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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.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
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 (\$800<sup>1</sup>) 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).

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<sup>1</sup> \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

# The Carres of Kemsing

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
k540 <sup>2</sup>	<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



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# The Carriers of Seal

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

	#595 <sup>3</sup>	#274	
#275			
	Tomasine -	George -	Dorothy Turner
<i>bur:</i>	12 Dec 1566		
	-----	-----	
	#1365	#87	#517
	Elias -	Hester Olyver	William
<i>bap:</i>	4 Apr 1563	1 Sep 1571	Mark
	#1588		11 Apr 1574
	Margaret		
<i>bap:</i>	21 Dec 1589 <sup>4</sup>		

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

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<sup>3</sup> # indicates a reference in the Seal database

<sup>4</sup> 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** (\$856<sup>5</sup>) 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** (i892<sup>6</sup>) 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.

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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 bowls<sup>7</sup> 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**, either<sup>8</sup> 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



supervisors hereunder named, shall sell so much woods<sup>9</sup> in the parish of **East Malling**, with egress and regress for carrying of the same, to fell, sell and carry away, two years after my decease, as shall amount unto the full ?? of my debts and legacies. Also I ordain and make **George Moulton** and **Henry Brokhull, Esquires**, supervisors of this my present testament and last will, to the said Mr. Moulton I give for his labour and pains in this my present testament and last will 30s and to the said Henry Brokhull, my son<sup>10</sup>, 20s.

This is the last will of me, the aforesaid Hugh Catelyn, made and declared the day and year above written, of and upon the disposition of all my lands, tenements, meadows, 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:

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 notwithstanding. **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 tail<sup>11</sup> 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   Edmond<sup>12</sup> 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 Catelyn<sup>13</sup>

---

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”.<sup>14</sup>

# The Catts of Ightham & Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
i2249 <sup>15</sup>	<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.

<sup>15</sup> "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 <sup>16</sup>	
mar:	25 Jan 1595			
bur:	27 Nov 1625		20 Jan 1611	
	-----			
			\$1315	
	XXX -		Elizabeth - William Ellis	\$1316
mar:			13 Feb 1621	
	-----			
	\$1659	\$1085		\$1857
	Henry Chalklin - Mercy	John - Dorothy Norice	Susan - John Moyse	\$1965
mar:	<1634		24 Feb 1643	\$1966
will:	1646		15 Sep 1644	
	-----			
		\$1661		\$1638
	John	Thomas	Henry	Anne
bap:	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**<sup>17</sup> 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 <sup>18</sup>

the mark of

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.<sup>20</sup>

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 <sup>21</sup>	<u>CHAPMAN, Robert</u> ----- 		16 Jan 1615	Joane Emmorie 1989	1 6	
1989	<u>Emmorie, Joane</u> -----	20 Oct 1588		married at 26 see <a href="#">Emmorie in More Families &amp; Transcripts</a>	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

<sup>21</sup> "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 <sup>22</sup>	<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

## *The Charies of Shipbourne*

**William Charie (\$587<sup>23</sup>)** 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.

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<sup>23</sup> \$ 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 <sup>24</sup>	<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		baptised the same day as he was		0 0 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".

<sup>24</sup> "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 <sup>25</sup>	PCC: Harrington 60; Prob 10/140	page 2.c.59
Roman Children	17 Apr 1613 proved 1614	PCC: Lawe 50	page 2.c.68
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

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<sup>25</sup> 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.

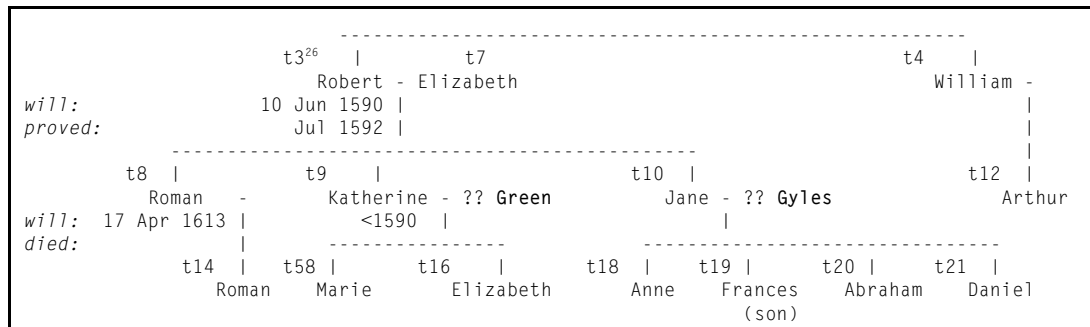
George Children's will is unusual in the details given of the farming carried on by George's family and complicated by the arrangements made for his wife's widowhood.

### *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

the lease of some lands in “St. Martins in the Fields in the county of Middlesex”<sup>27</sup> 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 In<sup>28</sup> the name of god Amen. The tenth day of June<sup>29</sup> 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**, being<sup>30</sup> 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

grieved with aches and sickness and thereby put in mind of the ??  
6 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  
bloodshedding<sup>31</sup>, 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 ? ?

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

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 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 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 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 so long live and keep herself a widow, viz at the feast of Th'annunciation of the blessed virgin Mary, midsummer, Michaelmas and Christmas 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 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 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 ??

to her degree and quality, as well in sickness as in health, in the said mansion house with my said son Roming, his heirs, executors and assigns during all the said term if she so long live a widow and will accept and take the same. Provided notwithstanding, and my very will and mind is that, if my said wife shall refuse her such dwelling, finding and payment of the said ten pounds yearly as aforesaid, then I will and bequeath to her, the said Elizabeth, the sum of five pounds lawful money to be paid to her, or her assigns, at every of the feasts aforesaid, or within the space of the said three weeks thence next ensuing, upon like demand which is £20 yearly during the said term 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 have<sup>32</sup> 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

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32 repetition in original will and in probate copy

37 be given her by this my will, then I will that the said gift of  
finding and keeping chamber, 50s a quarter, £5 a quarter and 33s 4d a  
38 quarter shalbe utterly void, frustrate and of none effect to all  
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 counterpoint<sup>33</sup> 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,**

---

33 old form of counterpane

## 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

- 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 one<sup>34</sup>. 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

with aches and sickness and thereby put in mind of the sudden alteration of this mortal and transitory life, therefore do ordain and make this my present testament and last will in manner and form following: And **first** and principally, I give, commend and bequeath my soul to Almighty god, my maker, and to Jesus Christ, his dear son, my only saviour and redeemer, by whose merits, precious death and blood shedding I trust only to be saved and my body to the earth to be buried in honest and decent sepulchre according to my calling at the discretion of mine executor. **Item:** I will and give to a godly and learned preacher to make a sermon at my burial six shillings eight pence of lawful money, 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. **Item:** I will and bequeath to **Robert Children, my son**, all that my lease and leases of all such lands and tenements whatsoever I have situated, lying and being in the parish of **Saint Martins in**

*page 2:*

**the Fields in the county of Middlesex**<sup>35</sup>. And all my right title, interest and

---

35 left to him by his father

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  
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 houseroom 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 parlour<sup>36</sup>. 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

---

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?



to me due and owing (my debts and legacies being paid and funeral discharged<sup>37</sup>) I wholly and fully give and bequeath to the said Robert, my son, whom I make and constitute my whole and sole executor of this my will. And I make and ordain my **son-in-law, Henry Carnell**, supervisor and overseer of this my last will and testament to whom I will and give towards his pains forty shillings to be paid within one whole year next after my decease desiring him to show good will to my good wife, son and other legators in this my will nominated according to the true tenor of this my will.

This is the last will and testament of me the said Roman 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 Robert Children, my son, all that my mansion house called **Mountains**<sup>38</sup> wherein I now dwell withall the houses, barns, buildings and edifices thereto belonging and all the closes, gardens,

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<sup>37</sup> "dischardged" but probate copy

<sup>38</sup> left to him by his father

100 orchards, lands, meadows, pastures, feedings, woods and underwood<sup>39</sup>  
101 thereto belonging, situated, lying and being in Tonbridge aforesaid.  
102 And all other my lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever  
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 In<sup>40</sup> 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**, being<sup>41</sup> 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  
assuredly  
that I shall change my life but the time thereof being uncertain and willing  
that those  
transitory goods and possessions which God hath made me steward of here  
in this  
world may be quietly enjoyed after my decease by those whom I have  
meant the same  
unto: Therefore I do ordain and make this my present testament and last  
will in manner

---

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

13 and form following<sup>42</sup>: 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 bloodshedding<sup>43</sup> 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 be<sup>44</sup> 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 be<sup>45</sup> 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 distrain. 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 Hooper<sup>46</sup>**

*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**, being<sup>47</sup> of perfect mind and memory, do ordain  
5 and make this my testament and last will as followeth: **First:**

---

<sup>46</sup> 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.

<sup>47</sup> "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**<sup>48</sup>, 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 even 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, tussham<sup>49</sup>, 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

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 cords<sup>50</sup> 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



until she was twenty-one.

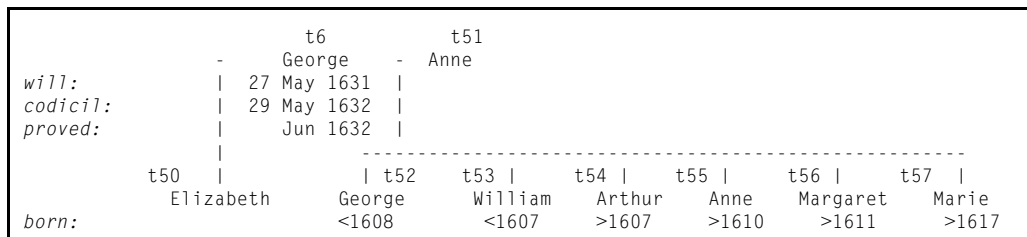
He left to his eldest son George various pieces of land and two messuages or tenements all of which were described as being "in the occupation of me, the said George, and of John Rigsby". But there was a strange complication:

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

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

which I give praise to God) do ordain and make this my testament and last will in

manner and form following: **First:** recommending my soul to Almighty god, my

maker, trusting to have salvation through the merits of Jesus Christ, my saviour. And

my body to the earth in decent manner to be<sup>51</sup> buried. I will to the poor of Tonbridge

five shillings. **Item:** I will and give to **Anne, my daughter**, the sum of one hundred

pounds to be paid to her at her age of twenty and one years. **Item:** I will and give to

**Margaret, my daughter**, one hundred pounds to be paid to her also at her age of twenty

and one years. **Item:** I will and give to **Marie, my youngest daughter**, likewise the

sum of one hundred pounds of lawful english money to be paid unto her at her age of one and twenty years.

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<sup>51</sup> "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**<sup>52</sup>  
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



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**<sup>53</sup> and the barns, houses, buildings, yards, gardens, orchards  
and lands, arable,

60 meadow, pasture and wood lands thereto belonging and therewith  
purchased, one parcel

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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 messuage 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 messuage, 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, shalbe<sup>54</sup> paid by my said son  
Arthur, his heirs
- or assigns, out of my other lands, houses and tenements to him formerly

devised, one

- annuity or yearly rent charge<sup>55</sup> 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

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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 messuage 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.**

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# 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 <sup>56</sup>	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,

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<sup>56</sup> "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 him<sup>57</sup>.

## *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

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

of an almshouse for the poor in Shipbourne  
aforesaid within one whole year next ensuing  
my said decease to be paid. **Item:** I will and bequeath  
unto every of my godchildren, requiring and  
demanding it of myne executor, 3s 4d.

**Item:** will and bequeath unto **Richard Gooden, of  
Shipbourne**, the elder, to be paid unto him

within one whole year next after my decease,  
26s 8d. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto **John**

**Burgess of Shipbourne** aforesaid to be paid  
unto him within one whole year next after my  
decease, 26s 8d. **Item:** to **my godson, Richard**

**Chowne**, within the said term of one year,  
to be paid unto him £5. **Item:** I will and bequeath

unto **my nephew, Thomas Hunter**, to be paid  
unto him within two whole years after my

decease, ten pounds (that is to say) five  
pounds the first year and, in the second

year, other five pounds. **Item:** I will and  
bequeath unto **Edward Swan, the son of**

**Robert Swan**<sup>58</sup>, **my godson**, to be paid unto the

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

---

59 the will was not proved until 1566

will is that, if it happen the said Thomas Stobefield and the said Anne, now his present wife, or either of them, at any time after my decease, by any manner of role? or means, do survey, impede or disquiet my said executor for any concerning the goods, cattells or other whatsoever matter therein contained to this my said devise, that then I will the said Robert Swan, my said executor, to receive and keep to his own use the said five pounds to the wife of the said Thomas before by me bequeathed, any thing above mentioned to the contrary notwithstanding. These being witnesses of the ?? above written: **Henry Godden, Thomas Tuttesham, gent., Silvester Page, Richard Pickerell, jurat, Henry Goodman, John Goodwin<sup>60</sup>, jurat, at ??** And John 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 scribe.
- 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 scribe.

## *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:



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:

\$1017	William -			Wiat -			
	\$1019						
	Joane		Martha	Bennett		Bennett	
<i>bap:</i>	20 May 1611	14 Feb 1609	22 Oct 1611	3 Apr 1614			

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 be<sup>65</sup>  
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 following<sup>66</sup>, 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 shedding<sup>67</sup> 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** 6d<sup>68</sup>  
**Item:** shall suffer **my wife**  
to take and enjoy to her  
20 use all her wearing gear and apparel and one blanket, all my styde<sup>69</sup> 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 children<sup>70</sup>.  
**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**<sup>71</sup>, 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 good<sup>72</sup>.

**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 Chowne<sup>73</sup>, to either

of them, the sum of thirty pounds a piece of lawful money, at their age and several ages of one and

twenty years. And if either of them shall happen to decease before, the overliver to have

<sup>74</sup> if both my said daughters happen to decease before their payment aforesaid, that their portions shalbe paid to my said two sons Waller and Wyatt or

the overliver of them. And that if both my said sons happen to decease before their payment

aforesaid, their portions shalbe paid to my said two daughters or the overliver of them without fraud

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 good<sup>75</sup>.

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**<sup>76</sup>.  
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 <sup>77</sup> 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 below				see page 2.c.?				see Watts of Kemsing	

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

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 be<sup>78</sup> 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 years<sup>79</sup>, 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**  
**Roberts<sup>80</sup>** 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 William  
in the presence of us Chownings<sup>81</sup>  
William Kipps  
Richard Roberts  
**Nicholas Fremlyn**<sup>82</sup>

---

<sup>81</sup> looks like a signature

<sup>82</sup> 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 <a href="#">Shoebridges of Ightham</a>								

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 Siggis** (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.

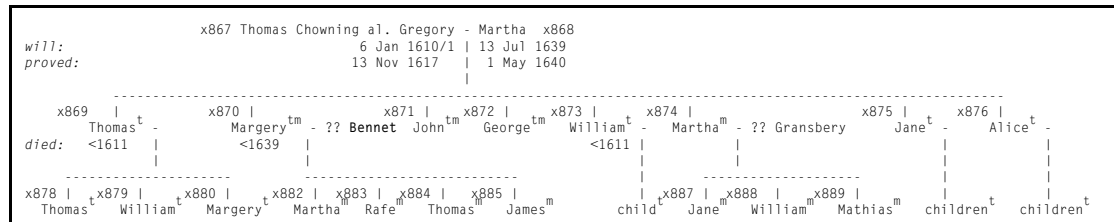
Since their son George, who was Thomas’s executor, was alive when Martha wrote her will he cannot have been the testator of 1620.

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 <sup>t</sup>; those by Martha <sup>m</sup>  
 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

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

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

said Alice as she shall leave behind her<sup>83</sup>.

The residue of all my goods and chattels whatsoever herein not bequeathed nor otherwise disposed of by me

in my life time (my debts and legacies being paid and funeral charges discharged) I wholly give and bequeath

unto **my son George Chowning** whom I make and ordain my sole executor of this my last will and

testament

And as concerning the disposition of all my lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever within the realm of

England, I wholly give and bequeath the same to my said son George Chowning and to his heirs forever upon

condition and to the intent that he shall fully and truly satisfy and pay all such legacies as I have herein before

bequeathed and in such manner and form as the same are before set down and mentioned to be paid according to my

will and meaning as my said son George (with whose privity, consent and good liking the same legacies

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 out<sup>84</sup> 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 settee<sup>85</sup> 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, cattle<sup>86</sup> 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 <sup>87</sup>	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
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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.

---

<sup>87</sup> 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 <sup>88</sup> Robert -									
23 Sep 1557									
will:									
t326	t332	t327	t328	t313	t330	t331			
William	- Eme	Thomas	Roger	John -	Anne - ?? Bishop	Margaret - ?? Carter	?? - Arthur		
will: 16 Dec 1567									
-----									
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**<sup>89</sup>, 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*

will:	t313 John - Margery t314	
	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,**

whom I ordain and make my whole and sole executrix.  
**Item:** I will and bequeath unto Margery, my wife, all my  
 tenement called **Barnefield** house and five acres of  
 upland and meadow thereto belonging, situated, lying and  
 being in the parish of Tonbridge aforesaid during the  
 term of her natural life and after the decease of  
 Margery, my wife, I will and bequeath the said messuage  
 and tenement unto **Richard Chowning, my youngest son,**  
 withall and singular th'appurtenances thereto belonging to him  
 and his heirs for ever. **Item:** I yield and bequeath unto my  
**three eldest sons, Roger, John and William,** three  
 yards of meadow<sup>90</sup> lying in **Bridle meade** immediately  
 after my decease, to be equally divided to them and their  
 heirs for ever. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto **Katherine,**  
**my daughter, the wife of William Herman,** all my ??  
 ??, a tenement called **Wellhouse** which I ??  
 me by the death of my brother ? ? and  
 after the decease of Katherine, my daughter, her son and his heirs for  
 ever withall and singular th'appurtenances belonging,  
 lying and being in the parish of Tonbridge in the  
 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 sheep<sup>91</sup>, 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



quilt<sup>92</sup>, 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**<sup>93</sup> **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,  
yeven<sup>94</sup>, the day and year  
31 first above written.  
Read, Sealed and acknowledged in the presence of Sign. <sup>95</sup> **Margery  
Thomas Browne** and me, **Chowning**  
**Nicolas Hooper** and the abovesaid  
**Mathew Parker** <sup>96</sup>  
sign. <sup>97</sup> **Thos. Browne**

---

<sup>94</sup> given

<sup>95</sup> mark, a vertical cross

<sup>96</sup> signature of Mathew Parker

<sup>97</sup> 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** (\$1257<sup>98</sup>) 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.

# *The Clerkes of Ightham & Kemsing*

In Ightham:

- on 10th April 1592, **George Clerke** (i1608<sup>99</sup>) 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 <sup>100</sup>	<u>CLIFFORD, Thomas</u>			Alice Clifford(m)	1	2	22 Feb 1566
	-----			i1158			
i1158	<u>Clifford(m), Alice</u>				1	2	8 Jul 1573
	-----						
	the Alice Clifford who was buried in July 1573 could have been Thomas's widow but only her name was recorded						
• 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**

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100 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database



# The Cliffords of Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#384 <sup>101</sup>	<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.

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101 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

# The Cobbs of Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#40 <sup>102</sup>	<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 <sup>103</sup>
	Marriage		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 be<sup>104</sup> 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 M<sup>105</sup> 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 (#4297<sup>106</sup>), 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 Brownerghete of Bromley and then “of St. Dunstan, London”. Frylove was found guilty and remanded whilst the, others were at large”<sup>107</sup>.

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107 Cockburn (Eliz.I), 872

# The Cockerells of Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
i1236 <sup>108</sup>	<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)

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<sup>108</sup> "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<sup>o</sup> 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 <sup>109</sup>	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> <sup>110</sup>	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> <sup>111</sup>	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 <sup>112</sup>			0	0	
• #2436	<u>Cogger, Alice</u>	11 Dec 1642			0	0	

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

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

<sup>112</sup> 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

## *The Cokers of Shipbourne & Seal*

There were two small Coker families in Seal in the 1580s:

**William Coker (\$239<sup>113</sup>)**, clerk, had two children:

Henry (\$241)	baptised	4 Nov 1582
Alice (\$312)		3 Mar 1588

**John Coker (\$380)** had two sons:

Edmond (\$232)	baptised	12 Aug 1582
John (\$283)		1 Oct 1587

Nothing more is known of either family.

In Seal on 6th April 1589 **Thomas Coker (#1359)** married **Elizabeth Shephard (#1360)**

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113     \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database, # in that for Seal

## *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”.<sup>114</sup>



## *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 sub-section 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  
aforesaid with all the lands and buildings thereunto belonging.

Paying to **Richard**

**Coldgate, my oldest son, his brother**, the sum of three pounds of  
lawful money

within one year next after the decease of my said wife, his mother.

And paying to **Henry**

**Coldgate, my second son, his brother**, the like sum of three pounds  
within two

years next after the decease of my said wife. And if he fail in the  
payment of both or any

of these sums according to my will and mind herein specified, that  
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.

**Item:** my will is that if my son Robert Coldgate die without heirs or an heir  
of his body lawfully  
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.  
And if he, or any of his, shall fail in the payment hereof, then it  
shalbe lawful for the said  
Henry to distress, strain and sell such goods and commodities as  
shalbe in or upon the said  
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:**  
my will is that my executrix shall pay unto **Mary Colgate, my third**  
**daughter,** the sum  
of eight pounds at her age of one and twenty years. Also I give unto  
her, the said Mary,  
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

R<sup>115</sup>

**George Children**

The mark of Richard  
Coldgate, the testator

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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.



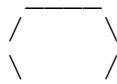
1 In the name of god Amen. The nineteenth day of November  
2 in the year of our lord god one thousand five hundreth and  
3 four score and ten and the three and thirtieth year  
4 of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the  
5 grace of god Queen of England, France and Ireland,  
6 defender of the faith, I, Johane Colgate of  
7 Leigh next Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **widow**,  
8 being<sup>116</sup> 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** (\$735<sup>117</sup>) 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

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<sup>117</sup> \$ 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 Knoie 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

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.<sup>119</sup>

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.

## *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.

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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, leasures<sup>122</sup>, pastures, commons, waste grounds, woods, water ways, rents, reversions, service, courts, profits of courts, fees, wards, marriages of these, reliefs, heriot, fines, amercements<sup>123</sup>, 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.

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

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

**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 will . . . <sup>128</sup>  
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 ?? quern<sup>129</sup>, 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 whole<sup>130</sup> 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"



natural life. And shall suffer Isabell, my said wife, his mother to have and occupy to her use as long as she liveth as a self sole widow three pieces of land, the one is called **Windersland**, the second **Parkfield**, the third **Treffetrid** the one half of my dwelling house gardens and meadow<sup>131</sup> next lyeth under one closyar? for so long as she keepeth her self sole widow. And that she shall have sufficient fire and flett at the cost and charge of the said Henry, his heirs, executors or assigns. Also the same Henry, his heirs, executors or assigns shall pay to Isabell, my wife, his said mother, every year during as long as she keepeth herself sole widow, 20s of good lawful money of England, by even portions half yearly, to be paid. And for lack of payment at the time appointed as shall be lawful to the said Isabell and her assigns at every time, in any part or parcel of the said lands and tenements in the said parish of Shipbourne to distrain. Also Henry Collyn, his heirs, executors or assigns, shall pay at the second feast of the nativity of our Lord next after the decease or marriage of Isabell, my wife, to the **daughters of**

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**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 Towne<sup>132</sup>, 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 8d<sup>133</sup>, 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 marriage of Isabell, my wife. And so every year a 33s 4d at  
73 the same feast till the sum of twenty marks be fully ??  
74 and paid<sup>134</sup>. And if all the children of my son James die  
75 before the 20 marks be paid in part or in whole, then I will  
76 that my son James be their heir. And if my son James die  
77 and all his children before the 20 marks be paid in part or in all,  
78 then I will that the payment shall cease and remain to Henry  
79 Collyns, my son, and his heirs forever. And for lack of  
80 payment ?? it be lawful after the end of the feast  
81 before rehearsed in which it ought to be paid, it shalbe lawful  
82 for my son James or his children into my lands and tenements  
83 within the parish of Shipbourne and distrain. And the distresses there so found lawfully to lead, drive and carry  
84 away and them to withhold until the said 20 marks or any  
85 or every part thereof so being behind unto the children of my said son  
86 James, or if they all depart, unto my said son James

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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,

equally among them to be divided and to be paid at their age of 20 years. If any of them die before they be paid then each of them to be others heirs. And for lack of payment at the time before rehearsed, it shalbe lawful for the forsaid Richard Collyns, my godson, and William Collyns, his brother, or Elizabeth, Alice and Dorothy Collyns or any of them or their assigns into any of my said lands and tenements in the parish of Hadlow to distrain and the distresses there so found to lead, drive and carry away and that withhold til they be fully paid. Also I will and bequeath to **Giles Collyns, my son**, at the feast of Saint Michael Th'archangel next after my decease, all my lands and tenements in the parish of Meopham to him and to his heirs and to the only use and behoof of the said Giles, his heirs and assigns, in fee simple forever under form and conditions as hereafter followeth. First that the said Giles Collyns, my son, his heirs, executors or assigns, shall pay to Isabell, my wife, his said mother, every year during year as long as she keepeth her self sole widow 20s of good and lawful money of England by equal portions half yearly to be paid. And for lack of payment it shalbe lawful for the said Isabell or her assigns at end time in any part or parcel of the said lands and tenements in the parish of Meopham to distrain. And the distresses there so found 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 ??<sup>135</sup> 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,<sup>136</sup>
- Lore Page, widow, and Margaret Coker

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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.<sup>137</sup>

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).

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137      Cockburn (Eliz.I); 161

## *Henry's 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 Stepehen'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 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1567 at St. Katherine's, 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

called **Little Ayleasse** to have and to hold  
him and his heirs for, by and during the  
years which I have yet to come of and in the same.

**Item:** I will and bequeath unto **Stephen Collyns,**  
**son of my third son, Thomas Collyns deceased,**  
my testament which is in English and Latin and  
to **Susan Collyns, sister unto the said Stephen,**  
my English psalter. **Item:** I will and bequeath  
unto **Susan, my wellbeloved wife,** my lease  
of the park, **Park meadow,** the **Bore** and  
**Little Croft** as they lie together containing,  
by estimation, thirty acres of land and wood  
with th'appurtenances, to have and to hold  
the same lands with th'appurtenances to  
?? ??

during the time of 40 years if she so  
long live. **Item:** After her decease I will  
and bequeath the same to the said Stephen  
Collyns, aforesaid, and to the heirs male  
of the body of the said Stephen lawfully  
to be begotten during . . .  
of all yet years which then shalbe to come of and  
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 quern<sup>138</sup> 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

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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 **Barnefield** 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

by virtue of a writing indented thereof  
from him to me, made to have and to hold  
the same withall the deeds and writings thereof  
made and promises, conditions and forfeitures  
therein contained and bonds there upon  
made to her, the said Susan, her heirs  
and assigns for and in such manner and form  
as I have or mine heirs, executor or assigns  
may yet have or should have ?? and enjoy  
the same. **Item:** whereas I the foresaid Henry  
Collyns, together with Thomas Collyns, my said  
son deceased, late bought and purchased  
to us and our heirs jointly of **John Pelsant**  
**citizen and grocer of London**, now also  
deceased, the rendition<sup>139</sup> of and in four parcels  
of land and meadow called **Symond**,  
**Blages** and **Aperlefthanghe** containing  
by estimation, 12 acres and a half whether  
more or less, severally lying and being  
in Shipbourne aforesaid as by the emi?  
and writing thereof it may appear the

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139 form of payment

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

shall and will quietly permit and suffer my  
said son Richard Collyns, his executors,  
administrators and assigns, to have,  
hold, occupy and enjoy one lease before  
herein mentioned bearing date  
the thirteenth day of November 1587  
from me to him made, sealed and ??  
containing in it all that capital  
messuage or tenement called **Syliandes**  
wherein Richard Collyns, my son,  
now dwelleth, with divers lands therein  
contained for 15 years according  
unto the true tenor, effect of the same  
and covenant therein contained during  
all the term and time therein contained.  
And if the said Stephen or his heirs,  
or any other by or for him, shall not suffer  
the said Richard, his executors, administrators  
or assigns, quietly to have, hold and enjoy  
the said lease and term of years therein  
contained accordingly as is aforesaid,  
Then I will all those said four parcels  
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 **Wagthorne, 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.



but Avery was found not guilty.<sup>141</sup>

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.

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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 Waghorne**, 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 Waghorne,  
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 Waghorne**,

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, discharge<sup>142</sup>  
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

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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

*page 4:*

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

*page 7:*

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			
	Elizabeth Page	-	Richard	-	Anne Smyth			Edward <sup>143</sup>			Francis			
will:				20 Dec 1596										
bur:	28 Feb 1593			31 Dec 1600										
	\$69		\$1308		\$141		\$2242		\$242		\$302		\$493	
	Susan	-	John Coombes		Henry	-	Thamar <sup>144</sup>		Edward		Elizabeth		Edward	
bap:	11Nov 1571				2 Feb 1578				17 Dec 1582		25 Oct 1584		May 1589 <sup>145</sup>	
bur:									3 Feb 1583					
			Katherine \$2248				Ann \$776 <sup>146</sup>							
bap:							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](#)"

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<sup>143</sup> Citizen and grocer of London

<sup>144</sup> left 20s by her grandmother Susan Collyns in 1589

<sup>145</sup> on Whitson Monday

<sup>146</sup> \$141 could be Ann's father but were 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 necessities" 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 insealing 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  
high chancel  
16 of the parish church of Shipbourne aforesaid. Also I will that there shalbe  
given and be=  
17 stowed at my burial, among the poor people that thither shall resort, forty  
shillings to be  
18 distributed at the appointment and discretion of mine executor in this ??  
hereafter  
19 nominated. And further my will is that there shalbe a godly and fruitful  
sermon preached  
20 in the day of my burial, or very shortly after, in the said parish church of  
Shipbourne  
21 at the charges<sup>147</sup> and appointment of mine executor, for the better  
edification and instruction  
22 of those who shall repair and resort to th'other. **Item:** I will and bequeath  
for and towards  
23 the relief of the poor inhabitants of the said parish of Shipbourne one  
annual rent of  
24 twenty shillings of good and lawful money of England to be distributed  
amongst them yearly

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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 messuage 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**<sup>148</sup>, 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

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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 probation of the same or any thing therein contained.

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, leasures<sup>149</sup>, pastures, commons, waste  
grounds, woods, water  
130 ways, rents, reversions, service, courts, profits of courts, fees, wards,  
marriages of these<sup>150</sup>,  
131 reliefs, heriot, fines, amercements, liberties, privileges<sup>151</sup> and all other  
profits, commodities,  
132 emoluments and hereditaments whatsoever unto the said manor or  
lordship of Dodmer

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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  
Mylles<sup>152</sup>, Henry**

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

- 187    **Collyns, weaver**<sup>153</sup>, 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.*

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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 Wynnich, 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

Christs 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 Collyns.

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  
she<sup>154</sup> 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  
**Howe**<sup>155</sup> in the county  
65 of Kent, to have and to hold all those forsaid 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 lland<sup>156</sup> 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**  
**Heame 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, prono=  
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
bap:					
mar:	13 Sep 1573		see page 2.c.316		
bur:	19 Apr 1625	22 Mar 1589			2 Feb 1562
	-----				
	\$107	\$1296	\$268	\$229	\$349
	Elizabeth	Henry -	Dorothy	Susan	Richard
bap:	4 Mar 1576	14 May 1578	28 Apr 1583	5 Aug 1582	23 Jan 1586
	-----				
	\$1298	\$1299	\$1548		
	Dorothy	Henry -	Francis (son)		
bap:	23 Jul 1620	2 Jun 1623	19 Dec 1630		
bur:	26 Sep 1621				
		Marie \$2064			
bap:		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	
		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, labourer<sup>157</sup>.

### *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.

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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 me<sup>158</sup>, 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 following<sup>159</sup>. **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

---

159 "following"

signed <sup>160</sup> 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 Hooper**<sup>161</sup>

---

<sup>160</sup> mark like a parallelogram

<sup>161</sup> no Henry Hooper otherwise recorded

# *William Collyns of Tonbridge*

William's will (CKS: Dr/Pw 29; Drb/Pwr 22.60) was written, on 1<sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>162</sup>	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 <sup>th</sup> March 1557	CKS: 12.85;	5	page 2.c.328
John Collyns	27 <sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> day of March? in the year of our lord  
god a thousand, five hundred
- 2 fifty and seven, I Robert Colleyne of West Peckham within the diocese of  
Rochester and in the county



3 of Kent, being<sup>163</sup> 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 be<sup>164</sup> 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.

will:											
-----											
e24	e17	e19	e26	e21	e20	e28	e15	e23			
John	Alice - ??	Elizabeth - ??	Richard -	Margery -	James	Robert	Agnes	Johan - ??			
	Dallie	Cheeseman			Sybbly			Longley			
				children	e25						
					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 27<sup>th</sup>  
2 day of April Anno Dm 1583 and in the 25<sup>th</sup> 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  
the parish  
12 of West Peckham aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **John Collyn,**  
**my**  
13 **son**, and to his heirs forever, my two tenements, withall my lands lying  
14 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**

Sybbly, my daughter, one brass pot. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto Jane Sybbly, my daughter's daughter, one featherbed, one flock bolster, two pillows with feathers, one pight and two blankets. **Item:** I will her more one stupnett of brass, all these things aforesaid to be delivered by mine executor presently after my decease unto James Sybbly, my son-in-law, unto the use of the said Jane. **Item:** I give unto **Abraham Nash** one table with a form. All the<sup>166</sup> residue of his goods whatsoever known to be his at the hour of his death being unbequeathed, he gave them wholly unto John Collin, his son, whom he did make his full and whole executor of this my last will and testament. The same John discharging his ?? and paying his bequests in such manner and form as is aforesaid. Witnesses hereunto **Richard Salmon, Steven Lorkin and Thomas Brande**, the writer hereof with others.

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166 at this point the will turns nuncupative

## *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.<sup>167</sup>

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167      Cockburn (Chas I); 174

## *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 hang<sup>168</sup>

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.<sup>169</sup> .

# 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**<sup>170</sup> (i1100) **John Finche** (i903) and Richard Colvyn were "[common breakers and spoilers of](#)

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<sup>170</sup> 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 a 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.

<i>bur:</i> <div> <div> <div></div> <div></div> </div> <div> <div></div> <div></div> </div> </div>		<div> <div>Robert -</div> <div>16 Jan 1584  </div> </div> <div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>			
<div> <div>p630<sup>171</sup>  </div> <div>x785  </div> </div> <div> <div>Robert</div> <div>Andrew</div> </div>		<div> <div>p637  </div> <div>p640  </div> <div>p661  </div> <div>p662  </div> </div> <div> <div>Robert</div> <div>Olyver</div> <div>Anthony</div> <div>Andrew</div> </div>			
<div> <div><i>bap:</i></div> <div>21 Feb 1598</div> <div>21 May 1619</div> </div>		<div> <div>28 Nov 1563</div> <div>4 Sep 1610</div> <div>29 May 1615</div> <div>3 Aug 1590</div> </div>			
<div> <div><i>will:</i></div> <div>21 Feb 1598</div> <div>21 May 1619</div> </div>		<div> <div>1 May 1623</div> <div>14 Mar 1637</div> <div>1 May 1637</div> <div>&lt;May 1623</div> </div>			
<div> <div><i>bur:</i></div> <div></div> </div>		<div> <div>7 Jun 1615</div> <div>1 May 1637</div> <div>1 May 1637</div> <div>1 May 1637</div> </div>			
<div> <div><i>proved:</i></div> <div> <div>Andrew of Chiddingstone</div> <div>mentions</div> <div>Robert's children</div> </div> </div>		<div> <div>mentions his</div> <div>bro. Anthony</div> <div>and father</div> <div>Robert</div> </div>			
		<div> <div>mentions children of his</div> <div>brother Andrew and</div> <div>daughter of his brother</div> <div>Robert</div> </div>			

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.<sup>1</sup> mentioned in Robert's will of 1598
- o.<sup>o</sup> mentioned in Olyver's will of 1610
- a.<sup>a</sup> mentioned in Andrew's will of 1619
- e.<sup>e</sup> mentioned in Elizabeth's will of 1623
- y.<sup>y</sup> mentioned in Anthony's will of 1623
- j.<sup>j</sup> 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 <sup>172</sup>	Robert <sup>173</sup>	- Elizabeth <sup>r</sup>	p631	
will:		21	Feb 1598			
bur:		26	Feb 1598			
-----						
	p632		p633		p634	
	Elizabeth <sup>ary174</sup>		Jone <sup>r</sup>		Robert <sup>ar</sup>	
bap:	6 Dec 1590		25 Oct 1591		3 Mar 1594	
					p635	
					Anna <sup>ar</sup>	
						p636
						Mary <sup>a175</sup>
						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 <sup>ey</sup> - Elizabeth <sup>o</sup>				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	p643	p644	p645	p646	p647	p648	p649	p650
	Elizabeth <sup>oey</sup>	Anna <sup>oey</sup>	Christopher <sup>oey</sup>	Mercy <sup>oey</sup>	Andrew <sup>oey</sup>	Joane	Joane	Margaret	Olyver <sup>oey</sup>
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**<sup>176</sup> The fourth day of September  
2     in the year of our lord God, One thousand, six hundredth and ten. And in  
   the  
3     eighth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord James by the grace of God,  
   king of  
4     England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. And of Scotland the  
   four and fortieth,  
5     **I, Olyver Combridge** of Penshurst in the county of Kent, **yeoman**,  
   being<sup>177</sup> at  
6     the time of the ensealing and making hereof sickly and weak of body but  
   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 following<sup>178</sup>:  
And **First** and  
12 principally I give and bequeath my soul into hands of Almighty God and to  
his son<sup>179</sup> Jesus Christ, trusting by his  
13 merits, precious death and bloodshedding<sup>180</sup>, 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 years<sup>181</sup> 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 executrix<sup>182</sup>, 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, <sup>183</sup> **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  
and <sup>184</sup> 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 <sup>185</sup> that she shalbe, and remain, a  
widow.

*page 4:*

52 **This is the last will**<sup>186</sup> 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 hereditaments<sup>187</sup>, 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 <sup>188</sup> 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, <sup>189</sup>  
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 <sup>190</sup> reparations as my said overseers, or either of them <sup>191</sup>, 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 messuage 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 messuage, 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 wife<sup>192</sup> 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 Baptist<sup>193</sup>, 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, willed<sup>194</sup> and the distress or distresses<sup>195</sup> 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 given<sup>196</sup> 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

*page 7:*

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,  
fourteen<sup>197</sup> acres, more or less,  
111 <sup>198</sup> 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  
wood<sup>199</sup> 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 <sup>200</sup>  
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, two<sup>201</sup> annuities of twenty shillings a  
piece, the first which<sup>202</sup> I have  
122 out of the land late of **William Sexten**, deceased, and the other out of  
certain lands late **Robert Denjoy?**, deceased<sup>203</sup> 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  
Andrew<sup>204</sup>

*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 <sup>205</sup> 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  
body  
but of good and perfect memory, god be praised, do make and ordain this  
my last will  
and testament in manner and form following: (that is to say) **First:** and  
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  
years<sup>206</sup>. 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**<sup>207</sup> 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 riste<sup>208</sup>, spray or faggots thereof

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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 Frenden 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

*page 2:*

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  
17 be provided by my  
18 executor) shall make a sermon at my funeral (not that I shall thereby be  
19 benefited) but  
20 for their benefit that shall hear the same. And that preacher to have  
21 twenty shillings  
22 for his pains. **Item:** I will that my wife shall provide a drinking or dinner for  
23 those of  
24 my good neighbours and friends which shall accompany my corpse to  
25 burial at her charges  
26 and at her discretion. **Item:** I will that there shalbe distributed and given to  
such poor (especially  
at Penshurst) as shall resort to my burial and have most need in the  
judgement of my  
executor or any other whom he shall appoint the sum of forty shillings.  
And I further  
will that my executor or his executors or assigns shall within one year next  
after  
my decease give and deliver into the hands of the churchwardens and  
overseers for the  
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

page 3:

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**  
**Chiddingstone<sup>209</sup>, 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

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209 taken as x802, the husband of Joane Combridge, 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 messuage 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

*page 5:*

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 Rendleshooth, 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 pounds<sup>210</sup> 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

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, he<sup>211</sup>, the said Andrew or  
his heirs,  
187 shall give and deliver unto the said Robert Ashdowne, his heirs or assigns,  
all the

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.

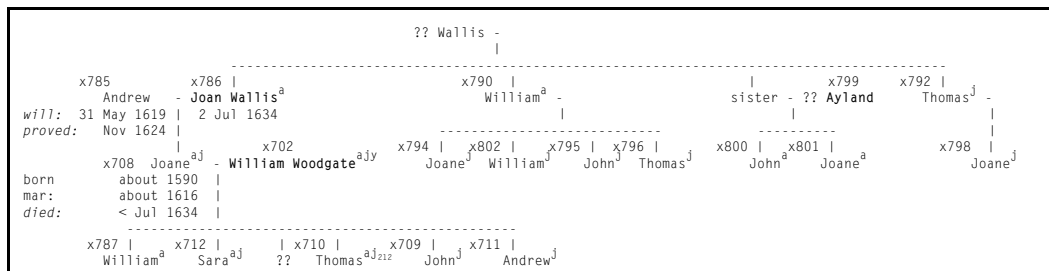
Andrew's wife was Joane Wallis and he mentions members of her family. It is interesting that his servants included Joane Wallis, Walter Woodgate and Thomas Cottye who all look like members of his extended family. Thomas Cottye "[my man servant](#)" was to receive £40.

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



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

*page 2:*

45      or assigns. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Thomas Cottey, 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 Combridge**<sup>213</sup>, 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**,<sup>214</sup> 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

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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 messuage 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 messuage  
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

*page 3:*

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 Cotty who 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 corn, 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  
grace  
4 of God king of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith,  
etc.  
5 I, Joane Combridge of Chiddingstone in the county of Kent, **widow**, in  
reasonable  
6 good health of body and of sound and good remembrance, thanks be given  
unto god,  
7 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 Cottey, the son of my late deceased cousin Thomas**  
**Cottey**

*page 2:*

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 Combridge and Ann Cotty*

It is unlikely that the Robert who married Ann Cotty 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 Cotty p666						
-----						
p667	p668	p669	p670	p671	p672	p673
Robert <sup>aj</sup>	Andrew <sup>a</sup>	Joane <sup>aj</sup>	Ann <sup>j</sup>	Mary	John	Thomas
bap: 24 Jun 1615	12 Oct 1617	6 May 1619	19 Jun 1623	29 May 1625	8 May 1628	17 Jun 1631
bur:						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 (p584<sup>215</sup>), 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 Assizes<sup>216</sup> 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 pecks<sup>217</sup> 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

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<sup>215</sup> "p" indicates a reference in the Penshurst database

<sup>216</sup> Cockburn (Eliz I.) 533

<sup>217</sup> 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 (i1671<sup>218</sup>) 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.

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218 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database



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 i2571	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 <sup>219</sup>	<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

<sup>219</sup> # 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 <sup>220</sup>	<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	

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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** (p1012<sup>221</sup>) 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 pardoned<sup>222</sup>

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<sup>221</sup> "p" indicates a reference in the Penshurst database

<sup>222</sup> 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** (i1386<sup>223</sup>) 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

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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**, being<sup>224</sup> 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**<sup>225</sup>, wife

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224 "beeing", "bee", etc. throughout

225 Mallings?

14 of **Richard Watts**, five? shillings. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto  
15 **Katherine Gibson, widow of Malling**, five? shillings. More I will and  
16 bequeath unto **Walter Bennet of Tonbridge, clothier, my son-in-law**,  
17 one shilling. More I give and bequeath unto **Mary Parker**, mine  
18 apprentice, one boarded chest. All the rest of my ?? of my goods and  
19 chattels, ?? or ?? whatsoever there is due unto me, I give  
20 and bequeath unto my kinswoman, **Elizabeth Chittenden of Seal**,  
21 **wife unto Richard**. whom I do make and ordain, my kinswoman,  
22 my whole and sole executrix of this my will. In witness whereof I, the said  
23 Dorothy Couchman, have set my hand and seal yeven the day  
24 and year above written. The mark of  
Dorothy <sup>226</sup> Couchman

Read, sealed and published  
in the presence of these ??  
the mark of **Steven Reynolds** and  
**David Baldock**

# *The Couchmans of Shipbourne*

**Robert Couchman (\$1619<sup>227</sup>)** 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		

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<sup>227</sup> \$ 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 In<sup>228</sup> 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 be<sup>229</sup> given to

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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 following<sup>230</sup>,  
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

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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  
27 party or parties, so buying the same or  
28 any part thereof shall have, hold and enjoy the same to him and them, his  
29 and their heirs and assigns forever.  
30 in as ample manner as if I had sold the same myself. And the money  
31 thereof made I will shalbe equally  
32 divided and paid by my said executor, his executors, administrators or  
33 assigns, presently after the same shalbe  
34 received among **my brothers John and Robert Godden** and **my sisters Jane  
Godden, Sara** the  
35 **wife of the said Thomas Baker** and **Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Tapley**, by  
36 equal portions, saving I  
37 will that my said sister Jane, her part shalbe twenty pounds more than any  
38 of the rest. And  
39 ?? all other my lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever, in  
40 **Marden** or elsewhere, I give and bequeath  
41 all and every the same, withall and singular th'appurtenances equally  
42 between my above named brothers and  
43 sisters, to have and to hold the same and every the same, with all and  
44 singular th'appurtenances, equally between  
45 them, my said brothers and sisters, his, her and their heirs and assigns  
46 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 Coveney<sup>231</sup>

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 (p885<sup>232</sup>) was presented to **John Dike** (p886), **creditor**, on 21st February 1596.

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<sup>232</sup> "p" indicates a reference in the Penshurst database

## *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** (i2741<sup>233</sup>) 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 baptised<sup>234</sup>.

- 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.

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<sup>233</sup> "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

<sup>234</sup> 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](#)”<sup>235</sup>.

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 Jane<sup>236</sup>.

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.<sup>237</sup>

Dorothy, Elizabeth and Nevill Cradock all chose Dorothy and William as names for their first daughter and son.

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<sup>236</sup> Bowra, p.19

<sup>237</sup> Morris, p.12-13

# The Crafts of Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
i1639 <sup>238</sup>	<u>CRAFT, Ralph</u>			Audrey Craft(m) i1640	1 3	
	----- 	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](#)

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<sup>238</sup> "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database



## *The Cripps of Seal & Ightham*

**William Cripps** (#180<sup>239</sup>) 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.

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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 <sup>240</sup> 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<sup>241</sup>. 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)

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<sup>240</sup> 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

<sup>241</sup> 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** should pay and discharge all the legacies which the said  
7 Dorothy Crosser stood charged withall by reason of the will of her  
8 **son William Cette** unto which will the said Dorothy was full  
9 executrix and, those legacies being paid, she did give unto the said Jone  
10 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** (i595<sup>242</sup>), **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> ----- I		3 Oct 1591	Agnes Pebenden	1 2 1596	3 Feb 1619
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.

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242 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database and \$ for that of Shipbourne

**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 **Launder 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 <sup>243</sup>	<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

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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.

		x1406 <sup>244</sup> William -					
will:		25 Jun 1597					
-----							
x1408	x1409	x1410	x1411	x1412	x1413	x1419	
Thomas	John	Henry -	William	Richard -	Margaret	Johane	
		x1415		x1417	x1418		
		George		William	Thomas		

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  
house<sup>245</sup>. **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**

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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.<sup>246</sup>  
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 yeven<sup>247</sup> the day and year first above written in the  
presence of

32 me, Nicolas Hooper, writer hereof and Richard Rogers

signed <sup>248</sup> 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** (#25<sup>249</sup>) 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

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<sup>249</sup> # 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.