,
bolsters, pillows,
70 and all other bedding and furniture thereunto belonging, one other joined
bedstead and

71 a folding table there and one joined press in the closet adjoining to the
chimney there.

72 And also my furnace in the kitchen. **Item:** I will unto the said Abia, my
loving wife,

73 all other my householdstuff and all my cattle, corn, hay, fodder and chattels
to come

74 to her presently after my decease (except all my husbandry tackling, debts,
money and plate to

75 be to my executors not to my said wife). **Item:** I give to **William Woodgate,**
Hester Wallis and

76 **Elizabeth Wicking, children of John Woodgate, deceased,** the sum of ten
pounds a

77 piece, to be paid unto them, and the survivors of them, within one year
next after my decease.

78 **Item:** I will to **Henry Brooke, Elizabeth Semet and William Young, my**
servants, and to

79 **John Wylmoth, my godson,** five pounds a piece to be paid them within one
year after

80 the decease of Abia, my wife, if they shall then be living. **Item:** I will and
give unto **Katherine**

81 **Ashdowne, sister of Robert Ashdowne of Chiddingstone,** ten pounds of
lawful english

82 money to be paid her by mine executor within one year next after my
decease if she
83 shalbe then living. The residue and all other my goods and all my
husbandry tackling,
84 all my debts, money and implements not before herein willed to my said
wife, I will and give
85 unto **Andrew Combridge son of Olyver Combridge, my late brother**
deceased which
86 Andrew I make and ordain the sole and only executor of this my testament
and last will.
87 And I heartily devise **my loving kinsman William Woodgate of**
Chiddingstone²⁰⁹, yeoman, and
88 **my good friend John Hooper of Tonbridge** supervisors or overseers of this
my will
89 desiring them to take some pains that the same may take effect according
to my
90 meaning, to whom I give forty shillings a piece toward their pains over and
above
91 their charges to be laid out about any business or travel by reason of this
my will to be

209 taken as x802, the husband of Joane Combrdge, daughter of Andrew of Chiddingstone

92 undertaken or sustained. This is the last will of me, the said Anthony
Combridge made and
93 declared the day and year above written touching the disposing and
devising of all my
94 lands, tenements, hereditaments with their appurtenances. And **first** I will
and devise
95 unto Abia, my loving wife, all that my mansion house wherein I now dwell
withall the
96 barns, buildings, closes, gardens, forstaules, orchards, lands, meadows,
pastures and
97 feedings thereto belonging generally situated, lying and being within the
parishes of
98 Penshurst aforesaid and Chiddingstone in the said county. To hold to her
during the whole
99 term of her natural life (if she shall so long keep herself sole and unmarried)
she, the
100 said Abia, making and keeping all reparations whatsoever belonging to the
said tenement and
101 all other the premises upon condition that neither she, the said Abia, nor
any other for her or in her
102 right nor by her means or consent do cut, fell, strip or waste any of the
wood and underwood, timber

103 or trees upon all or any part or parcel of my lands. Notwithstanding, I will
and ordain that
104 my said wife shalbe allowed upon some part of my lands twelve cords or
loads of
105 firewood and the rist, spray or faggots thereof arising, for her spending
yearly and every
106 year and most and convenient timber for the reparations aforesaid and
meet and convenient
107 hedgeboot, stakeboot and temet necessarily to be employed upon the
premises. All which I
108 will that my executor and overseers, or the overliver of them or their heirs of
such
109 overliver or some or one of them shall assign, limit and appoint out yearly
unto the
110 said Abia upon my lands aforesaid upon request thereof by her from time to
time to
111 them or any of them to be made. And if my said wife shall marry again
after my decease
112 then from and after her such marriage, my wife shalbe paid yearly during
her

page 4:

113 natural life the yearly sum or annual rent of sixteen pounds of lawful
english
114 money out of my said lands quarterly by even portions. And for default of
payment
115 thereof accordingly or within ten days next ensuing after every quarter day,
it shall
116 and may be lawful for her and her assigns to enter and distrain in and upon
the said
117 messuage or tenement, lands and premises or any part thereof for the
same.. And such
118 distress and distresses as she shall there find and take legally from there to
bear, lead,
119 drive, carry away, impound, detain and keep irrepleviabie until the said
yearly rent
120 of sixteen pounds and all arrearages thereof shalbe to her or her assigns
fully and truly
121 paid from time to time according to the purpose of this my will anything
herein before
122 mentioned to the contrary thereof notwithstanding. And after the decease
or next
123 marriage of my said wife, which of them shall first happen, I will give and
devise all

124 every the said messuage, lands, and premises, situated lying and being in
Penshurst (and
125 not in Chiddingstone aforesaid) unto the said Andrew Combridge, my
executor, his heirs
126 and assigns, to have and to hold the same withall their members and
appurtenances
127 to the only use and behoof of the said Andrew, his heirs and assigns
forever.
128 Notwithstanding my will is that **Mercy Simons, my kinswoman,**
immediately after
129 the decease of me, the said Anthony Combridge, shall or may hold for term
of her
130 natural life, and no longer, one millhouse and two water mills belonging to
my
131 tenement aforesaid and the pond water, garden and slip of land used with
the said
132 mills, she keeping the same well and sufficiently repaired without any let
of the
133 said Andrew or his heirs (any gift or devise thereof to him by this my will or
to my
134 said wife to the contrary thereof notwithstanding. And further I do will,
provide and appoint

135 that, after the decease of the said Abia, my wife, the said Andrew
Combridge, his heirs
136 or assigns shall pay out of my tenement, lands and premises formerly by
this my will
137 given, willed, meant or devised until him the said Andrew and his heirs,
the sum of twenty
138 pounds a piece of lawful and good english money unto **Anthony, Sara,
Elizabeth** and
139 **Susan, the son and daughters of my brother Andrew Combridge, deceased**
within the first
140 year next ensuing after the decease of the said Abia, my wife, at or in the
mansion
141 house wherein the said Andrew, their father, dwelt at the time of his
decease, situated in
142 Penshurst aforesaid. And unto **Christopher and Olyver, Elizabeth, Anne
and Mercy,**
143 **brothers and sisters of the said Andrew, my executor, children to my said
brother Olyver**
144 **Combridge deceased,** the sum of twenty pounds of lawful english money
within the
145 second year after the decease of the said Abia, my wife, in or at the late
dwelling house of

146 the said Olyver, their father, situated also in Penshurst aforesaid. And that
if any of the sons
147 or daughters aforesaid of my said two brothers shalbe unpaid their several
sums of twenty
148 pounds a piece contrary to the tenor and purport of this my will, that they
and every of them
149 so unpaid shall or may enter into and upon all or any part or parcel of my
land and tenements
150 aforesaid (except the mills aforesaid) and shall or may have, take, receive
and enjoy the issues
151 and profits thereof until they and every or any of them so unpaid shalbe
fully satisfied and
152 paid their several legacies as aforesaid. **Item:** I will and ordain that **my**
kinswoman, Joan
153 **Homewood**, shalbe paid out of my said lands, tenements and
hereditaments aforesaid, lying
154 in Penshurst aforesaid yearly during her natural life the yearly sum of
twenty
155 shillings of lawful english money as a rent charge to be thereout issuing
and is to be paid
156 her quarterly viz. at the feast of the nativity of St. John the Baptist, St.
Michael the

157 Archangel, the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ and Th'annunciation of the
blessed Virgin Mary
158 by equal portions. And if and as often as the same shall not be accordingly
paid, it being
159 lawfully demanded in or at the said message or dwelling house in
Penshurst aforesaid,
160 that then and so often it shall and may be lawful to and for her, the said
Joane, and her assigns
161 to enter and distrain in and upon any part or parcel of my land aforesaid
and such
162 distress or distresses to carry away and withhold until she shalbe thereof
fully paid
163 from time to time during her life, any former gift or devise of my said lands
to the

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164 contrary notwithstanding. **Item:** whereas I, the said Anthony Combridge
have and hold
165 one annuity of forty shillings per annum issuing for ever and to be taken
out of certain
166 lands late of **John Ashdowne, late of Rendleshoth, deceased,** I will and
devise the same
167 annuity unto **Robert Ashdowne, son of the said John,** and to his heirs and
assigns for

168 ever upon condition following: that is to say that the said Robert
Ashdowne, his heirs
169 and assigns, do pay the sum of thirty pounds²¹⁰ of lawful english money to
John and
170 **Mathew Ashdowne, his brothers**, and to **Susan, his sister**, equally between
them, and the
171 governors of them, within one whole year next after my decease, they, his
said brothers
172 and sister upon payment thereof making, sealing and delivering to the said
Robert,
173 his heirs and assigns, such acquittance or discharges for the same as upon
payment
174 thereof shalbe tendered to them to seal and deliver at the cost of the said
Robert or his
175 heirs. And if the said sum of thirty pounds shall not be accordingly paid
within
176 the time before by me appointed, then I will, give and devise the said
annuity of
177 forty shillings unto the said John, Mathew and Susan Ashdowne, their
heirs and

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it would take fifteen years for Robert to amass thirty pounds from the annuity

178 assigns for ever and all my power to distrain for the same and the
evidences which
179 I have thereof. And if the said thirty pounds shalbe paid them according to
the
180 purport of this my will, then for the manifesting of the truth thereof I will
that the
181 said Robert Ashdowne, his heirs or assigns, do within three days after the
end of the
182 said one year after my decease produce and show forth to my executor
aforesaid or his
183 heirs the acquittance before mentioned to be made, sealed and delivered
for the same
184 to be subscribed and witnessed by honest persons or neighbours. And
upon sight of the
185 said acquittance, or within three days next the showing thereof to the said
186 Andrew Combridge, mine executor, or his heirs, he²¹¹, the said Andrew or
his heirs,
187 shall give and deliver unto the said Robert Ashdowne, his heirs or assigns,
all the

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"hee"; there are also some "bee"s; this spelling is typical of Hooper wills but this is the probate copy. If the clerk copying the will usually used the "be", "he" form, he may have not always copied Hooper's original spelling.

188 evidences, bonds and assurances to me made for, touching and concerning
the said
189 annuity by him and his heirs to be for ever possessed, holden and enjoyed.
Item: after
190 the decease or next marriage of Abia, my wife, which of them shall first
happen, I will
191 give and devise unto **Olyver Combridge, my kinsman, son of my late
brother**
192 **Olyver Combridge, deceased**, all those parcels of land and wood commonly
called
193 **Frenden** or by any other name or names lying and being in Chiddingstone
aforesaid
194 containing by estimation six acres more or less and adjoining to the lands
of the
195 said Olyver to have and to hold the said parcel of land and wood with
th'appurtenances
196 unto the said Olyver Combridge, my kinsman, his heirs and assigns, to the
only use
197 and behoof of the said Olyver Combridge, his heirs and assigns for ever. In
consideration
198 of which my gift, my desire is that the said Olyver Combridge or his heirs
would grant

199 and convey unto William Woodgate, one of the overseers before named and
to his heirs and
200 assigns forever by feoffment or other lawful conveyance in the law at the
charges in the
201 law of the said William, his heirs or assigns (if he or they shall request and
desire the same)
202 one acre of woodland of the said Olyver Combridge to lie and adjoin next to
the house
203 called Frenden and lands to the same house belonging for such and so
much money as the
204 said acre of woodlands with the woods or spring there upon shalbe thought
to be worth
205 by two indifferent neighbours, one to be chosen by the said William
Woodgate and his
206 heirs and the other by the said Olyver and his heirs or otherwise as the said
William
207 and Olyver and their heirs shall agree between themselves. All other my
lands, woods,
208 woodgrounds and hereditaments, rents and tenements not formerly
devised, I will, give and
209 devise to the said Andrew Combridge, mine executor, his heirs and
assigns, to the
210 only use and behoof of the said Andrew, his heirs and assigns for ever.

211 In witness whereof I, the said Anthony Combridge, have to this my
testament and last
212 will set my hand and seal yeven the day and year first herein before
written, the
213 mark of Anthony Combridge. Read, sealed, subscribed and declared in the
presence
214 of **Thomas Chowne, William Walter**, William Woodgate and John Hooper,
notary public.

Andrew and Joan Combridge

Andrew of Chiddingstone, writing his will in 1619, mentions Elizabeth, Anne, Mary and Robert, children of his brother Robert. Although he does not say that his brother was deceased, these are the children of the Robert who died in 1598. Andrew also mentions another Robert Combridge, his kinsman, married to Ann Cottye and the three eldest of their children match with baptisms in Penshurst particularly since Joan was baptised five weeks after the will was written and Andrew mentions that Ann Cottye is pregnant; see the tree on page 2.c.429. He makes his "[cousin, Anthony Combridge](#)" his supervisor and executor; this could be the Anthony whose will was written in 1623.

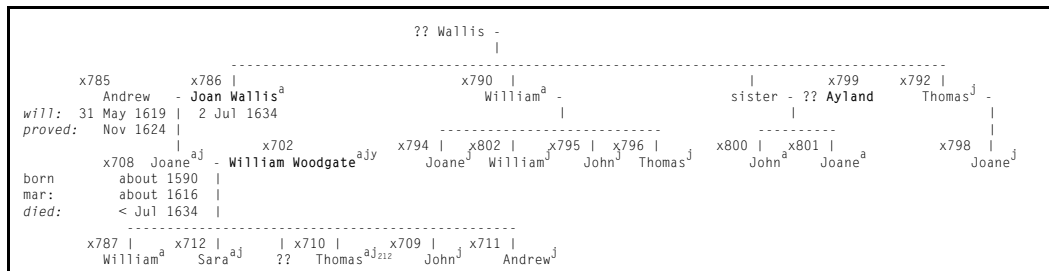
Andrew's wife was Joane Wallis and he mentions members of her family. It is interesting that his servants included Joane Wallis, Walter Woodgate and Thomas Cottye who all look like members of his extended family. Thomas Cottye "[my man servant](#)" was to receive £40.

The will of his wife, Joane, was written in 1634 but not proved until 1637. Andrew had left his land to his daughter but with his wife occupying it until her death. Joan, the daughter, died before her mother wrote her will so that, on the mother's death, the land would go to her son-in-law and grandchildren.

The land belonging to Andrew's messuage totalled about sixty acres which his wife Joane was to have during her widowhood "keeping all reparations thereof, paying the lord's rent . . . and doing no waste . . . other than necessary timber for reparations and convenient fire boot to be taken for her burning in the said tenement of all convenient trees other than timber trees and necessary hedgeboot and stakeboot for the enclosing and hedging of the same".

But Joane was to have another responsibility; she was to "keep and maintain William Woodgate, eldest son of William Woodgate", that is her grandson, "as well in apparel as for his meat and drink in such decent and comely manner as formerly she hath done". If she refused to continue to care for him she was to pay £10 a year to his parents. Perhaps her grandson was handicapped in some way and could not therefore earn his own living. Joan does not mention him in her will so he probably died sometime between 1619 and 1634.

The Cambridge, Wallis and Woodgate Family Tree



Will of Andrew Cambridge of Chiddingstone

written 31st March 1619

transcript from probate copy

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The last day of March
- 2 in the seventeenth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord James, by the grace of God, of

212 When Joane wrote her will, Thomas was his father's heir but Andrew referred to him as the third son. Perhaps there was another son between William and Thomas who had died by 1634.

3 England, France and Ireland, king, defender of the faith, etc. and of
Scotland the 52nd, Anno
4 Dm. 1619, I, Andrew Combridge of the parish of Chiddingstone in the
county of Kent, **yeoman**, being
5 sick and weak in body but of strong and perfect memory, thanks be to
Almighty God therefore,
6 do make and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form
following: And
7 **First** and principally I give and commend my soul into the hands of
Almighty God, my
8 maker and creator and Jesus Christ, his son, my only saviour redeemer, by
and
9 through whose precious death and bloodshedding, being apprehended by a
lively faith, I only
10 trust to be saved and my body to the earth from whence it came with a full
assurance of a joyful
11 resurrection at the last day. And as concerning the disposing of such
worldly goods as god
12 hath lent me, **First:** I give and bequeath unto the poor people that shall
resort unto my burial
13 the sum of twenty shillings in money to be distributed amongst them by
my executrix

14 hereafter named or whom she shall appoint. **Item:** I will, give and bequeath
unto **John Ayland**
15 **my wife's sister's son**, the sum of ten pounds of lawful money of England to
be paid unto
16 him by my executrix hereafter named, or her assigns, within one whole
year next after
17 my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Robert Combridge, son of my**
brother Robert
18 **Combridge**, the sum of twenty pounds of good and lawful money of
England to be paid unto
19 him by my executrix hereafter named, her executor or assigns, within one
whole year
20 next after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Elizabeth**
Combridge, Ann Combridge
21 **and Mary Combridge, being the daughters of my brother Robert**
Combridge, and to every
22 of them the sum of five pounds a piece to be paid unto every and either of
them within
23 two years next after my decease by my executrix hereafter named or her
executors
24 or assigns. And if it shall happen any of my brother Robert Combridge, his
daughters

25 above mentioned to die before their portion become due and payable, then
my will and
26 meaning is that the portion of her or them so dying shalbe equally divided
and paid
27 between the survivors at the days and times aforesaid. **Item:** I give unto
Ann Cotty,
28 **now the wife of Robert Combridge, my kinsman,** the sum of five pounds to
be paid
29 unto her within one whole year after my decease by my executrix hereafter
named or
30 her assigns as aforesaid. **Item:** my will and meaning is that whereas the
said Ann,
31 the wife of the above named Robert Combridge, is with child that if it shall
please god
32 that it is born and come into the world, then my will is that my executrix
hereafter
33 named, or her executors or assigns, shall pay unto the said child the sum of
twenty
34 pounds when it shall accomplish the age of twelve years if it be then living
and not otherwise. **Item:** I give unto **Joane Ayland, my wife's sister's**
35 **daughter,** the sum
36 of four pounds of lawful money to be paid unto her within four years after
my

37 decease by my executrix as aforesaid or her assigns. **Item:** I give and
bequeath unto
38 **William Wallis my wife's brother**, the sum of five pounds to be paid within
four years after my decease.
39 by my executrix, her executors or assigns. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
Sara Woodgate,
40 the **daughter of my son-in-law William Woodgate**, the sum of twenty
pounds
41 of lawful money to be paid unto her within one year after my decease by
my executrix
42 as aforesaid. **Item:** I give unto **Joane Wallis, my maid servant**, the sum of
twenty
43 shillings. And unto **Walter Woodgate, my servant**, the sum of ten shillings
44 to be paid unto either of them within one year after my decease by my
executrix

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45 or assigns. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Thomas Cotty, my man**
servant, the sum of
46 forty pounds of lawful english money to be paid unto him within two years
after my decease
47 by my executrix hereafter named, her executors or assigns. **Item:** I give
and bequeath unto

48 **Andrew Combridge, the son of my kinsman Robert Combridge²¹³**, the sum
of twenty pounds
49 to be paid within one year after my decease by my executrix as aforesaid.
Item: I give
50 unto **John Woodgate** and **Thomas Woodgate,²¹⁴** the sons of **William**
Woodgate, the sum
51 of twenty pounds a piece to be paid unto either of them within one year
after my
52 decease by my executrix as aforesaid. **Item:** I give unto **Robert Combridge,**
the son of my kinsman Robert
53 **Combridge**, the sum of twenty pounds to be paid within one year as is
abovesaid. **Item:** my
54 will and meaning is that whereas I hold by lease for divers years yet to
come a certain
55 parcel of land called **Elypunnes** lying within the parish of Chiddingstone
within a certain
56 parcel of land of me, the said Andrew Combridge, called the **Aylands**, my
meaning is that

213 John and Robert (line 52) are probably two of the sons of the Robert married to Ann Cottye

214 This John and Thomas Woodgate could be Andrew's grandsons

57 **Joane, my wife**, shall have the use and occupation of it during her life upon
condition
58 that the said Joane, my wife, shall not sell or surrender the said lease or do
any not to make
59 it void but that it shall remain and be unto **Joan Woodgate, the wife of**
William
60 **Woodgate, my daughter**, and to her heirs and assigns forever after the
decease of the
61 said Joane, my wife. The residue of all my goods and cattels, debts,
hereditaments, chattels
62 and all other my moveables, goods whatsoever, excepting one bedstead
with a featherbed
63 and all other furniture thereto belonging and one press standing in the
chamber over
64 the hall, the table standing in the hall with the frame thereunto belonging
withall
65 glass windows belonging to my house shall remain as heirlooms to my
house and homes
66 forever. The residue as aforesaid, I do wholly and with good intent and
purpose give
67 and bequeath them unto **Joane Combridge, my well beloved wife**, which
Joane, my wife,

68 I make and ordain my whole and sole executrix of this my last will and
testament to
69 see the same proved and performed and my debts and legacies paid and
my body decently
70 buried. And I desire my **very good friend and cousin Anthony Combridge**
and my son-
71 in-law William Woodgate to be supervisors and overseers of this my will.
To whom
72 I give five shillings a piece over and above all their charges and expenses
about any
73 business of this my will to be laid out. This is the last will of me the said
Andrew
74 Combridge made and declared the day and year above written concerning
the
75 disposition of all my lands and tenements whatsoever, situated lying and
being
76 within the parish of Chiddingstone aforesaid. And first I give and
bequeath unto Joane,
77 now my wellbeloved wife and to her assigns all that my message or
tenement
78 wherein I now dwell with all barns, buildings and edifices, closes, gardens,
orchards,

79 lands, meadows, pastures and feedings whatsoever to the said message
belonging,
80 situated, lying and being within the parish of Chiddingstone aforesaid
containing
81 in the whole, by estimation, three score acres more or less, to have and to
hold the
82 same and every of the same withall and singular their appurtenances unto
the said Joane,
83 my wife, and her assigns for, by and during the term of her natural life if
she so
84 long keep herself a widow, keeping all reparations thereof, paying the lord's
rent going
85 out of the same and doing no waste during her said widowhood other than
necessary timber
86 for reparations and convenient fire boot to be taken for her burning in the
said tenement
87 of all convenient trees other than timber trees and necessary hedgeboot
and stakeboot
88 for the enclosing and hedging of the same during her said widowhood.
Provided always,
89 and under this condition, that Joane, my wife, shall, during her natural life
or during

90 her widowhood, keep and maintain **William Woodgate, eldest son of**
91 **William Woodgate,**
92 my son-in-law, as well in apparel as for his meat and drink in such decent
93 and comely
94 manner as formerly she hath done. And if the said Joane, my wife, shall
95 refuse the
96 same, she the said Joane shall then pay unto William Woodgate, my son-
97 in-law, or
98 after his decease to Joane, his wife, the sum of ten pounds a year out of the
99 said
100 messuage and lands before given her and quarterly to pay it at the four
101 usual
102 feasts in the year which said ten pounds payment shalbe to the only use
103 and maintenance

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97 of William Woodgate, the eldest son of William Woodgate, my son-in-law,
98 and to no other
99 use as aforesaid. And if it shall happen the said yearly payment of ten
100 pounds to be behind
101 and unpaid by the space of ten days after any of the said feasts or days of
102 payment in

100 which the same ought to be paid, that then it shall and may be lawful to
and for the said
101 William Woodgate, my son-in-law, if he be living and after his decease to
and for Joane,
102 his wife, or their assigns or for the assigns of any of them, to and for the use
of the said
103 William Woodgate, their son, to enter in and upon the said messuage or
any of lands
104 before given to Joane, my wife, and to distrain and the distress there taken
lawfully
105 to bear, lead, drive and carry away the same to keep until the said rent of
ten pounds,
106 with the arrearages thereof (if any) be satisfied and paid. And after the
decease or
107 next marriage of the said Joane, my wife (which shall first happen), I give
and bequeath
108 all my said messuage or tenement and all and every other the premises,
withall
109 and singular their appurtenances, unto the said **Joane Woodgate, my
daughter**, To have and
110 to hold the same and every part thereof, withall and singular their
appurtenances unto the

111 said Joane, my daughter and her assigns for, by and during the whole term
of her
112 natural life, keeping all the reparations thereof, paying the said lord's rent
and
113 doing no other waste upon the same than is herein before limited for my
said wife to do.
114 And after the decease of the said Joane, my daughter, I will, give and
bequeath all my said messuage
115 or tenement and all other my lands before mentioned, withall and singular
their appurtenances,
116 unto Thomas Woodgate, third son of my daughter Joane Woodgate and to
his heirs and
117 assigns for ever. Provided always and under this condition, that if Thomas
Woodgate, third
118 son of my daughter Joan Woodgate and his heirs or assigns do well and
truly content
119 and pay unto William Woodgate, eldest son of my daughter Joane
Woodgate and to his
120 assigns the sum of ten pounds of lawful english money every year, yearly
during
121 his natural life and quarterly to be paid, the first payment to begin at the
next feast of

122 one of the four usual feasts which shall first happen after the decease of
the said Joane
123 Woodgate, my daughter, and not before. In witness whereof to this my will
containing three
124 sheets of paper and a half I have to every sheet set my mark and to the last
have set
125 my mark and seal being date the day and year first above written. Signed,
sealed and
126 acknowledged to be his last will and testament in the presence of **William
Busheys and Anthony
127 Combridge**, the mark of Anthony Combridge.

Joane Combridge, widow of Andrew

Joane, in her will, left her brother Thomas Wallis £20 to be paid in a complicated way: It was to be put out with her brother having the yearly profit from it "until such time as he shall have want". Then he was to have so much of the capital as was "fitting to supply his want" leaving a smaller amount from which he was to have the profit "until he shall need again. . . And so from time to time to be relieved there with until all the said twenty pounds shall be fully paid unto him by

[mine executor](#)". If any of the £20 remained when he died, it was to be divided equally between his children.

Joane's executor was to be Robert Combridge, the elder; presumably this was her cousin Robert Combridge to whose children she left £30; he was most likely the Robert Combridge married to Ann Cottyte whom Andrew, her husband, had mentioned in his will. Her executor would need the profits from the land for the year of her decease to pay her legacies which totalled £115 in money. She thus instructed her son-in-law to allow her executor to occupy the lands she had had for three months after her death and to let him have "[the free standing with free liberty to dress, weed, harrow, take and carry away all such com, grain, hemp and flax](#)" as was then growing there without him paying anything for "[the harvest reaped](#)".

When she wrote her will in July 1634, three months might have seemed reasonable but her will was not proved until November 1637 so that she might not have died until after the 1637 harvest had already been gathered in. The will was proved by Robert Combridge, the elder, on 17th November 1637.

The variety of crops grown on Andrew's and Joane's land can be seen from Joane's will. Although she leaves the land to William Woodgate, her son-in-law (her daughter having died) her executor was Robert Combridge, the elder, and he needed the proceeds from her land to pay her legacies, etc. Thus for three months

after her decease William Woodgate was to allow her executor "to have the free standing and free liberty to look to dress, weed, harrow, take and carry away all such corn and grain, hemp and flax as shall be then sowed and growing in and upon the said lands".

Will of Joane Combridge of Chiddingstone

written 2nd July 1634

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The second day
2 of July in the year of our lord god one thousand six hundred thirty and four.
3 And in the tenth year of the reign of our sovereign lord Charles, by the
4 grace
5 of God king of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith,
6 etc.
7 I, Joane Combridge of Chiddingstone in the county of Kent, **widow**, in
reasonable
good health of body and of sound and good remembrance, thanks be given
unto god,
do ordain and make this my testament and last will in manner and form
following: **First:**

8 recommending my soul to the gracious acceptance of God through the
merits,
9 precious death and passion of his dear son, Jesus Christ, my saviour. And
my body
10 to the earth in decent manner to be buried. I will to the poor of
Chiddingstone aforesaid
11 ten shillings to be distributed amongst them within short time after my
decease by
12 mine executor hereafter named. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Thomas**
13 **Wallis** twenty pounds of lawful english money to be employed and paid in
this
14 manner by mine executor, viz. to be put out and my said brother to have
the yearly use
15 and profit thereof until such time as he shall have want. And then to have
and be
16 paid such part and quantity thereof as shalbe fitting to supply his want.
And to
17 have the use and profit of the remainder until he shall need again. And
then to have
18 and be paid more thereof for to relieve his necessity. And so from time to
time to be
19 relieved therewith until all the said twenty pounds shalbe fully paid unto
him by

20 mine executor. And if my said brother Thomas shall decease before he
shall have
21 fully received the said £20 as aforesaid, I will that the said £20, or such
money as
22 he shall not have received, shalbe paid equally to his children that shalbe
23 then living by my said executor. And also I will to my said brother Thomas
one
24 quarter of wheat and one quarter of malt. And the bed whereon he now
lieth
25 and all things thereto belonging. **Item:** I give unto **Joane Wallis, the
daughter**
26 **of my said brother Thomas**, one flock bed, one white blanket and one
covering. **Item:**
27 I will and give to **Joane, the daughter of my brother William Wallis**, five
pounds
28 of lawful english money to be paid her within two years next after my
decease.
29 And to **William, John and Thomas, his three other children**, I will and give
twenty
30 pounds of like lawful money to be paid equally unto them within two years
next after
31 my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the children of **my cousin
Robert**

32 **Combridge** thirty pounds of like lawful money to be equally paid and
divided
33 amongst them. **Item:** I will and give to **John Aylworth, my servant,** ten
pounds
34 of like lawful money to be paid him within two years next after my decease.
35 **Item:** I will to **John Cotty, the son of my late deceased cousin Thomas
Cotty**

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36 the sum of ten pounds to be paid him at his age of sixteen years if he
37 shall live to that age. And if he shall decease before that his age, I will that
38 the said ten pounds shalbe paid equally between the daughters of the said
Thomas
39 then living. **Item:** I will to **Robert Combridge, son of my executor** hereafter
named,
40 the bigger joined chest standing in the chamber over the hall of my
dwelling house
41 and to every other of my executor's children a boarded chest. And to **Joane
and Anne**
42 **Combridge his daughters,** I will one dozen of pewter to be equally divided
between
43 them. **Item:** upon condition that **William Woodgate, my son-in-law, and
Thomas, his**

44 **son**, their heirs and assigns, shall permit and suffer my executor hereafter
45 named, quietly and peaceably to have, hold, use and occupy all those
tenements and lands
46 with their appurtenances of the said William Woodgate now by me
occupied
47 during the space of three months next after my decease, and shall like wise
48 suffer my said executor and his assigns to have the free standing and free
liberty
49 to look to dress, weed, harrow, take and carry away all such corn and grain,
hemp
50 and flax as shalbe then sowed and growing in and upon the said lands, I
will and
51 give to the said William Woodgate's children by **my late deceased**
daughter, his
52 **late deceased wife**, these several sums of money and legacies following:
viz: I will
53 to **Thomas, John, Andrew and Sarah, their children**, twenty pounds of
lawful
54 english money to be paid equally between them or to the survivor of them,
the
55 whole within two years next after my decease. And also to the said
Thomas I
56 will one joined chest standing under the stool window in the chamber over

57 the hall in my now dwelling home. And to the said Sara, his sister, I will
58 more one lesser joined chest standing in the same chamber and two pairs
59 of sheets and more to the said Thomas and Sara his sister, I will one dozen
60 of pewter to be equally shifted between them which said chest, sheets and
pewter
61 I will shalbe delivered unto them within one year next after my decease.
And if
62 the said William Woodgate and Thomas, his son, their heirs, executors and
63 assigns will not suffer my said executor and his assigns to hold and occupy
the
64 premises after my decease as aforesaid without paying any thing therefore
65 nor the harvest reaped, cut and carry away the corn, grain and seed
aforesaid,
66 that shall be sowed or growing upon the lands aforesaid at the time of my
decease
67 peaceably and quietly and without paying any thing for the same or the
standing
68 thereof, then I will all the said twenty pounds and all the goods aforesaid
69 willed to the said Thomas, John, Andrew and Sara shalbe and remain to
70 Robert Combridge, mine executor, any gift or several gifts thereof to the
said
71 Thomas, John, Andrew and Sara, by this my will to the contrary thereof
72 notwithstanding. **Item:** to all my godchildren that shall demand the

73 same of mine executor within one year next after my decease, I will and
74 give twelve pence of english money. The residue of all other my goods and
75 chattels, I will and give to **Robert Combridge, th'elder, of Penshurst** in the
county
76 aforesaid, yeoman, whom I make and ordain the full and sole executor of
77 this my testament and last will revoking hereby all former wills by me
made. In
78 witness whereof I have hereto set my hand and seal dated the day and year
79 first before written. The mark of Joane Combridge. Sealed, published and
declared
80 in the presence of **William Hark, Thomas Streatfield, Robert Curde, Samuel**
81 **Halfside, junior.**

The Family of Robert Cambridge and Ann Cottye

It is unlikely that the Robert who married Ann Cottye was the son of the Robert who died in 1598 since he was born in 1594 whilst Robert and Ann's first child was born only twenty-one years later, in 1615.

| p665 Robert - Ann Cottye p666 | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| ----- | | | | | | |
| p667 | p668 | p669 | p670 | p671 | p672 | p673 |
| Robert ^{aj} | Andrew ^a | Joane ^{aj} | Ann ^j | Mary | John | Thomas |
| <i>bap:</i> 24 Jun 1615 | 12 Oct 1617 | 6 May 1619 | 19 Jun 1623 | 29 May 1625 | 8 May 1628 | 17 Jun 1631 |
| <i>bur:</i> | | | | | | 19 Jun 1631 |

When Andrew wrote his will in 1619 only the three elder children had been born. By the time Joane wrote her will in 1634 the family was complete but, as well as the youngest, Thomas, it would appear that Andrew, Mary and John had all died.

The eldest, Robert, would have been nineteen so that his father could have been Robert, senior, as described in Joane's will.

Thomas Constable's Water-Mill Broken Into

Thomas Constable, grandfather, father and son, lived in Penshurst. The grandfather (p584²¹⁵), who had three children born in the 1560s is likely to have been the man whose mill was broken into in 1570.. The will of his son has survived - see [Families & Transcripts](#).

At the July 1570 Assizes²¹⁶ three men from Penshurst were indicted for grand larceny, being charged with breaking into a number of buildings in Tonbridge, Chiddingstone, Penshurst and Brasted. The last of their expeditions was the break-in of the water-mill of Thomas Constable on 20th February 1570, by **Robert Fylder, tailor**, and **John Barre, labourer**, of Penshurst. They do not appear to have taken very much - only three pecks²¹⁷ of meal valued at 20d.

On 1st February they had broken into the close of **Henry Ashdowne at Chiddingstone** and stole 2 sheep valued at 13s 4d and, on 6th February, into the

²¹⁵ "p" indicates a reference in the Penshurst database

²¹⁶ Cockburn (Eliz I.) 533

²¹⁷ a peck was a measure of capacity equal to 2 gallons; a bushel is 8 gallons; meal is grain ground to powder

granary of **Robert Alchome at Tonbridge** taking only a bushel of wheat valued at four shillings.

On 10th February, when they broke into the close of **Edward Wakelyn** at Penshurst and stole a sheep (6s 8d), they were accompanied by **John Coker, a husbandman** of Penshurst. On the same day they broke into the mill-house of **Nicholas Amherst** at Brasted and stole 2 hides (13s 4d).

The three of them were also charged with having broken into the house of **Christopher Woodgate at Chiddingstone** on 15th February and stealing a hen (2s) and 2 bushels of peas (3s).

Barre and Coker were found guilty and sentenced to hang but Fylder was at large.

The Coopers of Ightham, Seal & Kemsing

George Cooper (i1671²¹⁸) was described as "borsholder and ale taster" in the Court Records 1586-1618 but he was presented to the Court for behaviour most unsuitable for a borsholder details of these being given by Harrison:

- On 11th April 1589, George Cooper was presented to the Court for having "encroached on the highway leading from Ightham to Ivy Hatch, to the inconvenience of persons going and coming from there. To be amended before 18 May, under penalty 3s 4d." (CRI 1937, p.199)
- Four men were presented to the Court held on 4th October 1590 for not having cut their hedges "to the inconvenience of the Queen's subjects"; each was given until 25 March to do so under penalty 3s 4d. (CRI 1937, p.199) George Cooper was one of these, his hedge being in **Mill Lane** which ran from the Ightham-Tonbridge road, near Ightham village, towards Basted Mill (CRI 1938, p.76). Basted Mill, 1 mile south-east of Ightham village, was outside the manor of Ightham.

The other men were:

- **George Hubble** whose hedge was "[opposite the land of George Cooper in Millane leading from Ightham to Stangate Cross](#)" which was south of Borough Green and outside the manor of Ightham.
- **John Rosse** and **John Rignall** (i1145) whose hedges were "[opposite the way leading from Ightham to Millane end.](#)" John Rosse was an ale taster at some time between 1586 and 1618. See [Rignall in More Families & Transcripts](#)

George Cowper 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 George Cooper.

George Cooper (who may not have been the same person) was a churchwarden in 1602 and he signed the transcripts of the original records for 1561-1602; he was replaced as churchwarden in 1602 or 1603 by **Thomas Gunning** (i1197) - see [More Families & Transcripts](#).

Joan (i1675), the daughter James Cooper (i1673) was baptised on 17th January 1600. In contrast to George, James suffered from damage to his hedge for which

the penalty followed swiftly. On 8th May 1598 Jane Johnson was fined 12d for having, "on 4 May last broke, stole and carried away the hedge of James Cowper at Ightham". (CRI 1937, p.218)

The Seventeenth Century Ightham Coopers

Robert Cooper was mentioned in the Court Records 1586-1618.

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M C | Died |
|-----------|--------------------------------|-------------|--|--|-----|-------------|
| i1676 | <u>COOPER, Robert</u> ----- | | 16 Sep 1610 | Anne Dixon i1677 | 1 2 | 28 Sep 1622 |
| • i1678 | <u>COOPER, William</u> | 14 Mar 1613 | | Susanna Cooper(m) i2630 | 1 1 | |
| • • i2631 | <u>COOPER, Walter</u> | | 9 Dec 1649 baptised on 26 Dec when he was 17 days old | | | 0 0 |
| • i1679 | <u>Cooper, Mary</u> | | Jun 1618 | "daughter of Robert Cooper and Anne, his wife" | | 0 0 |

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M | C | Died |
|---------|--------------------------------|-------------|------------|--------------------------|---|---|------|
| i2570 | <u>COOPER, Josiah</u> ----- | | 3 Apr 1648 | Margaret Miller 12571 | 1 | 2 | |
| • i2572 | <u>Cooper, Marie</u> | 26 Nov 1648 | | | | | 0 0 |
| • i2614 | <u>Cooper, Anna</u> | 21 Jan 1651 | | | | | 0 0 |

The Seal Coopers

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M | C | Died |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|--------|---|---|-------------|
| #3752 ²¹⁹ | <u>COOPER, Walter</u> ----- | | | | 1 | 2 | |
| • #3754 | <u>COOPER, William</u> | 23 Mar 1621 | | | | | 0 0 |
| • #3755 | <u>COOPER, Robert</u> | 18 Apr 1622 | "son of Walter Cowper" | | 0 | 0 | 19 Apr 1622 |

219 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

The Coopers & Cowpers of Kemsing

Cooper and Cowper are alternative spellings of the same name.

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M | C | Died |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|--------|---|---|-------------|
| k114 ²²⁰ | <u>COOPER, John</u> ----- | | | | 1 | 2 | 13 Mar 1623 |
| • k116 | <u>COOPER, John</u> | 26 May 1604 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • k117 | <u>Cooper, Anna</u> | 6 Oct 1605 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| k118 | <u>COWPER, William</u> ----- | | | | 1 | 2 | |
| • k120 | <u>COWPER, Thomas</u> | "infant" when buried; no father given | | | 0 | 0 | 13 Feb 1613 |
| • k121 | <u>COWPER, Richard</u> | 15 Apr 1614 | | | 0 | 0 | |

220 "k" indicates a reference in the Kemsing database

Robert Copping of Penshurst Killed his Attacker

An inquisition was held at Cowden on 24th July 1578 before **William Webbe**, **coroner**, on the body of **John Appowell** (p1012²²¹) alias Jackbegger of Penshurst. The jury found that on 22nd July in the highway at Cowden, Appowell attacked **Robert Copping** (p1011) of Penshurst, **shoemaker**, with a great staff (4d) and felled him to the ground. Fearing for his life, Copping in self-defence stabbed Appowell with his dagger and killed him. Copping was pardoned²²²

²²¹ "p" indicates a reference in the Penshurst database

²²² Cockburn (Eliz); 982 which gives the names of some of those on the jury

The Cotmans of Ightham

These were the only two entries for Cotman in the parish records:

- **William Cotman** (i1386²²³) was buried on 27th May 1582
- **Margaret Cotman, widow** (i1387) was buried on 6th June 1583.

There were, however, a number in the Court Records:

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 1573-74 | Reginald Cotman William Cotman (who could have been the one who died in 1582) |
| 1586-1618 | James Cotman and James Cottmars Jane Cotman John Cottman |

223 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

William and Dorothy Couchman of Tonbridge

Three wills have survived for Couchmans of Tonbridge:

| | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Elizabeth Couchman | 1625p | CKS: Drb/Pw 27; Drb/Pwr 21.131 | |
| William Couchman | 16 Mar 1631/2 | CKS: Drb/Pw 28 | |
| Dorothy Couchman | 13 Apr 1632 | CKS: Drb/Pw 28 | page 2.c.441 |

Elizabeth's will has not been looked at. William's was written by John Hooper, notary public and parish clerk of Tonbridge who wrote a large number of wills for people in the Tonbridge locality. Dorothy's will is not written in the same hand as that of William's but the phraseology and spelling is very similar.

Dorothy's will was written less than a month after William's and they were, presumably, husband and wife; perhaps they both died from the same infectious illness.

There was a family of Couchmans in Shipbourne in the later 1630s and 1640s (see page 2.c.443 but there is no mention of them in Dorothy's will

Dorothy Couchman, silkworker

Dorothy had an apprentice, Mary Parker, and the items she bequeathed included her best silk sample and something else made of silk. It thus looks as if she was a silk worker. She also mentions a clothier of Tonbridge, Walter Bennet whom she describes as her son-in-law (which could have been step son) but she left him only one shilling.

Dorothy had connections with the Chittenden family of West Malling and Seal. Elizabeth Chittenden, whom Dorothy made her executrix, was the daughter of John Chittenden; she was born in 1609 and married Richard Stone on 30th October 1630. She was only twenty-three when Dorothy died. Dorothy also left five shillings to Joane Chittenden of Malling "[now wife of Richard Watts](#)". In both cases Dorothy refers to these women by their maiden names showing that their being Chittendens was important to her. Dorothy herself could have been a Chittenden. See page 2.c.112 for details of the family of Richard Stone and Elizabeth of Seal.

1 In the name of god Amen. The 13th day of April in the eighth year
2 of the reign of our sovereign lord king Charles of England,
3 Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith. I, Dorothy Couchman
4 of Tonbridge
5 in the county of Kent, **widow**, being²²⁴ sick in body but of perfect
6 remembrance, thanks be to God, therefore do make and ordain
7 this my last will and testament in manner and form following:
8 **First** and principally, above all things, I will and bequeath my soul
9 to Almighty god. my maker, saviour and redeemer, and my body to be
10 buried in the church ?? of Tonbridge according
11 to the discretion of mine executor here under named as hereafter followeth
12 **Impris:** I give and bequeath unto ?? now servant unto the right
13 Honourable Earl of ??
14 my best silk sampler, my wedding ring and my silk ??
15 and next I give and bequeath unto **Joane Chittenden of Mawllings**²²⁵, **wife**

224 "beeing", "bee", etc. throughout

225 Malling?

The Couchmans of Shipbourne

Robert Couchman (\$1619²²⁷) and his wife Margaret (\$1620) had the following children:

| | | | |
|--------|-----------|----------------------|---------------------|
| \$1621 | William | baptised: 9 Nov 1634 | buried: 29 Dec 1642 |
| \$1706 | Thomas | 5 Feb 1637 | |
| \$1707 | Anna | 9 Dec 1638 | |
| \$1708 | infant | | 3 May 1640 |
| \$1709 | Elizabeth | 22 Aug 1641 | |
| \$2062 | Judith | 28 Oct 1646 | |
| \$2136 | Judith | 16 May 1648 | 17 May 1648 |
| \$2199 | Judith | 25 Aug 1650 | |

²²⁷ \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

Edward Coveney of Snodland and West Peckham

The will of Edward Coveney (CKS: Drb/Pw 22; Drb/Pwr 20.480) was written, on 26th April 1609 by Nicholas Hooper who wrote many wills for people in the Shipbourne/Tonbridge area from the 1570s to 1618. Edward is described as “of Snodland” but wanted to be buried in West Peckham which is probably where he was when his will was written. Snodland is about seven miles north east of West Peckham. He also owned land in Marden about twelve miles south of Snodland.

There is a problem regarding names in that Edward’s brothers and sisters, who are his heirs, have the surname Godden. Edward’s name appears three times in the will, at the beginning and end, written by the scriptor Nicholas Hooper, and as his signature which looks like a signature “Edward Coveney”. Had Edward married a Godden, the sister of his heirs? Perhaps if his wife had died without having any children, his brothers- and sisters-in-law were his nearest relatives.

There were two brothers, an unmarried sister Jane and two married sisters, the husband of one of these, Thomas Baker, tanner of West Peckham, being the man Edward appointed as his executor. Edward’s land in Snodland was to be sold and the proceeds divided equally between his five brothers and sisters except that

Jane was to receive an extra £20. The land Edward owned in Marden was also to be divided equally between the five brothers and sisters.

In addition to land, Edward was apparently engaged in some trading since he owned a “[third part which I have in a hoy upon the water](#)”, a hoy being a type of boat. This, together with his other goods, etc. he gave to his executor, Thomas Baker.

Nicolas Hooper's
mark

- 1 In²²⁸ the name of god Amen. the six and twentieth day of April in the year
of our
2 Lord God one thousand, six hundred and nine. And in the seventh year of
the reign of our sovereign
3 Lord James, by the grace of god king of England, France and Ireland,
defender of the faith, etc. And
4 of Scotland the two and fortieth, I, Edward Coveney of Snodland in the
county of Kent, **yeoman**,
5 being sick and weak of body but yet of perfect mind and remembrance,
thanks therefore be²²⁹ given to

228 decorated "I"

229 "bee", "shalbee", etc. thought including "beefore"

6 Almighty god, do ordain and make this my present last will and testament
in manner and form following²³⁰,
7 ?? **First** and principally I give, commend and bequeath my soul into the
hands of Almighty god
8 who gave it, trusting by an assured faith which I have in the merits of
Christ's ?? and passion, my only
9 saviour and redeemer, that the same shalbe presented pure before the
throne of his majesty. And
10 my body to the earth to be buried in the churchyard of **West Peckham** in
the county of Kent or
11 else where it shall please mine executor hereafter named

12 ?? concerning my third part which I have in a hoy upon the water and
all other my moveable
13 goods whatsoever I wholly, fully and with good effect, intent and purpose,
give and bequeath to my ??
14 **brother-in-law, Thomas Baker** of West Peckham aforesaid, **tanner**, which
Thomas Baker I make
15 and ordain my whole and sole executor of this my will, to see the same
proved, my debts and legacies paid

230 "folowing" - usual for Hoopers

16 and my body honestly and decently buried. **Item:** I give and bequeath to
be distributed amongst the poor
17 resorting to my burial, at the discretion of mine executor aforesaid, forty
shillings lawful money.

18 This is the last will of me, the said Edward Coveney made and declared the
day and year
19 first above written concerning all my lands and tenements whatsoever.
And as for all my tenements, land,
20 ?? hereditaments whatsoever, lying, situated and being within the
parish of Snodland aforesaid, I will that
21 ?? ?? the same withall and singular th'appurtenances, shalbe sold by
my said brother-in-law Thomas
22 Baker, his executor, administrators or assigns. And I do give full power ??
?? by virtue

page 2:

23 of this my will, unto him, the said Thomas Baker, his executors,
administrators and assigns, to sell, bargain,
24 ?? and confirm to any person or persons whatsoever all and every my said
lands, tenements and hereditaments lying
25 in Snodland aforesaid within one whole year from the day of my decease,
for the most and best price that can be

26 made thereof. And, for the further assurance, thereof I will that the said
party or parties, so buying the same or
27 any part thereof shall have, hold and enjoy the same to him and them, his
and their heirs and assigns forever.
28 in as ample manner as if I had sold the same myself. And the money
thereof made I will shalbe equally
29 divided and paid by my said executor, his executors, administrators or
assigns, presently after the same shalbe
30 received among **my brothers John and Robert Godden** and **my sisters Jane
Godden, Sara** the
31 **wife of the said Thomas Baker** and **Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Tapley**, by
equal portions, saving I
32 will that my said sister Jane, her part shalbe twenty pounds more than any
of the rest. And
33 ?? all other my lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever, in
Marden or elsewhere, I give and bequeath
34 all and every the same, withall and singular th'appurtenances equally
between my above named brothers and
35 sisters, to have and to hold the same and every the same, with all and
singular th'appurtenances, equally between
36 them, my said brothers and sisters, his, her and their heirs and assigns
forever. In witness whereof

37 to this my present last will and testament I, the said Edward Coveney,
have set my hand and seal
38 yeven the day and year first above written.

Nicolas Hooper's
mark
with initials

Edward Coveney²³¹

Sealed and declared as
the true and last will of the said
Edward Coveney the day and
year first above written in the
presence of
William Frayreman
Christopher Stone and
Nicolas Hooper, writer

231 looks like a signature

William Cowdry of Penshurst

The administration of the estate of William Cowdry (p885²³²) was presented to **John Dike** (p886), **creditor**, on 21st February 1596.

Richard Cox of Shipbourne

Dorothy (\$439), daughter of **Richard Cox**, was baptised on 27th November 1598. A year later, on 24th November 1599, **Martyn Rolfe, son of John Rolfe** of St. Margaret's, London, was buried. It would seem that he was nursed by Richard's wife whose name we do not know.

On 25th April 1610, "Dorothy Cocks" was buried. No other details are given. This Dorothy could have been Richard's daughter but, since she would have been only eleven, it would be expected that she would have been described as "daughter of Richard". Maybe he had already died.

There are no other Cox/Cocks recorded in Shipbourne.

The Cradocks & Howells of Ightham

In the central isle of Ightham church there is a brass recording **Jane Dirkin** (i2741²³³) who was buried there on 29th June 1626. Her first husband was **John Cradock** (i2740) whose first wife, **Rachel** (i2744), was buried on 26th September 1601. John came from **Luddesdown** where his and Jane's children were baptised²³⁴.

- Dorothy i2344 born before 18th July 1602 since, her memorial in Pembury church records that she died on 18th July 1654 in her 53rd year. Thus she was born less than ten months after the burial of Rachel.
- Katherine i2742 baptised 4 Sep 1603
- Nevill i2743 29 Sep 1605
- Elizabeth i2474 12 Dec 1607.

233 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

234 following dates fro Morris, p.11

John Cradock was buried on 5th February 1609 and Jane subsequently married **John Dirkin** (i2745) about whom nothing is known.

Both Dorothy and Elizabeth married well:

- on 26th March 1627 Dorothy married **Richard Amherst, Esq.** (i2343) - see [Amherst in More Families & Transcripts](#)
- in 1633 Elizabeth married **Sir John Howell**, (i2473) serjeant-at-law, Recorder of London. The Howells are recorded by an “[elegant alabaster and black marble tablet in the south wall](#) (of Ightham church) [and are buried in the Mote vault beneath](#)”²³⁵.

John and Elizabeth Howell had two children baptised in Ightham:

- **Dorothy** i2475 21 Sep 1634
- **William** i2476 19 Apr 1636

Since Jane was buried in Ightham it is likely that John and she lived there and that is where her Cradock children grew up. They were obviously a wealthy family since not only was there Jane Dirkin's brass but a silver communion plate

six inches in diameter, hallmarked London, is recorded as having been donated to the church in 1616 by Jane²³⁶.

From their wills, **William Selby** who inherited The Mote from his uncle in 1612 and his wife **Dorothy** (who were childless) took a particular interest in Jane Dirkin and her Cradock children. Perhaps Dirkin was connected with the Selby family in some way.

In his will of 1637, Sir William Selby left £150 and a diamond ring to Dorothy and Elizabeth £150 and a diamond ring each and £50 each to their children. Nevill was also left £150 but there is no mention of Katherine who probably died as a child. Nevill lived in London being of Clifford's Inn when he married in 1630.²³⁷

Dorothy, Elizabeth and Nevill Cradock all chose Dorothy and William as names for their first daughter and son.

236 Bowra, p.19

237 Morris, p.12-13

The Crafts of Ightham

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M C | Died |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|---|---------|---------------------|-----|-------------|
| i1639 ²³⁸ | <u>CRAFT, Ralph</u> | | | Audrey Craft(m) | 1 3 | |
| | ----- | | | i1640 | | |
| | | died before November 1620 if Audrey was his widow | | | | |
| i1640 | <u>Craft(m), Audrey</u> | | | widow when buried | 1 3 | 25 Nov 1620 |
| | ----- | | | | | |
| • | i1641 <u>CRAFT, Thomas</u> | 29 Dec 1592 | | | 0 0 | |
| • | i1642 <u>CRAFT, William</u> | 17 Feb 1595 | | | 1 3 | |
| • | • i2235 <u>CRAFT, Willuam</u> | 2 Jun 1623 | | "Croft" in register | 0 0 | |
| • | • i1645 <u>CRAFT, Richard</u> | 26 Mar 1626 | | | 0 0 | 13 Mar 1628 |
| • | • i1646 <u>Craft, Margaret</u> | 8 Apr 1628 | | | 0 0 | |
| • | • i1647 <u>CRAFT, Reginald</u> | 8 May 1631 | | | 0 0 | 4 Oct 1632 |
| <hr/> | | | | | | |
| • | i1643 <u>Craft, Marie</u> | 2 Aug 1601 | | | 0 0 | |

Ralph Crafte 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) William Craft was also mentioned in the Records for 1586-1618. See also [Weston in Families & Transcripts](#)

²³⁸ "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

The Cripps of Seal & Ightham

William Cripps (#180²³⁹) had a son, **John (#182)**, baptised on 16th September 1565 in Seal. This was probably the William Cripps who occupied the Tebold lands called Chawsor/Chart and also the man who witnessed the will of Johane Tomlyn in 1556 (see [Tebold and Tomlyn in Families & Transcripts](#)) .

Also in Seal, **Richard Cripps** (#1039) married **Margaret Broughton, widow, of Otford (#1040)** on 21st February 1582. If #1039's wife was the widow of **William Broughton** (#510) she had one son by her first marriage but other children, from both marriages, could have been baptised in Otford.

Julian Cripps (i1161) was buried in Ightham on 11th August 1567 but there were no other Cripps recorded in the parish registers until 1611 (see next page) although **James Cripps** and **Thomas Cripps of Hartley** were mentioned in the Court Records 1586-1618.

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

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M | C | Died |
|---------|--|-------------|-------------|--|---|---|------|
| i2073 | <u>CRIPPS, William</u> ----- | | | | | 1 | 3 |
| • i2077 | <u>Cripps, Joane</u> | | 24 Jun 1622 | Thomas NORDIGANT i2078 | | 1 | 0 |
| | Joane is known only from her marriage; possibly William's daughter | | | | | | |
| • i2075 | <u>Cripps, Marie</u> | 19 May 1611 | 16 May 1631 | John BOGHERT ²⁴⁰ married at 20 | | 1 | 0 |
| | | | | #2079 | | | |
| • i2076 | <u>Cripps, Ellenor</u> | 27 Jul 1617 | | | | 0 | 0 |

At the Court held on 26th October 1618, it was found that "a certain ditch is unscoured and flooded, leading from **Dockrell Bridge to Shadwell** by the neglect of **William Cripps, William Flower** (i2018) and **Jane Wooddye, widow**²⁴¹. Given till the next Court to clean and drain it under penalty 10s." (CRI 1937, p.194)

William Cripps was recorded as "borsholder, yeoman" (CRI 1938, p.57)

240 there were Boghursts in Seal (see [More Families & Transcripts](#)). John could have been one of Nevell Boghurst's sons but he is not mentioned in the Seal registers

241 see [Flowers and Woodie in More Families & Transcripts](#)

Dorothy Croffer, widow of Strood

“Croffer” could be “Crosser” or even “Cosser”,

This short nuncupative will shows the responsibilities which a woman may have to take on as other members of her family died. Dorothy had probably been the executrix of her husband’s will. When she died she was still acting as full executrix of her son William Cette, a son by an earlier marriage. She appointed as her executrix, her granddaughter Jone, daughter of an unnamed daughter. It thus looks as if not only had her son William died but also her daughter, the mother of Jone.

Nuncupative Will of Dorothy Croffer, widow of Strowde

spoken 20th February 1618

transcript from original; CKS: Drb/Pw 24

1 **Memorandum** that upon the one and twentieth day of February in the
2 year of our lord god one thousand, six hundred and eighteen
3 Dorothy Croffer of Strowde did make a nuncupative will or a will
4 by word of mouth in the presence of those whose names are here under

5 written. The meaning? or contents were these: that **Jone Wood, her**
6 **daughter's**
7 **daughter** should pay and discharge all the legacies which the said
8 Dorothy Crosser stood charged withall by reason of the will of her
9 **son William Cette** unto which will the said Dorothy was full
10 executrix and, those legacies being paid, she did give unto the said Jone
Wood all her goods and did make her, the said Jone, her full executrix.

Robert Chamberlayne
minister of Stroode

Andrew Blake
Walter Wibourne

The Crudds of Ightham & Shipbourne

The first mention of a Crudd is the baptism of **Joane** (i595²⁴²), **daughter of John Crudd** (i592), on 10th July 1569. A John Crudd married in 1591 - see below; he could have been Joane's brother.

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M | C | Died |
|------|---------------------------------|-------------|------------|----------------|---|------|------------|
| i594 | <u>CRUDD, John</u> ----- | | 3 Oct 1591 | Agnes Pebenden | 1 | 2 | 3 Feb 1619 |
| | | | | | | i596 | |
| i596 | <u>Pebenden, Agnes</u> ----- | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 Mar 1623 |
| • | i597 <u>Crudd, Elizabeth</u> | 23 Jul 1592 | | | | 0 | 0 |
| • | i598 <u>Crudd, Margaret</u> | 24 Nov 1594 | | | | 0 | 0 |

The burial of a John Croude was recorded in Feb 1619 and that of an Agnes Croud with no other details in March 1623; these could have been the burials of i594 and his wife.

Alice (i1554), daughter of **Richard Crudd** (i639), was baptised on 5th June 1575. On 4th April 1608, when she was thirty-five, she became the second wife of **Richard Shoebridge** (i1542). See [Shoebridge in More Families & Transcripts](#) for their family.

"**Jane, the wife of John Crudd**" was fined 6d in 1599 for having taken wood from the hedges - see [Lauder in More Families & Transcripts](#). Since #594's wife was Agnes, perhaps Jane was the wife of #592 (their daughter was called Joane) in which case she would have been in her fifties in 1599.

A "**John Crudde, ale taster**" is mentioned in the Court Records 1586-1618; this could have been either #592 or #594.

There are two references to Crudd in **Shipbourne**:

- **William Crudd** (\$728) had a daughter, **Elizabeth** (\$730), baptised 29th August 1602 and buried 10th February 1603.
- **Jane Crudd** (\$1693) married **Robert Bourne** (\$1692) on 1st November 1636.

The Crusts of Seal

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M | C | Died |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|---------|--------|---|---|--------------------|
| #293 ²⁴³ | <u>CRUST, Robert</u> ----- | | | | 1 | 3 | 28 Apr 1618 |
| • #2486 | <u>Crust, Maria</u> | 21 Jul 1611 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • #148 | <u>Crust, Jane</u> | 22 Aug 1613 | | | 0 | 0 | 11 Jan 1646 age 32 |
| • #2487 | <u>Crust, Ann</u> | 22 Oct 1615 | | | 0 | 0 | 5 Apr 1644 age 28 |

Robert was probably only in his early thirties when he died; his wife (whose name is not known) did not remarry; she was still alive in April 1644 when Ann "[daughter of widow Crust died](#)" but when Jane died in January 1646 her mother was not mentioned in the register

243 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

The Curds of Speldherst

Nine wills proved at Rochester prior to 1650 have survived for Curds (or Curde) from Speldhurst and one from Hadlow. From an indexing point of view, "Curd" has been taken as the standard form.

| | dated | proved | Drb/Pw; Drb/Pwr | |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| John Curd (senior) | | 1472 | 4.23 | |
| William Curd | | 1472 | 4.44 | |
| William Curd | | 1472 | 4.86 | |
| Richard Curd (Hadlow) | 1530 | 1530 | 8.264 | |
| Harry Curde | 1559 | 1560 | 7 | 12.433 |
| John Curde | 1554 | 1560 | 7 | 12.449 |
| Richard Curde | | 1598 | 18 | 19I.47 |
| William Curde | 25 Jun 1597 | 1598 | 18 | 19I.44 see page 2.c.467 |
| John Curde | | 1602 | 19 | 19I.246 husbandman |
| Robert Curde | | 1602 | 19 | 19I.237 yeoman |

There were also two from Speldhurst proved at the PCC:

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------|------|------------|
| Thomas Curde | | 1605 | Hayes 51 |
| Richard Curde | 16 Dec 1637 | 1645 | Rivers 134 |

There are also a number of Crud wills from Speldhurst and it is possible that Crud and Curd were variations of the same name.

William Curde's will of 1597, which is the only one to have been transcribed, was written by Nicholas Hooper who wrote many wills in the area between 1574 and 1618. Neither of the 1602 wills were written by a Hooper, John's being written by **Thomas Stubberfield**.

The witnesses to Thomas Curde's will of 1605 were Walter Smalham, Richard Johnson, Thomas Curde and George Brooker. George Brooker was the scriptor of a number of wills including that of Walter Fry of Speldhurst in 1605 and Anne Lucke of Penshurst in 1610 and he, therefore, probably wrote Thomas's will.

A George Brooker was the only witness to the will of Richard Curde written in 1637 but not proved until 1645. This could have been the same George Brooker as witnessed Thomas's will. See **Brooker in X2C** for more details.

The Family of William Curde of Speldhurst

William mentions five sons and a daughter Margaret in his will but, from her will of 1615, Johane Rivers was probably another daughter who had probably had a dowry when she married and was therefore not mentioned by her father in his will - see [Rivers in More Families & Transcripts](#) for more details.

| | | | | | | | |
|--------|-------|---------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|---|
| will: | | | | | | | x1406 ²⁴⁴ William - 25 Jun 1597 |
| ----- | | | | | | | |
| x1408 | x1409 | x1410 | x1411 | x1412 | x1413 | x1419 | |
| Thomas | John | Henry - | William | Richard - | Margaret | Johane | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | x1415 | | x1417 | x1418 | | |
| | | George | | William | Thomas | | |

244 "x" indicates a reference in the database covering a number of parishes; Johane is Johane Rivers (p967) in the Penshurst database

1 In the name of god Amen. The five and twentieth day of June in the year
2 of our Lord god 1597 And in the ninth and thirtieth year of the Reign of our
Sovereign Lady
3 Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of England, France and Ireland,
defender of the
4 faith. I, William Curde, the elder, of Speldhurst, in the county of Kent,
yeoman, being
5 whole and well as well in body as in mind, notwithstanding aged, and not
knowing how soon
6 it may please god to visit me and willing that my transitory goods which
God had made me
7 Steward of may be quietly enjoyed after my decease by those whom I have
meant the
8 same unto, Therefore I ordain and make my present testament and last will
in manner and
9 form following, that is to say: **First**: I bequeath my soul to almighty god
and my
10 body to be buried in the churchyard of Speldherst aforesaid. **Item**: I will to
be

11 distributed at my burial, among poor people thereunto resorting 10s and
toward the
12 reparations of the church of Speldherst 3s 4d. **Item:** I will that my two
tables in my
13 hall shall remain unto **Thomas, my son**, as implements and Standers to the
house²⁴⁵. **Item:**
14 I will and bequeath to **Henry Curde, my son**, one cow ten shillings in
money
15 which 10s I will **my son Richard** shall pay within one year after my decease
in consideration of
16 my biggest brass pot which I give to **William Curde, my godson, son of the
said Richard**.
17 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **William Curde, my son**, twenty shillings to be
paid
18 within one year next after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto my
19 **daughter Margaret**, Forty shillings to be paid within one year next after my
decease.
20 **Item:** I give to **Julian Yong, my servant**, 3s 4d. **Item:** I give and bequeath to
21 **Johane, my daughter**, 3s 4d. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Thomas
Curde, son of**

245 no mention of land or house being bequeathed; perhaps since the testator was aged, this has been organised previously

22 **Richard Curde, my son**, one red three yearling heifer with a white ?? parcel
of my goods. **Item:**
23 I give and bequeath more unto Margaret Curde, my daughter, Forty
shillings of money to be paid
24 to her within three years next after my decease and one flock bed, one
bolster, one pair of sheets
25 ?? ?? to be delivered within two months next after my decease by my
executors.²⁴⁶
26 **The residue** of all my goods and cattalls whatsoever, my debts and legacies
being paid
27 and funeral discharged, I wholly, fully and with good effect, intent and
purpose, give
28 and bequeath unto my two sons **John Curde** and Richard Curde, which
John
29 and Richard I make and ordain my whole and full executors. **In wit**
30 **ness** whereof, I the said William Curde, the elder, to this my present last
will have set

246 these three lines look to have been added after the rest of the will had been written but the addition could have been made before the will was signed, etc.

31 my hand and Seal yeven²⁴⁷ the day and year first above written in the
presence of

32 me, Nicolas Hooper, writer hereof and Richard Rogers

signed ²⁴⁸ William

by me Frances ??

Curde Senis

signed Richard
Rogers

John Lenton

George Longley his mark

Henry ??pledirk his mark

247 a variation of "given" often used by the Hoopers

248 his mark

The Curdes of Seal, Ightham & Shipbourne

There were a number of Curdes in **Seal** but the relationships between them are not known.

John Curde sold a house in Seal to **Thomas Hadlow** prior to 4th August 1527 when Thomas wrote his will.

Thirty-five years later another **John Curde (#25²⁴⁹)** had a son, Christopher (#27), baptised on 20th December 1561. It could have been the wife of this John Curde to whom Margaret Hasell left a smock in her will of August 1566.

On 31st May 1562 **Ann Curde (#224)** married **Richard Nicolls (#223)**.

Nearly twenty years later, on 21st February 1580, **William (#949)**, the son of **Richard Curde (#947)** was baptised. William's wife, **Johane (#948)**, was buried on 13th April 1583

249 # indicates a reference in the Seal database and \$ in that for Shipbourne

In **Ightham Agnes Curd** was fined 12d at the Court held on 8th May 1598 for having "cut down and carried away the lord's wood about Christmas last". (CRI 1937, p.208) but this is the only mention of a Curd in Ightham.

The situation is similar in Shipbourne:

On 19th September 1563 **John Curde** (\$37) married **Alice Knell** (\$38).

On 25th July 1569 **John Curde** (\$80) married **Johane Swan** (\$81). John must have died before 1593 since by that time Johane was the wife of ?? **Starie**. - see [Swan in More Families & Transcripts](#)

John (\$415), son of John Curde, was baptised on 28th May 1598. This was too late for him to have been the son of the John Curde (\$80) who married Johane Swan.