

D

More Families & Transcripts

The Dans of Tonbridge, Capel and Tudeley	page 2.d.4
Will of John Dan of Tonbridge	page 2.d.5
George Dan and his wife Frances of Tudeley	page 2.d.11

The Family of John Darker of Seal

see [Webb al. Niccoll](#) in
[More Families & Transcripts](#)

Walter Darknold of Penshurst	page 2.d.18
The Davids of Kemsing	page 2.d.19
The Davies Families of Shipbourne	page 2.d.20
The Days of Ightham	page 2.d.22
George Day, Tailor	page 2.d.24

The Deans of Ightham	page 2.d.25
The Dennys of Ightham & Shipbourne	page 2.d.26

The Dentons of Shipbourne	page 2.d.27
The Derkyns of Ightham	page 2.d.28
The Devalls of Seal	page 2.d.29

James Diker of Tonbridge	page 2.d.30
James's Family	page 2.d.30
Bequests to Sara.	page 2.d.32
James Diker's Land in Sussex	page 2.d.33
His Land in Tonbridge & Hadlow	page 2.d.34
If Sara Died Before Inheriting	page 2.d.35

The Dixons of Tonbridge	page 2.d.54
Humphrey Dixon, yeoman	page 2.d.55
Humphrey's Possible Family	page 2.d.57
Elizabeth Dixon, widow	page 2.d.69
Thomas Dixon, yeoman	page 2.d.76
Thomas's Family	page 2.d.76
Thomas's Land	page 2.d.78
Mary Dixon, widow of Tonbridge	page 2.d.89

The Draynors of Seal & Ightham	page 2.d.96
The Dressers of Shipbourne	page 2.d.100
Richard Drupp of Ightham	page 2.d.101
John Duble of Seal	page 2.d.102
Will of John Ducke of Halstow,labourer	page 2.d.104
The Dunkes of Shipbourne	page 2.d.108

The Durrants of Kemsing

see [Fremlyns](#) in
[More Families & Transcripts](#)

The Dans of Tonbridge, Capel and Tudeley

A large number of Dan wills have survived, many of them from Brenchley with five from the neighbouring parishes of Tonbridge, Capel and Tudeley:

James Dan	1590	Tonbridge	CKS: Drb/Pw 16	
John Dan	2 Dec 1617	Tonbridge	CKS: Drb/Pw 28	page 2.d.5
Thomas Dan	11 Nov 1630	Capel	CKS: Drb/Pw 28	
George Dan	9 Aug 1633	Tudeley	CKS: Drb/Pw 29; Drb/Pwr 22.94	page 2.d.12
Frances Dan	18 Sep 1634	Tudeley	CKS: Drb/Pw 29; Drb/Pwr 22.95	page 2.d.16

James's will has not been investigated at all. The other four were all written by John Hooper, parish clerk of Tonbridge, who wrote a large number of wills for people in the Tonbridge locality but Thomas's has not been transcribed. It was written on 11th November 1630 with the initial "I" of "In the name of God Amen" decorated in the Hooper style. A memorandum, also written by John Hooper, was added on 4th August 1632.

George was a tanner; his will was not decorated at all. Frances's will was nuncupative but the writing looks like that of John Hooper. There is no obvious connection between John Dann and George Dan. There were possible connections with the [Amhersts of Tudeley - see More Families & Transcripts](#).

1 In¹ the name of god Amen. The second day of December
2 A^o dm 1617. And in the fifteenth year of the reign of our sovereign
3 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, John
5 Dan of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, do ordain and make this
6 my testament and last will in manner and form following: **First** and
7 principally, yielding my soul to Almighty god, my maker, with assured
8 hope of salvation through his mercy in the merit and mediation of his dear
son
9 Jesus Christ, my saviour, and my body to the earth in decent manner to be
10 buried. **Item:** I will to the poor people resorting to my burial twenty
11 shillings to be distributed amongst them at the discretion of my executrix
12 and overseers hereafter named or any other by their appointment. **Item:**
13 I will and bequeath to **Marie Dan, my daughter**, the sum of forty shillings of
14 of lawful english money. And to **Elizabeth, my daughter**, the like sum of
15 forty shillings to be paid to them, and either of them, or their assigns,
within one whole year next ensuing

1 decorated "I"

16 after my decease, either in money or in goods or both at reasonable prices
to be
17 rated and valued by my overseers or either of them. **Item:** I will and
bequeath
18 to **Anne Dan, my daughter**, the sum of thirty pounds of lawful english
19 money to be paid to her likewise in money or goods at reasonable prices to
be valued
20 by said overseers, their heirs or assigns, or any of them. And to be paid
21 to her, the said Anne, by my executrix, her executors or assigns, at the age
of
22 twenty and one years of her the said Anne or the day of her marriage which
23 shall first happen. And if the said Anne happen to decease before her
24 said age, unmarried, then I will and appoint that the said Marie and
25 Elizabeth, her sisters, or the survivor of them shall have the said thirty
pounds
26 (in money or goods as aforesaid) at such time as the said Anne should have
been
27 paid the same if she had lived by virtue of this my will. **And if my**

page 2:

28 wife and executrix, hereafter named, shalbe minded to marry again, at any
time after

29 my decease, then I will that she, before her intermarriage with any man,
shalbe
30 come bound to my overseers, or either of them, their executors or assigns,
with a
31 surety with her (such a one as my said overseers, their executors
32 or assigns or any of them, shall like of and accept) in a bond of one
hundred
33 pounds with condition to this effect, namely, that all and every sum and
34 sums of money and bequests formerly by me willed to Marie, Elizabeth and
35 Anne, my three daughters, which then to them, or any of them, shall be
then unpaid
36 shalbe faithfully and truly contented and paid in such manner and form
37 as is before herein expressed and declared and according to the true
meaning of this
38 my will. **Item:** I will to all my godchildren that shall demand the
39 same of mine executrix, after my decease, twelve pence apiece.

40 The residue² of all my goods, cattells and chattells I wholly and fully
41 will and give to **Elizabeth, my loving wife**, towards the bringing up of my
children

42 and the payment of my debts and legacies, which said Elizabeth I make
and ordain
43 the sole executrix of this my testament and last will upon condition that
she, the
44 said Elizabeth, in her widowhood after my decease when as she shalbe
thereunto
45 requested reasonably by my **son Richard Dan**, or his heirs, so seal and
deliver effectual-
46 ly according to law, a sufficient release to be tendered to her by my said
son or his
47 heirs, of all her right dower, possibility of dower and all other demand
which she
48 then hath, ever had or thenceforth shall or may have out of, in or unto all
that
49 my freehold messuage or tenement and lands freehold with
th'appurtenances or
50 any of them, which I, the said John Dan by deed poll bearing the date
51 hereof have granted, unveughed? and assured unto him, the said Richard,
52 his heirs and assigns, forever, situated, lying and being in Tudeley

page 3:

53 in the said the county of Kent so that the same tenement and lands may be

54 peaceably and quietly had, holden and enjoyed by my said son, and his
heirs, without
55 her let, claim, demand or disturbance. And if my said wife shall refuse
56 to seal and deliver as aforesaid, the same release (it being to her tendered
as
57 aforesaid), then my full and whole mind and will is that she shall loose the
58 benefit of this my will. And that then my said son Richard shalbe the full
59 and
60 sole executor thereof, to see the same proved, my debts and legacies paid
and my
61 body decently buried (any thing herein before mentioned to the contrary
not
62 withstanding:) And I desire my loving **brothers, Thomas Dan** and
63 **William Dan** to be overseers of this my will, that the same may take
64 effect according to my true meaning so far as in them shall lie.

65 In witness whereof, I, the said John Dan, have to this my testament and
66 last will, set my hand and seal yeven the days and years first
67 above written.

Subscribed, sealed, published
and then declared, in the presence of

Mister? Kippings

John >> and

John Hooper, notary?

John Dann

Memorandum, that the said John Dan, the testator, upon the sixth day of September Ao dm. one thousand, six hundred, twenty and nine, did cause the sums willed to his daughters. Marie and Elizabeth, to be stricken out as appeareth in the first leaf and over the same forty shillings a piece to be interlined which he then willed and gave to them. And did then ratify. all things else contained in this his testament and last will and

George Dan and his wife Frances of Tudeley

George had a brother and five sisters, one of whom had already died leaving two children. After his wife's death the tenement and land in Brenchley which he owned was to go to his brother Thomas who had to pay £10 to each of the four sisters and £10 to each of their four nieces. But there was a possibility that Frances was pregnant. If so, all these bequests were void since the child was to inherit the land on the death of Frances.

Frances died just over a year after George wrote his will on 9th August 1633. When Frances spoke her nuncupative will on 18th September 1634 the poor of Tudeley had not received the twenty shillings left them by George. George's will was proved in 1634 and whether this gift to the poor was overdue or not may possibly be determined by:

- finding the date of George's burial in the Tudely parish records
- finding the date the will was proved from the probate copy of the will.

Francis had not been pregnant when George died so that his brother Thomas would have inherited his land in Brenchley with his sisters and nieces each receiving £10. Francis left 2s 6d and 6s 8d to two of George's godsons which he does not seem to have remembered in his will. She obviously wanted to do for her

brothers and sisters what George had done for his but this will shows the problems which could arise with a nuncupative will where the testator said what she wanted and then had afterthoughts as to what was possible.

Frances wanted to leave an additional ten shillings to the poor of Tudeley but then remembered her kinsman John Baldock and his wife. She also wanted to leave “[ten pounds a piece to all her brothers and sisters](#)”. She had made her brother Robert Goldstone her executor and mentions only “sister Dan” in addition. This was presumably one of her sisters-in-law. Having left them £10 a piece, the proviso was then added that, if her personal estate could not “[extend to so much](#)”, they “[should have equal shares in the remainder](#)”.

John Goldstone had a daughter Frances and a son Robert; his daughter could have been George Dan's wife - see [Goldstone in More Families & Transcripts](#)

Will of George Dan of Tudeley

written 9th August 1633

transcript from original

1 In the name of god Amen. The ninth day of August Ao. dm. one
2 thousand, six hundred thirty and three, I, George Dan of Tudeley in the
county of

3 Kent, **tanner**, sick and weak in body but of good and perfect remembrance
(for
4 which I give praise to god) do ordain and make this my testament and last
5 will in manner following: **First** yielding my soul to the gracious mercies of
6 god, through Jesus Christ, his dear son, by whose merits, precious death
and
7 passion, I trust to have forgiveness of my sins and eternal salvation. And
my
8 body to the earth in decent manner to be buried. I will to the poor of
9 Tudeley twenty shillings to be paid within three months next after my
decease. **Item:** I will to **Frances, my wife**, all my goods,
10 cattell, chattelles, stock and debts, towards the payment of my debts and
11 legacies, the which Frances, my wife, I do make the full and whole
executrix
12 of this my testament and last will.

13 And touching my tenement and lands called **Roddin land**, or otherwise,
lying
14 in **Brenchley** in the county aforesaid, late by me purchased of Thomas Dan,
15 I do will that the said Frances, my wife, shall or may have, hold and enjoy
16 the same, with the rents and profits thereof, with th'appurtenances, for, by
and
17 during the whole time of her natural life. And after her decease

18 I will that **Thomas Dan, my brother**, shall have and hold the said
19 tenement and lands, to him and his heirs forever, he the said Thomas and
20 his heirs after the decease of my said wife, paying to **Dorothy,**
21 **Elizabeth, Jane and Margery, my sisters**, ten pounds a piece of lawful
22 english money. And to **Ann Woody and Sara Woody, children of Dennys**
23 **my late deceased sister**, ten pounds a piece of like lawful money. And also
24 to **Ann Rootes and Mercy Rootes, children of my said sister Dorothy**, ten
25 pounds a piece of like lawful money within two years next after
26 the decease of the said Frances, my wife. And if the said several sums
27 shall not be accordingly paid within the said two years, then I will the
28 said tenement and lands, with th'appurtenances, to my said four sisters,
viz. Dorothy,
29 Elizabeth, Jane and Margery, and to the said Ann Woody and Sara Woody
and
30 the said Anne Roots and Mercy Roots and to their heirs and assigns
forever, any
31 devise of the said tenement and land to the said Thomas, my brother, and
his heirs, anything (to the)
32 contrary notwithstanding. But if my said sisters and sisters's children, or
any of
33 them, shall decease before the time assigned for them to receive the said
ten pounds,

34 a piece, my meaning is that so many of them as shall so decease, shall
neither have
35 part of the said moneys, nor of the said lands, nor any other for them
promised a living if my said wife
36 shalbe with child at the time of my decease, I will to that child all my said
tenement
37 and lands after my wife's decease and to the children of the said child, all
my said tenement
38 thereof to my said brother. And the gifts or portions aforesaid to my said
sisters and sisters'
39 children shall be void. Anything herein before mentioned to the contrary
notwithstanding.
40 In witness whereof I have, to this my testament and last will set my hand
and seal, dated the
41 day and year first above written.

sealed, published and declared in the presence of

George Dan

Tho. Terry of Tudeley

John Meriam

John Hooper, not. pbq.

1 Memorandum, that upon the eighteenth day of September, Anno Dom.
2 one thousand six hundred, thirty and four, Frances Dan, the **relict**
3 of George Dan, late of Tudeley, in the county of Kent, tanner deceased,
4 and the executrix named in his testament and last will, she being of perfect
5 and good memory, did make her testament and last will by word of
6 mouth in these words following, viz. she willed that her **brother**,
7 **Robert Goldstone**, shall be her executor to pay such debts as ought to be
8 paid by her. And that the debts and funeral charges³ being paid
9 and such other charges as should happen by reason of her death
10 will being discharged, that the said executor should have twenty pounds
11 of her personal estate. And that the rest should be and remain to
12 him to pay these legacies following, viz.: to the poor of Tudeley the 20s
13 which her husband had willed them. And ten shillings more which she
14 gave
15 unto them (saving that her desire was that her **kinsman John Baldock**,
16 or his wife, should have the greatest share with them hereof). And also
to pay 2s 6d to **Harborow**, her husband's godson and 6s 8d to

3 "chardges" - John Hooper's usual spelling

17 **Thomas Meriam** likewise her husband's godson and to **Johan** ?? forty
shillings and ten pounds
18 a piece to every one of her brothers and sisters which she willed unto
19 them in this manner, viz: to her brother Robert ten pounds. And to her
20 **sister Dan** ten pounds if her personal estate should extend to so much
21 (her former legacies, debts, and charges⁴ being first paid) otherwise they
22 should have equal shares in the remainder thereof. And if her estate
23 should be enough for more than the debts, legacies and charges aforesaid,
24 she willed the overplus of the same to her executor together with all other
goods and chattells
25 to pay her debts and charges. All which words, or the like in effect, she
26 uttered and said and declared the same to be her will in the presence of
Frances Orter
Agnes Couchman the mark of the said Agnes
Joane Pierce the mark of the said Joane

Walter Darknold of Penshurst

In his will written in 1505 (**PCC: Adeane 36**), Walter Darknold asked to be buried next to his wife in the church of Penshurst where there is a brass to him. In his will he mentions tenements called **Gylderegge** in **Chiddingstone** and **Salmannys** in Penshurst and Chiddingstone which he bought of **John Rowe** and **Richard Colyn**. He left these to his son **Robert** and **Joan**, his wife.⁵

He also mentions Sussex in his will.

⁵ Testamenta Cantiana, London 1906, A Series of Extracts from 15th and 16th Century Wills, p. 59 where more details of his bequests are given in Latin.

The Davids of Kemsing

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
k204 ⁶	<u>DAVID, Thomas</u> ----- 		25 Jul 1578	Joan Monke k205	1	2	
k205	<u>Monke, Joan</u> -----				1	2	27 Nov 1594
• k206	<u>DAVID, Thomas</u>	7 Apr 1588			0	0	
• k207	<u>David, Margaret</u>	13 Sep 1590			0	0	

There was a long time between marriage and first child; perhaps they lived elsewhere.

6 "k" indicates a reference in the Kemsing database

The Davies Families of Shipbourne

This name is also spelled Davis.

Henry Davies, senior (\$685⁷), was buried on 8th May 1609. This implies that he had a son Henry but no other Henry was recorded in Shipbourne. There were, however, three contemporary Davies families headed by Thomas, Richard and John with Thomas between 1582 and 1595 and the other two at the beginning of the seventeenth century.

			\$213	
	\$214	Johane	- Thomas	-
<i>bur:</i>	8 Feb 1587			

	\$215		\$311	
	-- Davies		Marie	
<i>bap:</i>	1 Apr 1582		3 Mar 1585	
			\$485	
			Alice	
			14 Jul 1588	
			\$610	
			Christopher	
			19 Jun 1595	

No father was given for the baptism of Alice but Christopher was the son of Thomas Davies.

John Davies (\$857) had a daughter, **Sara** (\$859), baptised on 16th November 1606.

Richard Davies (\$687) had a son, **Richard** (\$689) who married **Johane Blatcher** (\$682) on 31st May 1607. Richard and Johane had two children, **Richard** (\$690) baptised 10th July and **Johane** (\$691) who was mentioned in the wills of her Blatcher grandfather in 1623 and her Blatcher grandmother in 1625 - see [Families & Transcripts](#) for the Blatchers..

On 2nd April 1627 **Joane Davies** (\$1430) married **Richard Bennet** (\$1424). See the Bennets in [Collyns in More Families & Transcripts](#).

The Days of Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i1798	<u>DAY, Richard</u> ----- 	<1579		Susan Day(m) i1799	1	4	15 Mar 1634
i1799	<u>Day(m), Susan</u> -----	<1579			1	4	25 Jan 1635 in her 50s
	if the burials of Richard Day and Susan Day, widow refer to Martha's parents, they were in their 50s when they died; Peter and George, below, known only from their children, could have been sons of i1798						
• i1800	<u>Day, Martha</u>	20 Apr 1600			0	0	
• i1808	<u>Day, Dinah</u>	"daughter of Richard Day" at her burial			0	0	27 Sep 1628

On 13th October 1606 Richard Day and **John Balden** (Bauldwyn) were nominated to the office of borsholder of Ightham for the coming year but John Balden was chosen by the steward. However, since Day was titled "borsholder" in another entry, he must have held the office at a different date. He was also an **ale taster** at some time. Richard Day was presented to the Court on 28th October 1608 for receiving a stranger - **George Turner** - and was to be fined 10s if he was not

removed or sureties found.⁸ But a Gregory Turner married in 1607 and had 3 children - see [Turner in More Families & Transcripts](#)

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i1805	<u>DAY, Peter</u> ----- 	<1603		Joan Day(m) i1806	1	1	
i1806	<u>Day(m), Joan</u> -----	<1603			1	1	11 Oct 1624 in her 20s
• i1807	<u>DAY, John</u>		<11 Oct 1624 buried 5 weeks after his mother; no record of his baptism		0	0	17 Nov 1624
i1801	<u>DAY, George</u> ----- 	<1607 "householder" when buried		Jane Day(m)	1	2	26 Nov 1631
i1802	<u>Day(m), Jane</u> -----				2	3	
• i1803	<u>Day, Elizabeth</u>	18 May 1628			0	0	
• i1804	<u>Day, Jane</u>	3 Oct 1630			0	0	

Was the "Jane Day, widow" who married **Thomas Richardson** (i2574) in 1640 and had a daughter born in 1641, George's widow? See [Richardson in More Families & Transcripts](#)

George Day, Tailor

George Day (i2773), of Ightham, tailor, appeared at the Assizes for the first time in July 1631 when he was indicted “for an escape”. On 13th July 1631, “John Bishop, constable of Ightham, arrested Day by virtue of a warrant issued by Henry Dixon, JP, but on the same day at Ightham he escaped”. There is no mention of why he was arrested.

The next mention is in July 1632 when he was issued with a writ *distringas*. The actual purpose of such a writ is not known but it was issued to a wide range of people, for example: “the inhabitants of Barclay hundred, Shipbourne, Smeeth and the county of Kent”, gentlemen and labourers.

In March 1633 started a series of writs *capias* which continued until the July 1639 Assizes⁹. This was similar to what happened to Reginald Hasden and Mary Woodyer, also of Ightham, whose first appearance was when they were indicted for keeping a tipping-house. See [Barret in More Families & Transcripts](#) for details. The tailor cannot have been the George Day who died in 1631 but he could have been the father of the above children.

9 Cockburn (Chas.I); 793, 851, 914, 1110, 1198, 1259, 1320, 1397, 1439, 1481, 1560, 1623, 1698, 1755

The Deans of Ightham

John Deane (i1587¹⁰) had two children baptised in Ightham:

- **Thomas** (i1589) 28th April 1594
- **Alice** (i1590) 2nd January 1597.

The wife and children of **John Dene, labourer**, were presented to the Court on 11th April 1597 for having cut wood on Ightham common. Thomas and Alice would hardly have been old enough to cut wood!. Either i1587 had some older children whose baptisms were not recorded in Ightham or there was another John Deane. See [Excerpts from Ightham Court Rolls in Section Z of Families & Transcripts](#)

In 1592 **George Hawkes** (i400) received John Deane, "a stranger" - see [Hawkes in More Families & Transcripts](#)

10 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

The Dennys of Ightham & Shipbourne

There were Dennys in Ightham in the 1560s-70s and in Shipbourne between 1600 and 1632.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
i471 ¹¹	<u>DENNYS, Richard</u> -----		9 May 1563	Margaret Clifford i472	1 2	
• i473	<u>DENNYS, Walter</u>	16 Jan 1564			0 0	1 Apr 1567
• i474	<u>DENNYS, John</u>	11 Mar 1576			0 0	

In Shipbourne:

Mercy (\$720), daughter of **John Dennys** (\$718) was baptised on 25th November 1601.

On 27th September 1632 **Henry Dennys** (\$1582) married **Margaret King** (\$1583). Henry could have been John's son.

¹¹ "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database and \$ in that for Shipbourne

The Dentons of Shipbourne

Thomas Denton (\$1473¹²) had six children baptised in Shipbourne:

Alice	\$1475	27 Apr 1628
Mary	\$1476	9 May 1630
Elizabeth	\$1477	14 Oct 1632
Thomas	\$1628	25 Jan 1635
Joane	\$1727	14 Jan 1638
Anne	\$1728	29 Mar 1640

Joane Denton (\$1845) married **William Nash** (\$1847) on 13th September 1642.

12 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

The Derkyns of Ightham

“John Dyrkyn” was mentioned in the Court Records 1553-74. and
“Alexander Derkyng” between 1596 and 1618.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i429 ¹³	<u>DERKYN, John</u> -----		12 Jul 1562	Marie Bennett i430	1	2	
• i431	<u>DERKYN, John</u>	9 Apr 1563			0	0	10 May 1563
• i432	<u>DERKYN, George</u>	30 Jul 1564			0	0	

Over sixty years after the birth of George Derkyn, on 29th June 1626, the wife of John Derkyn (i2362) was buried.

13 “i” indicates a reference in the Ightham database

The Devalls of Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#3765 ¹⁴	<u>DEVALL, John</u> -----			Margaret Devall(m) #3768	1	4	
• #3769	<u>Devall, Marie</u>	12 Aug 1627				0	0
• #3770	<u>Devall, Ann</u>	22 Nov 1629				0	0
• #3771	<u>DEVALL, John</u>	4 Feb 1637				0	0
• #3772	<u>DEVALL, Thomas</u>	11 Mar 1640				0	0

John and Thomas were recorded as sons of "John and Margaret" with no mother's name given for Marie and Ann; given the large gap between Ann and John, John Devall may have married twice.

14 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

James Diker of Tonbridge

James Diker's will (CKS: Drb/Pw 31; Drb/Pwr 22.539) is long and complicated; it was written, on 20th September 1642, by George Hooper who wrote many wills for people in the Tonbridge area in the 1640s.

James was a wealthy mercer owning land in Tonbridge and Hadlow and also in Mayfield and Frant in Sussex. James left money to the poor of Tonbridge and Hadlow and also to Frant and Buxted in Sussex. He also left twenty shillings to the "[reverend minister Mr. Edward Ashbournham, for his pains to preach](#)" at his funeral.

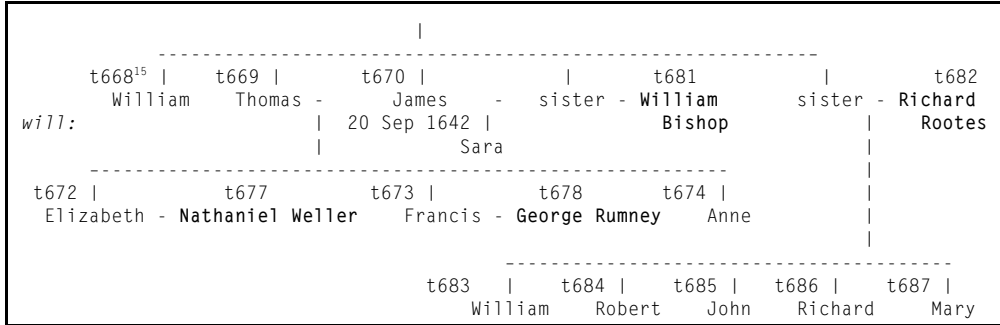
As tokens of his love he left ten shillings to his brother-in-law, William Bishop, twenty shillings each to Henry Mills of Greenwich, Henry's wife Ann and Mrs. Hutchenson also of Greenwich.

James's Family

James did not mention his wife who had presumably predeceased him. His only daughter, Sara, was under twenty-one but he had a number of nephews and

nieces to whom he left legacies - see below for a family tree. William Bishop and Richard Rootes are described as his brother-in-law. They are taken as the husbands of two sisters although one of them could have been his wife's brother.

Sara was his main heir and he made her his executrix but with his two brothers being “[executors in trust](#)” until she came of age. George Hooper, described by James as his “[loving kinsman](#)”, was to be his supervisor and overseer..



Thomas's daughter Elizabeth had just married Nathaniel Weller and James had promised to pay at least part of her dowry. To cover this Thomas was left £50; if

this was more than the amount agreed, Thomas himself was to have the rest. Francis, Thomas's second daughter was engaged to George Rumney and again James had promised her £20 on her marriage. This he left to Francis with Anne, Thomas's third daughter also being left £20.

The five children of his brother-in-law Richard Rootes, clerk, were each to receive £20 as were his brother Willaim and his kinsman John Willett

Bequests to Sara.

Sara was to have all James's moveable goods and his brothers, as executors in trust, were to "take into their hands and keeping for my said daughter . . . the best and chief of my household stuff, goods, plate, jewels, brass, pewter, linen, bedding and chattells (whereof I have taken an inventory) and to sell and put of only the worsor and meaner sort thereof (not fitteth thought by them to be reserved for her)". The money made from those sold was to go "towards the defraying of my funeral charges and the charges of the probation of this my will and my debts".

Sara was to inherit all James's land, etc. in Tonbridge and Hadlow but, in the meantime, William and Thomas were to receive all the profits, rents, etc. from these. Money for Sara's education and maintenance were to be taken from this

but an account was to be kept of income and expenditure and this, together with the money itself, was to be given to Sara when she reached the age of twenty-one or when she married, if this was earlier.

James Diker's Land in Sussex

The previous bequests took up half of the eight pages of James's will. The other four concerned his lands. First mentioned was his messuage or tenement situated near Hadley Downe in Mayfield “[now, by me, demised to Richard Farleigh](#)”. James gave “[power and authority](#)” to his brothers who were his executors in trust “[to bargain, sell, grant, enfeoff, alien and confirm by indenture or indentures of bargain and sale, feoffment or feoffments or by any other conveyance, fines and assurances in the law](#)” this property with all its “[barns, outhouses, buildings, closes, yards, gardens, orchards, lands, meadows, pastures, feedings, woods, wood grounds, underwoods, ways, waters and appurtenances . . . now in the occupation of Richard Farleigh](#)”. Since James appeared to still own this land, was the word “demise” used in its unusual meaning of “lease”. Thomas and William were also to sell all his other land in Mayfield.

The proceeds from the sale were to go towards the payment of James's debts and legacies. If there were any "overplus", up to £50 was to be paid to Thomas's son William with anything still remaining going to Sara.

If William and Thomas did not manage to sell the land within one year, his "good friends Mr. William Dike of Frant, clerk, and Mr. Thomas Weller of Tonbridge, gent.", were to sell it within the second year.

Such rents as became due before these tenements and land were sold were to be used by his executors towards the payment of his debts.

His Land in Tonbridge and Hadlow

All the land James owned in Tonbridge and Hadlow was to go to Sara. This included the "messuage or tenement in Tonbridge Town which I bought and purchased of William Johnson, gent. with the shops, housing, backside and all other appurtenances thereto belonging and also all that messuage or tenement and all the barns, stables, buildings, closes, yards, gardens, orchards and lands arable, meadow, pasture, wood and woodgrounds with all ways, . . .

hereditaments and appurtenances . . . in Hadlow . . . which I late bought . . . of Robert Bourne of Hadlow, yeoman, and John Bourne, his son”.

If Sara Died Before Inheriting

If Sara died before receiving her inheritance, it was to go to William and Thomas but eight payments each of £20 were to be made to James’s nieces and nephews:

Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas, in the 2nd year after Sara’s death

Frances, daughter of Thomas, in the 3rd year

Robert Roots in the 4th year

Anne, daughter if Thomas in the 5th year

John Rootes in the 6th year

Richard Rootes in the 7th year

Mary Rootes in the 8th year

Elizabeth Rootes in the 9th year.

1 In the name of God Amen. the
2 twentieth day of November in the eighteenth year of the reign
3 of our sovereign Lord Charles by the grace of God king of England,
4 Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc., Anno Dm 1642,
5 I, James Diker of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **merc**er,
6 being in good health and perfect memory (praised be¹⁶ God) to
7 whose gracious acceptance I commend my soul when it shall please him to
8 put a
9 period to my days hereupon earth expecting for salvation and a joyful
10 resurrection to eternal life only by Jesus Christ, my saviour and Redeemer.
11 and my body to the Earth in decent manner to be buried in the parish
12 church of
13 Tonbridge aforesaid at the discretion of my executors hereafter named, do
14 make
15 and ordain this to be my testament and last will as followeth. **I will** to the
16 poor of Tonbridge aforesaid three pounds. **Item:** I will to the poor of
Hadlow

16 "bee" etc. thought but "shall bee" as two separate words whilst "shalbe" was the standard Hooper usage

14 twenty shillings, **To the poor of Frant in Sussex**, I will likewise twenty
15 shillings. **And to the poor of Buxted in Sussex** I will also twenty shillings.
16 **Item:** I will to my reverend minister **Mr. Edward Ashbournham**, for his
17 pains to preach at my funeral, twenty shillings. **Item:** I will to my **brother-**
18 **in-law, William Bishop**, for a token of my love, ten shillings. **Item:** I will to Mr.
19 **Henry Mills of Greenwich** in like remembrance of my love twenty shillings.
And
20 to **Anne, now the wife of the said Henry Mills**, I will likewise twenty
shillings.
21 **Item:** I will to **Mrs. Hutchenson** also of Greenwich, twenty shillings.
22 **Item:** I will to **Thomas Diker, my brother**, the sum of fifty
23 pounds of lawful and good money English money for and in consideration
and upon
24 condition that he, the said Thomas, his executors and assigns, shall
therewith
25 satisfy and pay to **Nathaniel Weller** such moneys as either by bond or
promise
26 I am engaged to pay unto him upon his marriage with **Elizabeth**

page 2:

27 **Diker, his wife, the daughter of the said Thomas** and the overplus of the
said fifty pounds,

28 if any shall be, I will unto the said Thomas. **Item:** I will to **William Rootes**,
29 my kinsman, son of **Mr. Richard Rootes, clerk**, my **brother-in-law**, twenty
30 pounds of lawful English money. **Item:** I will to **Robert, John** and
31 **Richard Rootes**, the sons and to **Mary Rootes**, the daughter of my said
brother-
32 in-law, Mr. Richard Rootes, twenty pounds apiece of of lawful English
money.
33 **Item:** I will to my kinsman **John Willett** (if he shall be living at
34 the time of my decease or else to his child and children equally to be
divided that
35 shall be then living) the like sum of twenty pounds of like lawful money.
36 **Item:** I will that the twenty pounds that I promised **Frances, my**
kinswoman,
37 the daughter of my said brother Thomas, upon her marriage with **George**
38 **Rumney**, her husband, shall be paid according to the time I promised and
am
39 engaged to pay the same. **Item:** I will to **Anne, the daughter of the said**
Thomas
40 **Diker**, the like sum of twenty pounds of of lawful English money. **Item:** I
will
41 to my loving **brother William Diker** the sum of twenty pounds

42 of like lawful money. **And my** will and mind is that the charges¹⁷ of my
43 funeral, the legacy given to my said reverend minister and the said legacy
given
44 to the said poor of Tonbridge shall be borne and paid forth withall by **Sara,**
my
45 **daughter,** or my executors in trust hereafter named. But all other the
legacies
46 before by me willed, I will shall be paid, together with all my debts, within
two
47 years next after my decease with the moneys that shall arise out of the sale
of
48 my lands in Sussex which I shall hereafter in this my will appoint to be
sold.
49 **Item:** I will to Sara Diker, my daughter, all my moveables goods, plate,
debts
50 and chattles. And I do make and ordain the said Sara to be the full
51 and sole executrix of this my testament and last will. **Nevertheless**
52 during the minority and nonage of my said daughter Sara, I will that my
said
53 loving brothers, Thomas Diker and William Diker, shall be executors in

17 "chardges" throughout

54 trust for the good of my said daughter and the better executing of this my
will.

page 3:

55 And therefore I will and desire my said executors in trust, or one of them, to
take
56 into their hands and keeping for my said daughter immediately after my
decease
57 the best and chief of my household stuff, goods, plate, jewels, brass,
pewter, linen,
58 bedding and chattells (whereof I have taken an inventory) and to sell and
put of
59 only the worser and meaner sort thereof (not fitteth thought by them to be
reserved
60 for her) and the same and the moneys thereof arising to dispose of towards
the
61 defraying of my funeral charges and the charges of the probation of this my
62 will and my debts. All which goods and other things so taken and reserved
for my
63 said daughter's use I will that my executors in trust shall faithfully and
64 truly yield and deliver to my said daughter Sara at her age of twenty
65 and one years or in the day of her marriage or within very short time after

66 whichsoever of the said times shall first happen. **Item:** I further will and
appoint
67 executors in trust before named, and either of them, shall have full
68 power to take into their hands and into the hands of the survivor of them
(for the
69 better means and maintenance of my said daughter until her said age
70 or day of marriage which soever first happeneth) the rents, issues and
profits
71 of all those my lands and tenements in Tonbridge and Hadlow in the
county
72 of Kent which I shall, by this my will, give unto her, without felling or
73 cutting down any woods, trees or timber thereupon (except for needful
reparations).
74 And likewise such advantages and profits of all other things as shall or
may
75 accrue or belonging to my said daughter. And at her said age of one and
76 twenty years or day of her marriage, viz. the first of those times which
77 first happeneth, I will that all the said rents, renennes?, profits, debts and
all
78 other things by them, my said executors in trust, received and either of
them,
79 had by virtue of this my will, shall be well and truly given and delivered to
my

page 4:

80 said daughter (all necessary charges for her maintenance and education
and all other
81 charges sustained by my said executors in trust and either of them in and
about
82 the executing of this my will and the trust which I repose in them (upon a
true
83 and faithful account thereof to be made) being deducted and allowed.)

Item:

84 I further will and appoint that the said Thomas Diker and William Diker,
my
85 brothers, shall have the guardianship, guidance, rule, tuition and
governance of my said
86 daughter until her age aforesaid of 21 years or marriage which first
87 happeneth, delivering their especial care and faithfulness herein. **To**
recompense
88 whole care and pains in the faithful execution of the trust to them
committed by
89 this my will, I will more unto the said Thomas Diker and William Diker, my
90 brothers, the sum of five pounds a piece of of lawful English money.. **And** I
desire
91 my loving kinsman **George Hooper** to be the supervisor or overseer of this

92 my will delivering and by this my will giving power to the said George
Hooper
93 to oversee that this my will be executed and duly performed according to
my true
94 intent and meaning herein declared and I give to the said George Hooper,
for a
95 token of my love and to recompense his pains herein to be taken, the sum
of
96 three pounds of currant English money. **And I** do hereby declare my will
and
97 meaning that if the said Sara, my daughter, shall depart this life before her
age
98 aforesaid of one and twenty years, unmarried, that then all such goods,
99 household stuff, plate, jewels, rents, renemmes, profits and other things
which, by virtue
100 of this my will shall or ought to be and belong unto her and have been had
and
101 received by my executors in trust, and either of the, for her sole use (all
necessary
102 charges deducted) shall be and remain to them, my said two executors in
trust,
103 viz. Thomas and William Diker, my brothers, equally to be divided and
shifted

page 5:

104 **This is also** the last will of me the said James Diker made
105 and declared the said twentieth day of November Anno dm. 1642 touching
106 all my lands and tenements with their hereditaments and appurtenances
which
107 I do will, order and dispose of as followeth: **First:** touching my
108 messuage or tenement situated near **Hadley Downe** in **Mayfield**¹⁸ in the
county
109 of Sussex and now, by me, demised to **Richard Farleigh** and the barns,
buildings,
110 lands and all other appurtenances thereto belonging, my will and mind is
as followeth, viz.
111 **I do** will and give power and authority unto the said Thomas Diker
112 and William Diker, my brothers and executors in trust before named, to
bargain,
113 sell, grant, enfeoff, alien and confirm by indenture or indentures of
114 bargain and sale, feoffment or feoffments or by any other conveyance, fines
115 and assurances in the law, at any time within one year next after
116 my decease all my said messuage or tenement situated at or near Hadley
117 Down in Mayfield aforesaid in the said county of Sussex and all the

18 Mayfield is about 13 miles south of Tonbridge

118 barns, outhouses, buildings, closes, yards, gardens, orchards, lands,
meadows,
119 pastures, feedings, woods, wood grounds, underwoods, ways, waters and
appurtenances
120 thereto belonging or with the same usually occupied or enjoyed or
accepted, reputed
121 or taken to be as part, parcel or member thereof, now in the occupation of
122 Richard Farleigh or his assigns and also all other my lands and tenements
123 in Mayfield aforesaid in the said county of Sussex at and for such and so
much
124 money as conveniently may be had for the same to any person and persons
that
125 shall or will buy and purchase the same in such sort that a good and
perfect estate
126 in fee simple shall and may redownd? and be had to the buyers or buyer
127 thereof and their or his heirs, bona fide and without fraud or couen? **And**
my

page 6

128 will is that the moneys which shall arise and be made of the sale thereof
shall be employed
129 for and towards the payment of my debts and the legacies appointed
therewith to be

130 paid as aforesaid within two years next after my decease. **And** I further
will that
131 of the overplus of the said moneys which shall be and remain when my
said debts and
132 legacies shall be paid that William Diker, son of my said brother Thomas
133 Diker shall have and be paid the sum of fifty pounds which I will and give
unto him
134 (if such overplus shall so far extend) otherwise if the said overplus shall be
less
135 than fifty pounds, he shall have only that overplus. **But** if the overplus
thereof
136 shall extend to more than fifty pounds, whatsoever shall be more I will
shall be and
137 remain to my said daughter Sara and be paid her at her age of one and
twenty
138 years or day of marriage which of the said times first happeneth by mine
executors in
139 trust for her better means and advancement. **And** if the said Thomas
Diker and
140 William Diker shall not make sale of my said tenements and lands in
Mayfield aforesaid
141 within one year after my decease, then I will and give full power and
authority to my

142 good friends **Mr. William Dike** of Frant aforesaid, clerk, and **Mr. Thomas**
143 **Weller** of
144 Tonbridge aforesaid, gent., within the second year next after my decease to
145 make sale, grant
146 enfeoff and convey for the greatest price and consideration that they can
147 get for the same
148 all my said tenements and lands in Mayfield aforesaid with their
149 hereditaments and appurtenances
150 aforesaid to such person and persons and his or their heirs as will buy or
151 purchase the
152 same as aforesaid. And out of the moneys thereof arising, I will shall be
153 allowed to the said
154 Mr Dike eight shillings which I will unto him to buy him a pair of gloves
155 and also ten shillings
156 which I will to the said Mr Weller (if they shall make sale of those my
157 lands). And the residue
158 of the said monies I will shall be received and had by my said executors in
159 trust by them to be disposed of and employed for and towards
160 the payment of my debts (which I desire especially to be paid)

page 7:

161 and for and towards the payment of such legacies as I have by this my will
162 ordered

154 and appointed therewith to be paid. And the overplus thereof to order
155 and dispose of as before I have limited and appointed by this my will.
156 **Touching** my lands and tenements in Tonbridge and Hadlow aforesaid
157 in the said county of Kent, I do will and devise the same as followeth, viz. I
will,
158 give and devise to Sara Diker, my daughter, and to her heirs and assigns
159 forever if she shall live to her age of one and twenty years or to be married)
160 all that messuage or tenement in Tonbridge Town which I bought and
purchased of
161 **William Johnson**, gent. with the shops, housing, backside and all other
appurtenances
162 thereto belonging. And also all that messuage or tenement and all the
barns,
163 stables, buildings, closes, yards, gardens, orchards and lands arable,
meadow, pasture,
164 wood and woodgrounds with all ways, forstawles, hereditaments and
appurtenances
165 thereto belonging, lying and being in Hadlow aforesaid in the said county
of Kent
166 which I late bought and purchased to me and mine heirs of **Robert Bourne**
of
167 Hadlow, yeoman, and **John Bourne, his son**. And also all other my lands
and

168 tenements with th'appurtenances in the said county of Kent, to hold all my
said
169 messuages, tenements, lands and premises with th'appurtenances in
Tonbridge and Hadlow
170 aforesaid and elsewhere in the said county of Kent, to the only use and
behoof of the
171 said Sara, her heirs and assigns, forever. **But** if the said Sara shall decease
172 before she shall attain to the said age of one and twenty years, unmarried,
then
173 I will that all my said houses, lands and tenements in Tonbridge aforesaid
and Hadlow
174 in the said county of Kent shall be and remain to the before named Thomas
Diker
175 and William Diker, my brothers (equally to be divided and shifted) to them
and their
176 heirs and assigns forever upon condition that the said Thomas and
177 William Diker, my brothers, their heirs and assigns, do and shall, well and
truly

page 8:

178 pay, or cause to be paid, to the before named William Roots the sum of
twenty
179 pounds of lawful money of England (besides the twenty pounds before by

180 this my will to him given) within one year next after the such decease of
the said
181 Sara, my daughter; to Elizabeth, the daughter of the said Thomas Diker,
now
182 wife of the said Nathaniel Weller, the like sum of twenty pounds of like
183 lawful money within two years next after the such decease of my said
daughter.
184 To Francis, the daughter of the said Thomas Diker and now wife of the said
185 George Rumney, the like sum of twenty pounds of like lawful money within
186 third year next after the such decease of the said Sara. To the before
named
187 Robert Roote, the like sum of twenty pounds of like lawful money within
the
188 fourth year next after the such decease of the said Sara, my daughter. To
Anne,
189 Diker, the daughter of the said Thomas, my brother, of twenty pounds of
like
190 lawful money within the fifth year next after my daughter's such decease.
To the
191 before named John Rootes the like sum of twenty pounds within the sixth
192 year next after the such decease of my said daughter. To the before named
Richard
193 Rootes the like sum of twenty pounds of lawful English money within the

194 seventh year next after my said daughter.'s death. To the before named
Mary
195 Rootes, the like sum of twenty pounds of like lawful money within the
196 ninth year next after the decease of the said Sara, my daughter. And to
197 Elizabeth, the daughter of the said Richard Rootes, my brother-in-law, also
198 twenty pounds of like lawful money within the tenth year next after the
199 decease of my said daughter Sara. All the which said several sums
amounting to
200 one hundred and four score pounds, I will shall be well and truly paid in
form
201 as aforesaid to my kindred aforesaid by the said Thomas and William Diker
and their
202 heirs out of my said houses, lands and tenements in Tonbridge and
Hadlow
203 aforesaid according to my mind and meaning herein declared. **And**
therefore

page 9:

204 I will and ordain that such every, any and so many of my said kindred as
shall not
205 be paid their respective legacies aforesaid according to the purport of this
my will

206 shall and may enter into and upon all my said houses, lands and
tenements
207 with their appurtenances in Tonbridge and Hadlow aforesaid and the same
and every
208 part thereof shall and may have, hold and enjoy until with the rents and
profits
209 thereof any legatee of them so unpaid, his and her executors and assigns,
shall
210 have, hold and receive his and her full legacy and legacies, given and
bequeathed or
211 appointed to be paid as aforesaid (anything before in this will contained to
the
212 contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding). **Lastly** my will is that such
rents
213 of and for my tenements and land in Sussex which I have appointed to be
sold as
214 shall grow due before the sale thereof shall be had by mine executors in
trust before
215 named towards the payment of my debts.

216 **In witness** whereof I, the said James Diker, to this my testament and last
will
217 written and contained in nine sheets of paper to every sheet thereof have
written my
218 name and to the last sheet have put to my seal and have annexed them
altogether
219 with a lable of parchment whereto I have annexed my seal the day and year
220 first above written.

James Diker¹⁹

Subscribed, sealed, published and
declared by the said James Diker
to be his testament and last will
in the presence of

Richard Woods Adam An??
Geo: Hooper

19 signature

The Dixons of Tonbridge

Seven wills have survived for the Dixons of Tonbridge:

Margaret Dickson	1545	CKS: Drb/Pw 3	
Gayse Dixon	1575	PCC: Pyckering 57	gent.
Richard Dixon	28 June 1581	CKS: Drb/Pw 13; Drb/Pwr 16.151	page 2.d.55
Humphrey Dixon	19 February 1586/7	CKS: 14; 17.187	page 2.d.59
Elizabeth Dixon	1 May 1604	CKS: 19; 19I.434	page 2.d.69
Thomas Dixon	7 Aug 1609	PCC: Wingfield 42; Prob 11/115	page 2.d.79
Mary Dixon	29 Mar 1645	PCC: Twisse 57	widow page 2.d.91
Mary Dixon	1649	PCC: Fairfax 91	spinster

There is also one from Speldhurst:

Thomas Dickson	1559	CKS: Drb/Pw 6; Drb/Pwr 12.392	
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The wills of Humfrey Dixon and Thomas Dixon were written by Nicholas Hooper and Elizabeth Dixon's by his son John Hooper, the Hoopers being scriptors of many wills from about 1560 until the 1650s.

Humphrey Dixon witnessed the will of Henry Stubberfield of Bidborough in 1569 and that of Henry Reade of Tonbridge in 1579. A Thomas Dixon witnessed, and possibly wrote, the will of Thomas Rolfe of Seal in 1627.

This will is difficult to read but short. Richard left:

"to **Thomas Dixon, my son**, my black honde cow and my red honde heifer, both of one cow" and "to **Mary Dixon, my daughter**, a brown cow worth now forty shillings".

All the residue of his goods, he willed and bequeathed to **Johane, his wife**, whom he made his executrix with **Thomas Code** of Tonbridge, his "**trusty and wellbeloved friend**" his overseer.

The witnesses were **Richard Dixon, Christopher Sands and John Latter**.

Humphrey Dixon, yeoman

The right hand side of the original of Humphrey's will is damaged and the left hand corner at the bottom of the last page have not survived but the middle of a

three line addition at the bottom of the last page remains. The probate copy is very difficult to read but does give some of the missing details.

Although the will includes phrases typical of the scriptor, Nicholas Hooper, there are also some which must have been Humphrey's own. Whilst many wills mention the "uncertainty of man's life" Humphrey's, "have thought necessary, while perfect remembrance remaineth, to dispose such things as god hath made me steward of" looks like his own wording. More unusual still is the description of his "loving wife, Elizabeth, who hath been partaker with me in all my vicissitudes sent me".

Humphrey had a son William and the John and Thomas mentioned on page 3 of the will were probably also his sons. Further evidence that John and Thomas were his sons comes from the will of Thomas. Humphrey left his house and land at Hildengroome in Tonbridge to Thomas. The Thomas whose will was written in 1609 describes himself as "of Hildengreene" and was therefore, most likely, Humphrey's son particularly since his eldest son was called Humphrey.

The Mary who wrote her will in 1645 could have been the widow of Thomas's son William and tree of Humphrey's family shows her in this position although further information may show this surmise to be unfounded. In 1645 Mary had at least eleven children alive, some of whom were not yet twenty-one and her will shows the wealth of the family. It is likely that her husband left £500 to each of his five

daughters to be paid when they were twenty-one and that, by 1645, the two eldest had been paid. Mary herself owned property in London and elsewhere.

Mary, spinster, the testator of 1649, could have been the daughter of the widow Mary.

Humphrey's Possible Family

Since Thomas, the testator of 1609, had at that time two, if not three, children over twenty-one, he must have been married with at least one child when his father wrote his will.

Thomas left his “**sister Hart**” twenty shillings. She must have been his sister since a sister-in-law would have had the name Dixon. The will of a William Harte written in 1601 has survived but his relationship, if any, to the William Harte who married into the Dixon family is not known. The testator of 1601 did, however, leave 20s each to Thomas and Elizabeth Harte, “children of William Harte, butcher” who could have been the children of Thomas’s sister (see [Harte in Family & Transcripts](#)). The widow Elizabeth, in her will of 1604, mentions Elizabeth, Thomas and Sara, the children of her cousin William Harte.

	t210	t211 ²⁰	t352	t353						
<i>will:</i>	Humphrey -	Elizabeth	Thomas -	Margaret						
	19 Feb 1587									
	t212	t213	t214	t239	t240					
<i>will:</i>	John -	Thomas -	William	sister -	William Harte					
<i>proved:</i>		7 Aug 1609								
		10 May 1610								
	children									
t245	t246	t247	t248	t340	t249	t250	t241	t242	t243	
Humphrey	Martha	Sara ²¹ -	William -	Mary	John	Elizabeth	Elizabeth	Thomas	Sara	
t341	t342	t343	t344	t345	t351	t346	t347	t348	t349	t350
John	William	Edward -	Elizabeth	Joane	Henry	Mary	Frances	Humphrey	Jane	Charles
		t353	Henry				daughter			

When Humphrey died his son John had some children and, in addition to the daughter who married William Harte, he had three other sons-in-law: John Chil..., John Everest and ?? Wenn, deceased, to the children of whom he left 6s 8d when he died and 20s each six years later.

²⁰ t indicates a reference in the Tonbridge database

²¹ Sara, the middle daughter, was married by the time Thomas wrote his will; William, John and Elizabeth were all under twenty-one

Humphrey mentions kyne and poultry and left four kyne to Margaret, the wife of his brother Thomas, these were to “[be held to her, the said Margaret, as her own proper goods](#)”, presumably independently of her husband. She was to “[employ the profit, benefit and commodities of the same kyne towards the benefit . . . and bringing up . . . of her children](#)”. Was she already a widow?

The films of both the original and the probate copy of Humfrey’s very long will are difficult to read and the following transcript is taken from both versions. In some places it is difficult to reconcile these.

Will of Humfrey Dixon, yeoman

written 19th February 1586/7

transcript from original and probate copy

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The nineteenth day of February in the year
- 2 of our lord god one thousand, five hundred with four score and six and (the
- 3 nine and)
- 4 twentieth year of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth by the (grace of
- god)
- Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, I, Humfrey

5 Dixon of **Tonbridge** in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick in body but of
good and
6 perfect remembrance, thanks therefore be given to almighty god, and
considering the uncertainty
7 of man's life, have thought necessary, while perfect remembrance
remaineth, to dispose such things
8 as god hath made me steward of. Therefore I ordain and make this my last
will and testament
9 in manner and form following: And **First**: I bequeath my soul into the
hands
10 of Almighty god, hoping most assuredly, by the most precious death of his
only son, Jesus Christ,
11 redeemer, only to be saved. And my body to be buried in place mete and
as my executors
12 hereafter named shalbe thought most convenient. I will there shalbe
bestowed
13 at my burial among the poor of the parish of Tonbridge resorting to my
burial at the
14 discretion of mine executors, forty shillings of lawful money. **Item**: I will
that
15 **my loving wife, Elizabeth**, who hath been partaker with me in all my
vicissitudes

16 sent me, shall have one parcel of land called the **Okemeade** which I have in lease

from probate copy:

- for certain years yet ?? during all the
- years yet to come of and in the same ?? she shall
- live paying yearly the rent and performing
- the covenants ?? in the lease aforesaid
- of the same which ?? to be performed
- and done and after her decease (if she happen
- to decease before the end of the same years) I
- will that the same ?? and lease of the
- same shall remain to **Thomas Dixon, my son.**
- Also I give and bequeath to the said Elizabeth, my
- wife all my household stuff and
- provisions of house except one of the best fitches
- of bacon which I give to **John Stone**
- . . . all my corn of all sorts
- as well that threshed as unthreshed, all my wood as well
- in the ?? as on the ground and also four of my
- best kyne with also three kyne which ??
- ?? and also five loads of hay of
- the barley? in the great field for and toward the

- keeping of the said kyne out . . .
- . . . and all my
- twine? and poultry. **Item:** I will and bequeath
- to the said Elizabeth, my wife, and to the said
- Thomas Dixon, my son, equally between them
- my lease and term of years in the lands
- called the **Parkeland** to be equally divided between
- them. And if it happen that controversy do arise
- between my said wife and my said son about the division
- and shift of the same lease of land I will and desire my
- **trusty friend, David Willard**, to take pains to
- divide the same lands and wood with as much equity
- as may be . . .

- And my very will is that **Thomas Wilkins**
- have and keep the lands parcel of the same
- which I have already leased unto him, paying
- . . .

- . . . **Item:** I will that **Edward**
- **Father** and my said son Thomas Dixon shall
- . . . after my decease, price four of my
- stronde? sort of kyne after which done I will

- that the said four kyne shalbe delivered unto
- **my sister-in-law Margaret, wife of**
- **Thomas Dixon** of the Tor.. , the same kyne to
- be held to her, the said Margaret, as her own
- proper goods, she putting in ??

½ page 4 of probate copy and ½ page 5 not transcribed

- Edward Father . . .
- . . . shall employ
- profit, benefit and commodities of the same kyne²²
- towards the benefit . . .
- of the distress . . . of the said Margaret
- and for and towards the bringing up and
- . . . of her children during the term
- of the said six years. **Item:** I will and give
- to every of the children of **my eldest son**
- **John Dixon** the sum of 6s 8d a piece, to every
- of the children of **my son-in-law ?? Chil...**
- (except the youngest which is my godson)
- 6s 8d

- godson 20s . . . To
- every of the children of **my son-in-law John Everest** 6s
- 8d and to every of the children of **my son-in-law**
- ?? Wenn?, deceased, 6s 8d
- and to every of the children of **my son-in-law William**
- **Harte** 6s 8d a piece. . .
- . . . and 20s I will shalbe paid
- by my said son Thomas Dixon . . .
- to all and every of the said children at
- the end of the said six years.

various household items to wife Elizabeth

page 3 of original supplemented by probate copy

- The residue of all my goods and chattels, as well moveable as unmoveable, (my debts)
- and legacies being paid and funeral discharged, I wholly, fully and with full
- intent and purpose give and bequeath to **John Dixon and Thomas Dixon**,
- which John and Thomas Dixon I make and ordain my whole²³ and joint

23 "sole" crossed out

- executors of this my will to see the same performed according to the terms thereof.

- This is the last will of me the said Humfrey Dixon (made and)
- declared the day and year first above written containing the order and disposition
- of my land, tenement and hereditaments situated, lying and being in Tonbridge
- aforesaid. And first I will and bequeath to **my son John Dixon**.
- my mansion house, messuage or tenement in which I
- dwell, situated, lying and being at **Hildengroome** in Tonbridge aforesaid (with the)
- barns, stables, houses, edifices, yards, closes, orchards and gardens,
- one croft or parcel called **Westcroft** and other parcels called **Lattenscroft**
- lying at the southeast side of the mansion house to my son John Dixon, his heirs and assigns
- paying to Thomas £100 any thing herein before mentioned to the contrary, in any wise notwithstanding. Also I give and bequeath to the said John Dixon, my son, all that field or (pasture)
- parcel called **Latterfield** lying at the northeast of the house.
- to have and to hold the same with thappurtenances to him the said John Dixon, his heirs and assigns forever. **Item:**
- I will and bequeath to **William Dixon, my son**, a

- message or tenement with a backside thereto belonging in the **Town of Tonbridge**, now in the occupation of **John Stone, cutler**, and a barn thereto sometime belonging now in the
- occupancy of **Edward Petley** with also certain chambers
- in the occupancy of the said Edward Petley and belonging to the said mansion house in the occupancy of the said John Stone. To have and to hold the same with all
- thappurtenances unto the said William Dixon, his heirs and assigns forever. .
- my very will and mind is that if it happen my said son William . .
- hereafter to sell the said message, backside and barn, or to lease the same (for a
- term of years, that then he the said John Dixon shall have the forsaking²⁴ (of)
- the sale as also of the lease of the same before any other, he giving
- for the same as much as any other will do without fraud or cozen . **Item:** ?
- there did in times past belong to the said Thomas a certain way leading (from the)
- said tenement and the tenement wherein now Edward Petley now dwelleth . .

- parcel of garden or orchard, now also in the occupation of the said Edward (Petley . .)
- the backside of the tenement in the occupation of the said John Stone . .
- said . . shall ?? as well the said way, as also the said ?? . .
- paled of as is aforesaid, to hold to the said John Dixon, his heirs (and assigns)
- for ever. ?? the said John whose heirs pay. . shortly after my decease . .
- to my said son William, his heirs or assigns, the sum of three . .
- and eight pence lawful money without any fraud, cozen or fault.
- Witness whereof I the said Humfrey Dixon to this my last . .
- have set my hand and seal ?? the day and year first above (written in)
- the presence of **Edmond Father, John Stone, Richard Ashdown,**
- **John Archer, Thomas Bingham, Nicolas Hooper** and others.

This is followed by the names of the witnesses only part of which have survived:

.. me Richard Ashdown²⁵
 John Stone
 of Edmond

. . augmented and in some things . . .

²⁵ these names are written differently from in the text above and could be signatures

. . published in the life and perfect remembrance of the testator . .
. Edmond Father and Nicolas Hooper with others, William Gaylor.

. By me **William Gailor**

the mark of John ..

the mark of Edmond Father²⁶

26 this is the same mark as when he witnessed the main will and "Edmond" is written in the same hand in the will and by the two separate marks.

Elizabeth Dixon, widow

Although Humphrey's wife was Elizabeth it is unlikely but not impossible that she lived for another seventeen years to become the testator of 1604.

In her will she mentions a large number of people including a son Thomas Dixon, married with children and two married daughters: Elizabeth Godden and Mildred Gaylor. Her executor, however, was to be her son Richard Ashdowne which implies that she was "widow Ashdowne" when she married into the Dixon family. A Richard Ashdowne witnessed the will of Humphrey Dixon in 1587.

Will of *Elizabeth Dixon, widow*

written 1st May 1604
transcript from original

- 1 In²⁷ the name of god Amen. the first day of May in the second year
2 of our Sovereign Lord James, by the grace of God, king of England, France
and Ireland, defender of

3 the faith, and of Scotland the seven and thirtieth, 1604. I, Elizabeth Dixon
of Tonbridge in
4 the county of Kent, **widow**, being of perfect remembrance (thanks be to
God) do ordain this my present
5 Testament and last will in manner and form following: **First:** I bequeath
my soul to God that gave it,
6 trusting to be saved by the merits of his dear son, Jesus Christ, my Saviour,
and my body
7 to be buried in decent Christian manner. **Item:** I give to the poor of the
parish of Tonbridge to be
8 distributed at my burial 20s. **Item:** I give to **Robert Peret, my godson**, three
shillings four pence
9 and to all other my Godchildren that shall demand the same not hereafter
otherwise considered in the . . .
10 testament, the like sum of 3s 4d. **Item:** I bequeath to **John, the son of
Nicholas Dixon**, forty (shillings).
11 **Item:** to **William and Robert, children of the said Nicholas**, ten shillings a
piece. **Item:** I give to
12 **my cousin, John Asshdowne**, 40s and to **Robert and John, his children**, 10s
a piece. **Item:** I bequeath to

13 **Thomas Gaylor, son of William Gaylor²⁸, deceased, 40s. Item:** I bequeath to
my godson **Abraham**
14 **Gaylor**, three pounds. And to the residue²⁹ of the children of **John Gaylor**,
ten shillings a piece
15 **Item:** I commit and forgive to **William Asshdowne, my cousin**, which he
oweth me, the sum of four pounds.
16 Moreover, I bequeath to my goddaughter, his child, and to his other 3
children, 10s a piece. (To)
17 **my cousin Richard Asshdowne, 40s. Item:** I bequeath to **my sister,**
Margaret³⁰, five pounds
18 And to **Susan Dixon, her daughter**, (in regard of her tendance and pains
taken in my sickness) another five pounds
19 and also my best featherbed save one³¹, my best coverlet save one, 2
blankets, one bolster, one pillow (all at

28 William Gaillor (Gaylor) had witnessed the will of Humfrey Dixon in 1587

29 the rest of John Gaylor's children? But, so far, John Gaylor has not been mentioned. Did Elizabeth mean the rest of William's children, was an error made by the scriptor of the will, - or, did the transcriber (me) write "John" for "William"?

30 Margaret's daughter was Susan Dixon; had the sisters Elizabeth and Margaret both married a Dixon or was Margaret her sister-in-law?

31 this seems to imply a large number of featherbeds

20 Nicholas Dixon's house), also 2 pairs of good sheets of the best sort, my
best joined chest, one brass
21 pot, one pewter platter, a pewter dish and a frute? dish. **Item:** I give to
Sara Dixon, my sister
22 **Margaret's daughter**, forty shillings. **Item:** I give to **my cousin Rowland**
Dixon 20s. And I bequeath to
23 every one of **my cousin William Dixon's children** now living five shillings a
piece. **Item:** I give and remit
24 to **my cousin Nicholas Dixon**, the sum of Ten pounds now owing to me by
him. **Item:** I give and bequeath to
25 **Hester, daughter of Richard Asshdowne**, my son, Twenty Pounds and also
my best featherbed,
26 coverlet, blanket, bolster, pillow and 2 pairs of the best sheets. **Item:** I give
and bequeath to **Elizabeth**,
27 **Thomas and Sara, children of William Harte, my cousin**, 20s a piece and
Ten shillings to my
28 godson, **John, the son of John Walter**. **Item:** I give to **my cousin, James**
Fathers, 10s. **Item:** I bequeath to **Elizabeth, wife of John Mansour**,
29 to **John Goodwin, Martin Mansour and William Mansour**, to each of them
Ten shillings
30 lawful English money a piece. **Item:** I bequeath to **John Fathers, my**
kinsman for

31 remembrance five shillings. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my daughters,**
32 **Elizabeth**
33 **Godden and Mildred Gaylor,** five pounds a piece out of the sum of ten
34 pounds which I have in the hands of **John Godden, my said daughter**
35 **Elizabeth's husband.**
36 **Item:** I bequeath to **Elizabeth Bruer,** daughter of ³² **Bruer,** forty shillings.
37 **Item:** I bequeath to **Elizabeth Dixon, my goddaughter, daughter of Thomas**
38 **Dixon, my son,**
39 20s. And to all the rest of the said Thomas Dixon, his children, five
40 shillings a piece.
41 **Item:** I give and bequeath to the **wife of Mr. Turnor,** one pair of sheets
42 **Item:** I commit to **Mr. Stockwood** ten shillings which he oweth me and I
43 give unto him five shillings
44 now in consideration whereof I would intreat the said Mr. Stockwood to
45 make a godly sermon at the
46 time of my funeral to the people then and there present and thither
47 resorting, the said 5s to be³³ paid him at the
48 time of such his making the said sermon. And my mind and will is that all
49 and every other my legacies

32 space in original

33 "bee"; here and a number of other times, including "shalbee"

42 of money whatsoever before named, willed and bequeathed shalbe well
and truly contented by my
43 executor hereafter named within two whole years next ensuing the
decease of me, the
44 said Elizabeth Dixon and by him, his executors or assigns, within the said
term
45 Whereas divers persons to receive legacies by this my will are children and
underage, my will is that the parent
46 or parents or Guardian or Guardians of such children and persons under
age shall make an acquittance
47 to mine executor for the several legacies of such children and persons
severally which
48 Acquittances so made I will shalbe a sufficient discharge³⁴ for mine
executor, his heirs or
49 assigns. All and every the residue of my Goods, ready money, debts,
cattells
50 and rights of me the said Elizabeth, I wholly and fully give and bequeath to
my son
51 **Richard Asshdowne**, seeing my debts paid, my legacies performed and my
body brought to the earth

34 "discharge"

52 in decent manner, whom I make my sole and only executor. And I
nominate, desire and appoint
53 Thomas Dixon, my son, and William Fathers of Tonbridge, yeoman,
overseers of this my present
54 testament to whom I give the sum of forty shillings of lawful english money
equally (to be divided between)
55 them. And I hereby revoke and annihilate³⁵ all other wills and testaments
by me made. In witness whereof
56 I have hereunto set my hand and Seal, yeven³⁶ the day and year first above
written.

Read, sealed, published and declared

in the presence of
William Bartlett
John Hooper, ??.

sig. **N**³⁷ **Elizabeth**
Dixon

35 spelt "adnihillate"

36 given

37 her mark (a large, capital "N" with a flourish)

Thomas Dixon, yeoman

Thomas Dixon must have been a very wealthy yeoman but there is no information in the will to tell us how he made his money. He inherited Hildengreene from his father but, when he wrote his will, he had “lately” bought a considerable amount of land in Dartford, a port on the south bank of the Thames about seventeen miles north of Tonbridge.

The central part of the following phrase in the preamble of Thomas’s will: “notwithstanding aged and thereby, as well as by other examples daily falling out, I (am) put in mind of my last end” is unusual and would look have come from Thomas himself even though most of the preamble is standard for a will written by Nicholas Hooper.

Thomas’s Family

His main heir and executor was his son Humphrey but he left large amounts of money to his two younger sons and his unmarried daughters. John and William were each to receive £270 which his overseer was to be put out “to some profit to the use of my said two sons” and “paid over, with some account for the profit thereof” to William and John when they reached the age of twenty-one.

His two unmarried daughters were each to have £150 with Martha receiving hers within six months of his death or when she married if that happened before. Elizabeth's money was to be invested in the same way as her brothers'. He also left all four a large amount of linen:

	William	John	Martha	Elizabeth
featherbed	1	1		
bolster	1	1		
pillow	1	1		
coverlet	1	1		
blanket	2	2		
pillowbere	2	2	2	2
pairs of sheets	5	5	6	6
tablecloth	1	1	2	2
napkins	12	12	12	12
towels	2	2	2	2

In addition Martha was to receive “one dozen of pewter which I bought since my wife’s decease, marked with the letters T and D. Also one brass pot which was her mother’s “.

His married daughter, Sara, had not received “so large a portion” as he left in his will to the other two. “In regard thereof” he left £10 “to the first child of her, the said Sara, my daughter, . . . to be paid to the said Sara, my daughter, or her now husband, by mine executor hereafter named to the use of the same child within one whole year next after the birth thereof if it be then living”.

Thomas’s Land

The only land Thomas mentions is that in Dartford. Since he was a widower had he already passed Hildengreene on to Humphrey or was his land in Tonbridge the subject of a separate deed, perhaps written just prior to the writing of the will?

A William Gaylor was one of Thomas’s Dartford tenants. A William Gaylor witnessed the will of Humphrey Dixon in 1587 and one of Elizabeth’s daughters was married to a Gaylor. It looks, therefore, that there were other families in Tonbridge connected with Dartford.

1 In the name of god Amen. the seventh day of
2 August in the year of our Lord god one thousand, five hundred and nine
and in the seventh
3 year of the reign of our sovereign Lord James by the grace of god king of
England,
4 France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. and of Scotland the three and
fortieth.
5 I, Thomas Dixon of **Hildengreene** within the parish of Tonbridge in the
county
6 of Kent, **yeoman**, being at the time of making hereof in reasonable good
health of body
7 and of perfect mind and remembrance (thanks therefore be given to
Almighty god,
8 notwithstanding aged and thereby, as well as by other examples daily
falling out, I put
9 in mind of my last end and, not knowing the time of my death and willing
that those transi
10 tory possessions which god hath made me steward of here in this worlds
may be

11 enjoyed that no contention fall out about the same after my decease.
Therefore I do
12 ordain and make this my present last will and testament in manner and
form
13 following, that is to say, **First** and principally I give, com??ride and
bequeath
14 my soul into the hands of Almighty god who gave it, trusting by an assured
faith
15 which I have in Christ Jesus, my only Lord and saviour, that the same
shalbe presented

page 2:

16 pure and without spot before the throne of his majesty. And my body to
the earth to be buried
17 in the church of Tonbridge aforesaid in sure and certain hope of a joyful
resurrection to life
18 eternal. **Item:** I will there shall be given and distributed at my burial, or
otherwise at the
19 discretion of mine executor, overseer and churchwardens of Tonbridge,
amongst the poor
20 of Tonbridge aforesaid forty shillings of lawful money. **Item:** I give and
bequeath unto

21 **my sister Hart** twenty shillings lawful money. **Item:** I give to **Roger Winton**,
my servant,
22 twenty shillings. **Item:** I will and give to **William Dixon, my second son**, the
sum
23 of two hundred, three score and ten pounds of lawful money to be paid to
him within
24 six months next after my decease. Also I give to the said William, my son,
the
25 second featherbed in my house, bolster, one pillow, one second coverlet,
two second
26 blankets, two pillowberes and five pairs of sheets, a tablecloth and one
dozen of
27 napkins and two towels to be delivered to him within three months next
28 after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my son John Dixon** the like
sum of
29 two hundred, three score and ten pounds of like lawful money to be paid to
him
30 within six months next after my decease. Also the third featherbed³⁸ in my
house,
31 bolster, pillow, coverlet and two blankets, all of the third sort, two
pillowberes,

38 presumably Humphrey was to have the "first featherbed"

32 five pairs of sheets, one tablecloth and a dozen of napkins and two towels
to be
33 delivered to him within three months next after my decease. All which
sums
34 of two hundred, three score and ten pounds afore generally willed to my
said
35 sons, William and John Dixon, I will shalbe paid and delivered unto mine
36 overseer hereafter named within the time afore limited which my said
overseer
37 I heartily desire to put out the same sums to some profit to the use of my
said
38 two sons and by him, my said overseer, his executors or assigns, to be paid
39 over, with some account for the profit thereof, unto them, my said sons, at
their
40 several ages of one and twenty years. And if either of them be deceased
before the
41 said age, without child or children, then I will the portion of him so
deceased shalbe
42 one half to the overliver and the other half to mine executor hereafter
named.
43 And if they or he leave child or children, then to be paid to the child
44 or children of him or them so deceased equally between them. And if they
both decease

45 before the said age then three hundred pounds parcels of the said several
sums
46 to my sons William and John Dixon willed, shalbe paid to **my three**
daughters
47 **Martha, Sara and Elizabeth**, viz. one hundred pounds to every of them or
their executors,
48 administrators or assigns of either of them. And the rest to mine executor
hereafter
49 named, his executors, administrators or assigns. **Item:** I give and bequeath
to Martha
50 Dixon, mine eldest daughter, the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds of
lawful
51 money to be paid to her within six months next after my decease or at the
day of
52 her marriage if she marry before. Also I give and bequeath to the said
Martha,
53 my daughter, six pairs of sheets, two tablecloths, a dozen of napkins, two
54 pillowberes, two towels and one dozen of pewter which I bought since my
wife's
55 decease, marked with the letters T and D. Also one brass pot which was
her
56 mother's to be delivered within one month next after my decease. **Item:** I
give and

57 bequeath to Elizabeth Dixon, my youngest daughter, the like sum of one
hundred
58 and fifty pounds of lawful money to be paid into the hands of my said
overseer,
59 hereafter named, within six months next after my decease and by him, his
executors
60 or assigns, to be put out to her use and by him to be paid to her at her age
of one and
61 twenty years or day of her marriage which shall first happen. Also I give to
her, the
62 said Elizabeth, my daughter, six pairs of sheets, two tablecloths, a dozen of
napkins,
63 two pillowberes and two towels to be delivered to her within one month
next after
64 my decease. And I will that if either of them decease before the time of
payment of
65 their said several portions, that the portion of her so deceased shall remain
and

page 3:

66 equally to her sisters then living or the survivor of them. **Item:** whereas
Sara,

67 my daughter, is already married to whom I have not given so large a
portion to my
68 two daughters, I will in regard thereof to the first child of her, the said Sara,
my
69 daughter, the sum of ten pounds to be paid to the said Sara, my daughter,
or her
70 now husband, by mine executor hereafter named to the use of the same
child within one
71 whole year next after the birth thereof if it be then living. The residue of all
my goods,
72 cattells, debts, leases and chattells and all other my moveable goods
whatsoever, I wholly
73 fully and with good effect, intent and purpose, give and bequeath to
Humphrey Dixon
74 **mine eldest son**, which Humphrey, my son, I make my whole and sole
executor of this
75 my will, to see the same proved, my debts and legacies (in his part by this
my will to
76 be paid) ?? paid and my body honestly and decently brought to the earth.
And
77 I desire and heartily require **my loving kinsman Henry Dixon, gent.** to be
supervisor or

78 overseer of this my will. To whom I give a token of my good will besides all
his
79 charges³⁹ and expenses about any business of this my will to be laid out
forty shillings
80 lawful money. And I will that my said children shalbe ruled and guided in
the division,
81 shift and delivering of the goods herein before to any of them severally
willed by mine
82 overseer aforesaid, his executors and assigns. And further, my full
meaning is that
83 if any of my said sons or daughters shall not be contented with this my will
and
84 the disposition of the portions to them severally willed, that he, she or they
so discontented
85 shall loose the benefit of fifty pounds parcel of the gift to them severally
willed, any
86 thing herein before mentioned to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

87 This is the last will of me the said Thomas Dixon made and declared the

39 "chardges" but probate copy

88 day and year first above written concerning the order and disposition of my
lands and
89 tenements situated, lying and being within the parish of **Dartford** in the
county of
90 Kent **Item:** I give and bequeath unto Humphrey Dixon, my son, all that my
message
91 or tenement situated in **Spittle Street** within the parish of Dartford
aforesaid, late
92 purchased of **Edmond Jolybrand, gent.** together with all barns, buildings,
closes,
93 gardens, orchards, lands and hereditaments whatsoever to the said
tenement
94 belonging, lying and being within the parish of Dartford aforesaid now in
95 the several tenures and occupations of **William Gaylor** and **Thomas Figge**
or
96 their assigns. To have and to hold all the said message or tenement,
barns,
97 buildings, closes, gardens, orchards, lands and hereditaments with all and
singular
98 th'appurtenances unto the said Humphrey Dixon, my son, and to the heirs
male of his
99 body lawfully begotten or to be begotten. And for lack of such heirs male
then I

100 will and give all the said messuage or tenement, lands and premises unto
the said
101 William Dixon and to the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten or to be
begotten.
102 And for lack of such heirs male of the said William, my son, I will and give
all
103 the said messuage or tenement and all other the premises with all and
singular the
104 appurtenances unto my son John Dixon and to the heirs male of his body
lawfully
105 begotten or to be begotten. And for lack of such heirs male of the said
John, my son,
106 I will that all the said messuage and premises with all and singular
th'appurtenances
107 shall remain to the right heirs of me the said Thomas Dixon for ever. In
witness
108 whereof to this my present last will consisting of five sheets of paper I have
to every
109 sheet thereof subscribed my name and to this fifth and last sheet have
subscribed my
110 name and set my seal, yeven the day and year first above written. By me
Thomas

- 111 Dixon. Read, sealed, published and declared as the last will of me, the said Thomas
- 112 Dixon, in the presence of Henry Dixon and **Nicholas Hooper, sen. writer.**

Mary Dixon, widow of Tonbridge

Mary owned “houses, tenements and hereditaments in the city of London and elsewhere in the kingdom of England” which she gave to her sons John, Henry, Edward, Humfrey and Charles. She has another son, William, who was her executor and five daughters. Some of her children were under twenty-one but her instruction to William to “provide for his brothers and sisters till they can otherwise dispose of themselves” is an unusual way to provide for them.

Not only did she have property but the household items she left to her large family show the richness with which her house was furnished. Each of her children to whom she had not already given a chest of linen was to have one “of the same goodness and quantity” as those she had given to the others. She had a number of “black worked pillowberes” - pillowbere was a pillow coat or pillowslip and black working a form of embroidery. Each of her daughters was to have a pair of these, “the eldest of them to choose first and then according to their ages”.

Humfrey was to have a pair worked with something special in the middle, perhaps done with gold thread whilst John and Henry were each to have a pair from those which were “left after the others have made their choice”.

The one grandchild Mary mentioned, Henry, son her son Edward, was to have the “hangings, chairs? and stools in the great chamber and a damask table cloth and cupboard cloth which were made for that room”. He was also to have the “bed bolster, two pillows, one blanket and the silk quilt thereto belonging in the matted chamber “. Was this chamber one which had a floor covered with matts or was there another meaning to this description?

Her special bequest to her daughter Mary are most unusual : her wedding ring and “the chest and those things in the chest in the matted chamber which were my mother’s”.

Each of her children “now living” (which implies she had had others who had not survived) was to have a “featherbed with the bolsters, pillows, two blankets and a rug thereto belonging”. This implies that Mary had at least eleven featherbeds, etc.

It appears that even in the 1640s, pieces of furniture could come as “kits” to be assembled. The specified items Mary left to William were a “chest not made up

with the hinge and lock and other things provided for the making of it up” and a green embroidered carpet.

Finally, her wearing apparel was to be divided between her daughters. Her sons were to have a mourning cloak

Will of Mary Dixon, widow

written 29th March 1645
transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 The nine and twentieth day of March in the two and twentieth year of
3 the reign of our sovereign lord king Charles Anno dm one thousand
4 six hundred forty and five, I, Mary Dixon of Tonbridge in the county of Kent,
5 widow, being sick in body but of good and perfect memory, thanks be to
6 god, do
7 make and will this my last will and testament in writing? in manner and
8 form
9 following, viz.: **First** I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty god
10 expecting salvation only by and through the merits of Jesus Christ, my
11 saviour.

9 **Item:** I give all my houses, tenements and hereditaments in the city of
London
10 and elsewhere in the kingdom of England unto my sons, **John, Henry,**
Edward,

page 2:

11 **Humfrey and Charles Dixon** and their heirs equally to be divided amongst
them. **Item:**
12 I give and bequeath the my daughters **Mary, Frances and Jane Dixon** five
hundred
13 pounds a piece if my son Edward Dixon shall not pay them so much
according
14 to his faithful promise made to his father in his life time. And the residue
of my
15 goods and chattels I will shall be equally divided amongst all my children.
And if my
16 son Edward do pay to his said sisters, Mary, Frances and Jane, five
hundred pounds
17 a piece, then by meaning is that all my goods and chattells shallbe equally
divided
18 amongst all my children equally. **Item:** I give to every of my children that
hath not

19 had a chest of linen given them in my life time a chest and linen of the
same goodness
20 and quantity as those were that I have disposed of already. **Item:** I give to
every of
21 my daughters a pair of black worked pillowberes (and the eldest of them to
choose first and then according to their ages. I give to my son Humfrey
Dixon a pair of black pillowberes ??)⁴⁰ worked with the ??arygowld, in
22 the middle. **Item:** I give to my sons John and Henry Dixon, each of them a
pair
23 of black pillowberes which shall be left after the others have made their
choice.
24 **Item:** I give to **Henry Dixon, son of Edward Dixon, my son**, the hangings,
chagres⁴¹
25 and stools in the great chamber and a damask table cloth and cupboard
cloth
26 which were made for that room. **Item:** I give to every child I have now
living a
27 featherbed with the bowlsters, pillows, two blankets and a rug thereto
belonging.

40 words within () inserted but this is the probate copy

41 chairs?

28 **Item:** I give the bed boulder, two pillows, one blanket and the silk quilt
thereto
29 belonging in the matted chamber to Henry Dixon, son of Edward Dixon, my
son.
30 The said several legacies to be delivered to him when he shall come to the
age of one
31 and twenty years. **Item:** I give my wedding ring to my daughter Mary
Dixon and
32 the chest and those things in the chest in the matted chamber which were
my
33 mother's. **Item:** I make and appoint **William Dixon, my son,** my sole
executor.
34 And my will is that my said executor shall provide for his brothers and
sisters till
35 they can otherwise dispose of themselves. **Item:** I give to my said executor
a ??
36 chest not made up with the hinge and lock and other things provided for
the making of
37 it up and a green carpet brodered⁴² with needle work for his ?? **Item:** my
will is that

42 embroidered

38 my wearing apparel be divided equally amongst my daughters, Mary,
Elizabeth, Joane⁴³, Frances
39 and Jane Dixon. **Item:** my will is that my sons shall have, each of them, a
mourning cloak
40 and my daughters and grandchildren, each of them, mourning of stuff. **In**
witness
41 that this is my last will and testament I have hereunto set my hand and
seal the day and
42 year first above written. The mark of Mary Dixon. Published as her last
will in the presence of
43 **William Saxby, Edward Fryer, the mark of Owen Brett**

43 this is the first time Elizabeth and Joame are mentioned; was they over twenty-one and so had already received their £500?

The Draynors of Seal & Ightham

In addition to details from the parish registers there are two items concerning men called John Draynor:

- a John Draynor mentioned in the Court Records between 1586 and 1618.
- a John Draynor made his mark as a witness to the will of Robert Allingham of Seal in November 1625.

The baptisms and burials of sons and daughters of "John Draynor" in Seal and Ightham between 1619 and 1651 can be arranged on the basis that there was one John Draynor who married twice. His first wife, **Dorothy Seyliard**, whom he married on 28th July 1618 in Shipbourne was a daughter of **Henry Seyliard, rector of Ightham** from the 1550s until his death in 1616. The will of Dorothy's brother, Nicholas Seyliard, written in 1632, has survived and this includes bequests to Dorothy's children, Elizabeth (#2517) being his god-daughter - see [Seyliard in Families & Transcripts](#) for details.

They had three children baptised in Ightham and then moved to Seal, by which time John was "a gent.". Four more children were baptised in Seal but Dorothy, their eldest daughter was buried in Ightham in 1632 when she was 12. John's wife was also buried in Ightham five months after the baptism of Henry "[son of](#)

John and Dorothy" in Seal. Elizabeth and John, the first two children baptised in Seal, are given as the children of "**John Draynor, gent.**" but not any of the subsequent children.

Nineteen months after Dorothy's death, Anna, "**daughter of John and Joane Draynor**", was baptised in Seal so that it is possible that John remarried. Anna was followed by two more children in 1639 and 1641, also recorded as "**of John and Joane**".

The Draynor story then returns to Ightham where the burial of Elizabeth, daughter of John Draynor, was recorded in June 1647. Was this John and Dorothy's daughter who, by this time would be practically twenty. Then there was an intriguing entry in the **Shipbourne** register: on 30th January 1649 "**Isaac, son of John Draynor was baptised at the Mote**" - presumably Ightham Mote.

Then come three burials: those of Joane Draynor (daughter of John Draynor) in 1650 and the twin sons of John Draynor in 1651. If John Draynor married a young woman in 1637, the family could have moved back to Ightham in the 1640s and the twins could be the children of the same mother as Anna.

But a **John Draynor** (\$1247) married **Anna Rigden** (\$1616) in Shipbourne on 28th July 1634. This was before Dorothy, the wife of #2125, died. The mother of the first three children of what has been taken as #2515's second marriage was

Johane and the others were born more than thirteen years after the Shipbourne marriage which thus looks like an isolated event.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
#2515 ⁴⁴	<u>DRAYNOR, John</u> -----				2 14	
	gent.					
	<i>Marriage 1</i>		28 Jul 1618	Dorothy Selyiard married in Shipbourne	1 7	
#2516	<u>Selyiard, Dorothy</u> -----	7 Dec 1598(I)			1 7	6 Nov 1636(I)
• #3943	<u>Draynor, Dorothy</u>	10 Oct 1619(I)			0 0	24 Jul 1632(I)
• #3944	<u>Draynor, Mary</u>	14 Feb 1622(I)			0 0	
• #3945	<u>DRAYNOR, William</u>	28 Nov 1624(I)			0 0	
• #2517	<u>Draynor, Elizabeth</u>	24 Jul 1627			0 0	10 Jun 1647(I)
• #2518	<u>DRAYNOR, John</u>	20 May 1631			0 0	
• #2519	<u>DRAYNOR, Richard</u>	23 Apr 1634			0 0	26 Jan 1635
• #2520	<u>DRAYNOR, Henry</u>	12 Sep 1636			0 0	3 Apr 1639

44 # indicates a reference in the Seal database and \$ a reference in that for Shipbourne

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died	
#2515	<u>DRAYNOR, John</u> -----				2	14	
	gent.						
	<i>Marriage 2</i>						
#2521	<u>his wife, Joane</u> -----				1	7	
• #2522	<u>Draynor, Anna</u>	3 Jun 1638			0	0	
• #2523	<u>DRAYNOR, Edward</u>	24 Nov 1639			0	0	
• #2524	<u>DRAYNOR, Francis</u>	18 Apr 1641	(son)		0	0	
• #3946	<u>DRAYNOR, Jeremy</u>	16 May 1647(I)			0	0	
		probably died before May 1651 when another son was called Jeremy					
• \$2162	<u>DRAYNOR, Isaac</u>	30 Jan 1649			0	0	
		"son of John Draynor, buried at the Mote" - Shipbourne register probably died before May 1651 when another son was called Isaac					
• #3947	<u>Draynor, Joane</u>			buried one day after she died	0	0	
					18 Jul	1650(I)	
• #3948	<u>DRAYNOR, Isaac</u>				0	0	
					14 May	1651(I)	
• #3949	<u>DRAYNOR, Jeremy</u>				0	0	
				sons of John Draynor, "eodem die sepulti"	14 May	1651(I)	

The Dressers of Shipbourne

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
\$860 ⁴⁵	<u>DRESSER, Jeames</u> -----				2	2	12 Dec 1627
	Marriage 1						
\$861	<u>Dresser(m), Sara</u> -----				1	2	10 Aug 1606
•	\$1180 <u>DRESSER, Jeames</u>				1	3	
•	• \$1153 <u>Dresser, infant</u>			"an infant of Jeames Dresser not baptised"	0	0	19 Mar 1615
•	• \$1178 <u>Dresser, Elizabeth</u>	30 Jun 1616			0	0	
•	• \$1179 <u>DRESSER, Jeames</u>	2 Jul 1620			0	0	
•	\$1382 <u>Dresser, Joane</u>		17 Jul 1625	Jasper Stanford	1	0	
	Marriage 2						
		1 May 1608		Agnes Somner	1	0	
				\$868			

No evidence that Jeames and Joane are children of \$860 but at least Jeames was likely to have been his son.

⁴⁵ \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

Richard Drupp of Ightham

In 1552 when an inventory of the Ightham Parish Goods was taken, various parishioners paid sums of money "unto William Hyde, gent., surveyor to our Sovereign lord the King" in what seems to be payment for certain of the church goods. One of these was **Richard Drupp** from whom William Hyde received 8s "for the lamp in the chancel"⁴⁶

John Duble of Seal

The transcript of the will of John Duble of Seal (#4029), written on 15th January 1526/7 is given in [Families & Transcripts - see the Dubles of Seal and Tonbridge](#).

In 1515 he made a complaint to the Chancellor, who was the Archbishop of York, regarding a message with 20 acres of land and 8 acres of wood called **Kentysland** in Seal and Lye(Leigh?). A Richard Collyn had come to him and said that Gilbert Egleston of London, a very rich goldsmith, pretended to a title to this land. John Duble knew that he could not stand against a suit brought by such a man as Egleston and “[on Colyn’s persuasion enfeoffed the latter with the said premises \(Colyn\) promising to re-enfeoff](#)” Duble. According to the complaint, Egleston never pretended any title and Collyn refused to return the estate to Duble.

A feoffment was a type of trust usually used for purposes of tax evasion in which case, before a man died, he made his land over to a number of trustees, known as feoffees, who held the land in trust "to the use of" the original owner and his heirs. Here Collyn seems to have persuaded Duble that, my this means, he could avoid Eglestone brining a suit against him whilst eventually the estate would be returned to him.

John Duble also complained that, through the right of his wife, Alice, he had been in possession (seised) of a messuage called **Rogers** with 20 acres of land, 5 acres of mead and 6 acres of pasture in Seal and Tonbridge but that Collyn laid claim to it and insisted on keeping it. Apparently a fine had been levied against Collyn, by which he was to pay Duble the profits from the land.

Richard Collyn, in response to the second complaint, asserted that on his marriage to Isabel, John Duble's daughter, Duble had enfeoffed him with the premises in advancement of his marriage and that, "[according to the intent of the fine](#)", Duble was receiving the profits⁴⁷.

In 1516, Richard Collyn, the plaintiff, was to give John and Alice Duble, the defendants, 40 marks (£26.67). In his will John mentions his wife Alice but not a daughter Isabel. In the intervening ten years she could have died.

47 Eal Chancery Proceedings 402-11; 1515

John Ducke of Halstow in the Hundred of Hoo, labourer

Only the original of this will has survived (CKS: Drb/Pw 8); it includes a list of the debts owed by and to John Ducke who was a labourer. One of the witnesses was William Painter, the parson of Halstow, who probably wrote the will. Does this mean that the unusual phrase in the preamble "god the father, god the son and god the holy ghost, three persons and one god" originated with the parson? This could only be decided if more wills from Halstow were examined to see if there were others of which Painter was a witness (and possible scriptor) and comparing them with other wills written, at the same time, by someone else.

It may be that, if more wills from Halstow were examined, this phrase would no longer seem unusual. Another unusual phrase (at least for wills in the areas investigated) was that John's overseer was to "have for his labour and pains" 2s - most wills investigated just mentioning "pains".

John Ducke left only 4d to each of his godchildren compared with the more usual 12d or more. This could have been because, as a labourer, he did not have as much money as many of the other testators. He did, however, have a russet coat, a russet jerkin and some russet boot hose which he left to three different people.

John Ducke was owed money for: a load of hay (13s 4d), carrying wood (10s 8d) and for "sowing and fallowing" (8s 6d); this gives a total of 32s 6d (£1 12s 6d) compared with 41s 8d (£2 1s 8d) which John owed, mainly for the rent but his debts included items for which no amount was given.

Will of John Ducke of Halstow in the Hundred of Hoo

written 31st October 1564

transcript from original

- parish of Halstow in the Hundred of Hoo, **labourer**,

in manner and form

- following⁴⁸: **First**: I bequeath my
- soul into th'ands of god the father, god the son
- and god the holy ghost, three persons and one god. And
- I bequeath my body to the ground. **Item**: I give unto the
- poor people of the parish 3s 4d. **Item**: I give and bequeath
- to **Margery Crypp** a lamb. And to **her son Richard**

48 "folowing"

- **Crypp** another lamb. **Item:** I give to **John Brown** my russet coat. **Item:** I give to **Robert Prycke** my russet jerkin and my russet boot hose and a lamb. **Item:** I give my young steer calf to **William Cheest?**. **Item:** I give to **my goddaughter, Olyve Larke**, 4d.
- **Item:** I give to **my godson, John Chells**, 4d. **Item:** I give to **Rowland** ⁴⁹ my pair of linen sheets.
- All the rest of my goods, moveable and unmoveable, I give and bequeath to **my wife, Alice Ducke**, whom I make and ordain my full and sole executrix, she to see my legacies fulfilled, my debts paid and my body buried. And I ordain **Robert Prycke** to be my overseer of this my last will and testament and he to have for his labour and pains 2s. These being witness

**William Painter, parson of Halstow
Hew Halfhead**

49 a space left here, presumably for Rowland's surname

Debts that John Ducke do owe

Item: to my landlord for my rent	3s 10d
Item: to my landlord for this half year	37s 6d
Item: to James Aylet for the farm of a cow	
Item: to Webb, the smyth	4d
Item: more to the same Webb for dressing of my mare	
Item: to John Bonam	a load of furs
Item: to him for	5 cops of straw ⁵⁰
Item: to him for	a talbot of pease
Item: to the ---year of Hoo	a load of furs
	and he oweth me 6d

Debts owing to me John Ducke

Item: John Taylor of Rochester oweth me	
	for a load of hay
	13s 4d
Item: William Asshe oweth me for carrying wood	10s 8d
Item: Thomas Read for sawing and fallowing	8s 6d

⁵⁰ a cop of wheat was 15 sheaves in the field, 16 in the barn (Carley, p.26) but no definition has been found for straw

The Dunks of Shipbourne

In 1576, **Thomas Dunke**, witnessed the will of John Hadlow.

Two wills have survived for the Dunks of Shipbourne:

buried

John Dunke 28 Mar 1608 CKS: Drb/Pw 21 yeoman

Henry Dunke 27 Mar 1641 PCC: Evelyn 58.

Neither has been investigated.

John Dunke (\$422⁵¹) had two children:

Susan (\$794) baptised 30 May 1604

John (\$795) 14 Dec 1606

John, the testator of 1608, could have been the father of \$422.

Alice Dunke (\$423) had a daughter, **Susan** (\$424), baptised on 7th April 1594.

Alice was buried on 9th September 1598 and Susan on 22nd May 1599.

On 8th October 1599, **Elizabeth Colte** (\$428) “[daughter of one Mr. Colte of Gravesend, nourished at John Dunks](#)” was buried. Hardly nourished.

51 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

E

More Families & Transcripts

Alice Earle of Tonbridge	page 2.e.3
The Easterfields of Shipbourne	page 2.e.6
The Unfortunate Thomas Eastland	page 2.e.7
The Edmonds of Kemsing & Ightham	page 2.e.8
Richard Eglestone	see Thrupps in More Families & Transcripts
The Elfies of Ightham	page 2.e.9
The Ellis Family of Shipbourne	page 2.e.11
John Emerson of London	page 2.e.12
The Emmories of Ightham	page 2.e.13

The Family of Thomas Everest of Shipbourne

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

Elizabeth Everest, widow of Penshurst	page 2.e.14
Elizabeth's Legacies	page 2.e.16
Other Penshurst Everests	page 2.e.26

The Eversfields of Shipbourne	page 2.e.27
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The Ewells of Shipbourne	page 2.e.28
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Alice Earle of Tonbridge

The will of Alice Earle, widow, (CKS: Drb/Pw 28) was written by John Hooper, notary public and parish clerk of Tonbridge, who wrote many wills for people in the Tonbridge area. This is one of the shortest wills he wrote; the initial phrase "In the name of God Amen" is written in larger letters than the rest of the will with the initial "I" slightly decorated.

Elizabeth had four daughters one of which, Margerie, was to be her executor. Alice's eldest daughter, was married to John Harman and another daughter, Alice, to ?? Mylls, his first name being undecipherable. There were Harmans in Seal at the end of the sixteenth century and Mylls is a common surname but neither husband can be identified. These two daughters had to give confirmation to Margerie when they received their legacy.

1 In the name of god Amen. the second
2 day of November in the year of our Lord Christ one
3 thousand six hundred and thirty, I, Alice Earle
4 of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **widow**, do ordain
5 and make this my testament and last will in manner and
6 form following: **First** recommending my soul to Almighty
7 god, my creator with an assured hope of salvation through his
8 mercy in the merit and mediation of his dear son Christ
9 and saviour; and my body to the earth in decent manner to
10 be buried. **Item:** I will and give to **Elizabeth, mine eldest**
11 **daughter, the wife of John Harman**, one pair of sheets and one
12 chest joined, the cauldron which was her father's and also the
13 sum of five pounds of lawful english money, the money to
14 be paid her within one year next after my decease.
15 **Item:** I will and give to **Alice, my daughter, the wife of ??**
16 **Mylls**, one pair of sheets and also the sum of five
17 pounds of like lawful money to be paid her at or within one year
18 next after my decease. **Item:** I will and give to **Marie, my**
19 **daughter**, a flock bed and twenty shillings in money to be

20 paid unto her within half a year next after my decease. **Item:**
21 I will and give to **Mary, her daughter**, one brass pot to be
22 delivered to her parents for her use. And I will that my said
23 daughters with named husbands shall give some ??
24 upon the payment of their several legacies aforesaid. **Item:** I will to Alice,
25 my daughter, my round table.

26 ?? all those my goods, debts and chattells, I wholly give and
27 bequeath to **Margerie, my daughter**, whom I make my sole executrix
28 ?? my will, to see my debts and legacies paid and my body decently
29 brought to the earth. The mark of the said

A Alice Earle

Read, sealed, published and declared in the presence

Daniell **P** Prickney and John Hooper, scr.

The Easterfields of Shipbourne

		\$1568 ⁵²		\$1567		\$1696		
<i>mar:</i>		Mary -		Thomas -		Anne Burroughs		
<i>bur:</i>		27 Dec 1634				26 Dec 1636		

	\$1569	\$1570	\$1622	\$1697	\$1698	\$1699	\$2128	
	Thomas	Mary	Edward	William	Anna	Timothy	Edward	
<i>bap:</i>	26 Jan 1632	14 Jul 1633	25 Dec 1634	10 Jan 1638	7 Nov 1641	29 Jan 1644	14 Nov 1647	
<i>bur:</i>	16 Feb 1632		9 Jan 1635		4 Jun 1642			

Timothy was a daughter; Timothy was often used as a girl's name at this time.

Mary Easterfield (\$1810), perhaps Thomas's sister, married **Richard Wright** (\$1811) on 13th July 1641. They had two sons

- **Edward** (\$1812) baptised 12th October 1642
- **Richard** (\$1998) baptised 26th December 1644.

52 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

The Unfortunate Thomas Eastland

Thomas Eastland of Shipbourne (§1783⁵³) married at the end of the 1630s and his wife, whose name is not given, gave birth twice:

- on 8th November 1640 a son was buried; his name was not given and he might not have been baptised.
- exactly a year later, on 8th November 1641, “[an infant of Thomas Eastland](#)” was buried.

Three days later, on 11th November, “[the wife of Thomas Eastland](#)” was buried.

Thomas must have married again fairly soon after the death of his first wife since, on 21st October 1642, “[the son of Thomas Eastland](#)” was buried.

Nothing more is recorded for the Eastlands so that it does not look as if Thomas had any more children.

53 § indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

The Edmonds of Kemsing & Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
k654 ⁵⁴	<u>EDMONDS, Henry</u> -----			Margaret Edmonds(m) k655	1	1	
• k656	<u>Edmonds, Sylvester</u>	14 May 1636			0	0	5 May 1636
			error in one of these dates?				
i2552	<u>EDMONDS, Thomas</u> -----			Elizabeth Edmonds(m) i2553	1	2	23 Aug 1649
i2553	<u>Edmonds(m), Elizabeth</u> -----				1	2	
	Alice was recorded at her burial as the "daughter of Elizabeth Edmonds, widow", either Elizabeth was pregnant when her husband died in 1649 or Alice was an older child dying at about 4 or 5						
• i2554	<u>Edmonds, Joan</u>	15 Feb 1648			0	0	20 Feb 1648
• i2678	<u>Edmonds, Alice</u>				0	0	18 Apr 1650
i2619	<u>EDMONDS, Henry</u> -----		16 Feb 1652	Martha Clarke i2620	1	0	

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

The Elfies of Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i2407 ⁵⁵	<u>ELFIE, John</u> -----			Jane Elfie(m) i2408	1	5	
		Jane's name given at the baptisms of Helen, William and George					
• i2409	<u>ELFIE, Henry</u>	2 Apr 1632				0	0
• i2410	<u>Elfie, Jane</u>	8 Jun 1634				0	0
• i2411	<u>Elfie, Helen</u>	3 Jul 1636				0	0
• i2412	<u>ELFIE, William</u>	22 Jun 1638				0	0
• i2413	<u>ELFIE, George</u>	15 Nov 1640				0	0

55 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

The Ellis Men from Seal & Ightham

William Ellis (#1425⁵⁶) had a daughter **Ann** (#1427) baptised in Seal on 2nd April 1587.

John Ellis (#1164) had a son **William** (#1166) baptised in Seal on 5th April 1590.

Robert Ellis (i1835) married **Helen Bookes** i(1836) on 26 September 1594.

A **John Ellis** and a **Thomas Ellis** were mentioned in the Court Records 1586-1618

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

The Ellis Family of Shipbourne

William Ellis (\$1316⁵⁷) married Elizabeth Bassett (\$1315), in Shipbourne, on 13th February 1621 and the baptisms of six children were recorded:

\$1317	John	18 Nov 1621	
\$1318	Elizabeth	27 Jun 1624	
\$1319	William	23 Apr 1626	buried: 23 Jun 1628
\$1483	Mary	15 Jun 1628	
\$1484	Alice	9 Apr 1631	
\$1486	Mercy	17 Feb 1633	buried: 20 Feb 1633

The burial of Mercy, daughter of William Ellis, was recorded for 15 May 1633. The names Mercy and Mary were often used for the same person (or were written so that the name could be interpreted as either). This burial could, therefore, have been that of Mary born in 1628.

See Bassetts (included with the Chawklins) in [More Families & Transcripts](#) for details of Elizabeth's possible family.

57 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

John Emerson of London

John Emerson was presented to the Court held on 16th October 1604 for having received a "stranger"; he was to be fined 10s if he stayed without sureties being found. (CRI 1938, p.18). In the list of names (CRI 1938, p.58) he is given as "John Emerson of London"; was he the stranger who was to be fined? A **Henry Emerson** is also mentioned in the Court Records for 1586-1618.

The Emmories of Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i983 ⁵⁸	<u>EMMORIE, Dunstan</u> -----				1	5	<Jul 1620
• 1985	<u>Emmorie, Elizabeth</u>	13 Dec	1579		0	0	
• 1986	<u>EMMORIE, Samuel</u>	8 Jul	1582		0	0	
• 1987	<u>Emmorie, Amy</u>	28 Jun	1584		0	0	
• 1988	<u>Emmorie, Anne</u>	12 Jun	1586		0	0	
• 1989	<u>Emmorie, Joane</u>	20 Oct	1588	16 Jan 1615 married at 26	Robert CHAPMAN 1990	1	6

Dunstan, who was mentioned in the Court Records for 1586-1618, died before July 1620 if his wife was the "[widow Emmorie](#)" buried then.

See [Chapman in More Families & Transcripts](#) for Joane's children.

⁵⁸ "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

Elizabeth Everest, widow of Penshurst

Elizabeth's will was written, on 13th August 1642, by George Hooper, grandson of Nicholas and son of John, the Hoopers being a family of scribes. It was proved at the PCC (**Fines 183**) and the original has also survived (**Prob 10/681**) but this was not until September 1647, five years after it was written.

The letter "I" of "In the name of god Amen" is decorated with a face but this is very different from the faces used, in a similar way, by Nicholas and John Hooper. It looks more like a caricature than a decoration.

The relationships taken from this will are very difficult to decipher when information from other wills is taken into account. From her will Elizabeth's daughter Elizabeth was married to Manasses Jessopp. This name is unusual enough for us to consider it to be unique. Susan Everest, in her will of December 1640⁵⁹, mentions her brother-in-law Manessen Jessop. Therefore Elizabeth, widow of Penshurst was the mother of the testator Susan and the wife of Mannassen.

59 see [Families & Transcripts](#)

Elizabeth, wife of Manassen Jessop was buried on 16th June 1640, six months before Susan wrote her will. Elizabeth, however, is a common name and it is possible that between June and December 1640 Manasses Jessopp married Elizabeth Everest, sister of Susan and daughter of Elizabeth, his first wife also having the name Elizabeth. But it is not as simple as this since, if the testator Elizabeth Everest was the mother of this Susan there are other problems.

Firstly Susan's sister Sara was the "[now wife of Thomas Bradley](#)" whereas Elizabeth's daughter Sara was the "[now wife of John Crondwell](#)". Eighteen months would have been long enough for Thomas Bradley to have died and for Sara to have remarried, but not long enough for her to have had three sons John, Robert and Thomas Crondwell.

Secondly, Susan mentions two brothers: William with four children and Thomas with a son William. Elizabeth's executors were to be her two sons Edward and Thomas (whose son was another Thomas).

If it were not for Manassen Jessop, there would be no apparent reason for thinking that Elizabeth, widow of Penshurst, was the mother of Susan, spinster, of Chiddingstone. Compare the family tree on the next page with that drawn from Susan's will in [Families & Transcripts](#). More details of the Crundwells are also given in [Families & Transcripts](#).

				- Elizabeth (widow)	p414
will:				13 Aug	1642
proved:					Sep 1647

p415	p416		p418	p417	p335
Edward -	Elizabeth -	Manassen Jessop	Thomas -	Sara -	John Crundwell

p787	p788		p790	p783	p784
Elizabeth	Francis (son)		Thomas	John	Robert
					p785
					Thomas

Elizabeth's Legacies

Elizabeth was a wealthy widow able to apportion £10 to be “expended and laid out in bread, wine and beer to be distributed amongst them that shall accompany my body to the church and about other necessaries and funeral charges”.

The arrangements for the bequests to her children, Elizabeth, Sara, Edward and Thomas, are unusual. To the modern eye, they look to be of the kind suggested by “financial advisers”; perhaps George Hooper, son of a notary public and the writer of the will, suggested such a method to Elizabeth. Her daughters, Elizabeth, the wife of Manasse Jessop wife, and Sara, the wife of John Crundwell, were each to

have £10 which was to “be employed and put out to the best advantage” with the profit arising being used for the benefit of their children. This was perhaps a means of ensuring that money left to a married daughter did not go directly to her husband.

1 In the name of god Amen. the thirteenth day of
2 August in the year of our Lord, Lord Christ⁶⁰ one thousand six hundred,
forty
3 and two, Anno Regm Regis Carolis Anglia ye? decimo octavo, I, Elizabeth
4 Everest of Penshurst in the county of Kent, **widow**, (being of reasonable
good health
5 of body and of perfect mind and remembrance, praised be⁶¹ God) but aged
and weak
6 and, by reason of my age as by many spectacles of mortality, put in mind of
my
7 last end and departure out of this transitory life⁶² so the intent that that
temporal

60 was the word "Lord" repeated by mistake or was this an alternative to the usual "lord God"? Giving the year of the reign in a form of latin is also unusual but both these variations are used by George Hooper in other wills

61 "bee", "mee", etc. throughout but "shall bee" as two separate words

62 looks like an open bracket "(" here but there is no closed bracket

8 estate which God hath blessed me with may be enjoyed in love and unity
without strife by those
9 to whom I shall dispose the same, do therefore ordain and make this to be
my testament and
10 last will in manner following: **First** and principally I will my soul into the
hands of
11 Almighty god, my maker, hoping and assuredly trusting for pardon and
remission of all my sins
12 in and by the merits, death and passion of his dearly beloved son, Jesus
Christ, my saviour
13 and redeemer, and my body to the earth in decent manner to be buried.
And I will there shall
14 be expended and laid out in bread, wine and beer to be distributed
amongst them that shall
15 accompany my body to the church and about other necessaries and funeral
charges⁶³, the sum
16 of ten pounds of lawful money of England by mine executors hereafter
named at their discretions.
17 **Item:** I will that my executors shall pay, or cause to be paid, to **Elizabeth,**
wife of Manasses

63 "charges"

18 **Jessop, my daughter**, the sum of ten pounds lawful money of England, the
which said sum
19 of ten pounds I will shall be employed and put out to the best advantage by
the said Elizabeth, or
20 her said husband, during her natural life and the profit thereof arising shall
be and remain
21 to the use of the said Elizabeth, my daughter, and from and after the
decease of the said Elizabeth, my
22 daughter, I will the said ten pounds shall be to the use of such child or
children as my said
23 daughter shall have at the time of her decease. And if my said daughter
Elizabeth shall happen
24 to die leaving no issue of her body, then I will the said ten pounds shall be
paid by the executors,
25 administrators or assigns of the said Elizabeth, my daughter, or by the said
Manasses Jessop, her husband,
26 his executors or assigns, equally to and amongst such child and children as
Sara, my daughter, the
27 now **wife of John Crondwell** shall have living at the time of the decease of
the said Elizabeth, my daughter,
28 within one year next after the such decease of the said Elizabeth. And I
will that the said Manasses

29 Jessop, if he be living when the said ten pounds shall be received or else
the said Elizabeth, his wife,
30 before the receipt of the said ten pounds, shall enter into obligation of
twenty pounds to my said
31 executors binding him, or her self, his or her executors and administrators
according to due form
32 of law to the intent and with condition that the said ten pounds may
descend, be enjoyed and
33 paid according to this my will, which if refusal and denial shall be made of
entering into such obligation,
34 then I will the said ten pounds to my said executors and my said daughter
Elizabeth to be wholly barred
35 and excluded therefrom. **Item:** I will that my said executors shall likewise
pay, or cause to be paid, to the
36 said Sara, my daughter, the wife of the said John Crondwell, the like sum of
ten pounds of
37 like lawful money the which said sum I will shall be employed to the best
advantage and the profit
38 thereof arising and made during the life of the said Sara, my daughter, shall
be to the use of such children
39 equally to be divided or such child as the said Sara, my daughter, shall
have living at the time of her death.

page 2:

40 **Item:** I will and give to **Elizabeth Everest**, daughter of **Edward Everest**, my
son, the sum of
41 five pounds of lawful money of England. **Item:** I will to **Francis** the son of
the said Edward,
42 thirty shillings. **Item:** I will and give to **Thomas**, the son of **Thomas Everest**,
my son,
43 the sum of five pounds of lawful money of England. **Item:** I will and give to
John Crondwell,
44 **the son of the said John Crondwell** by the said Sara, my daughter, the like
sum of five pounds
45 of like lawful money. **To Robert Crondwell**, **second son**, of the said John by
the said Sara, I will
46 thirty shillings. **And to Thomas Crondwell**, **brother** of the said Robert I will
likewise thirty
47 shillings. **All** which legacies, before by me bequeathed, I will shall be
equally paid by and between
48 my two executors hereafter named within the first year after my decease.
And if any of the
49 legatees before named shall be under age when his or her legacy is payable
by this my will,
50 I will, notwithstanding an acquittance under their hands, such? under age
testified by their parents,

51 shall be a sufficient discharge for the receipt of their legacies to my said
executors.. **Item:** I will
52 and give all my linen of all sorts to the said Elizabeth and Sara, my
daughters, equally to be
53 divided and shifted between them. **Item:** I will that all my pewter shall be
equally shifted
54 and divided amongst all the children of my sons and daughters that shall
be living at
55 the time of my decease. **Item:** I will that the said Edward, my son, shall
take and employ the sum of
56 fifty pounds of my estate to the best profit and advantage he can during his
life. And the benefit thereof made
57 to take to his on use. And after the decease of the said Edward, my son, I
will the said fifty
58 pounds to be paid (as my gift) equally to an amongst the said Elizabeth, his
daughter and
59 Francis, his son, and if either of them shall decease before the time of
payment thereof, then to the survivor the
60 whole within one year after the decease of their said father. **Item:** I will
that Thomas, my son, shall
61 likewise take and employ the like sum of fifty pounds during his life and the
benefit thereof made

62 to take to his own use. And after the death of the said Thomas, my son, I
will the said fifty pounds to
63 be paid as my gift to the said Thomas, the son of my said son Thomas,
within one year after his
64 said father's death by the executors or administrators of the said Thomas,
my son. **The residue**
65 and all other my goods not before disposed of by this my will, I give, will
and bequeath to my said sons
66 Edward Everest and Thomas Everest equally to be divided between them,
the which Edward
67 and Thomas, my sons, I make and ordain to be the joint and sole executors
of this my testament
68 and last will, to see the same proved, my debts and legacies paid as
aforesaid and my body
69 decently brought to the earth and buried.

70 In witness whereof I, the said Elizabeth Everest, to this my testament and
last will contained
71 and written in two sheets of paper to either of the said sheets have
subscribed my name
72 and have annexed the together with my seal, the day and year first before
written.

Read, sealed, published and declared }
by the said Elizabeth Everest to }
be her testament and last will in }
the presence of ----- }

Wm. Polhill⁶⁴ & Geo. Hooper

sign Elizabeth
⁶⁵ Everest

64 a stylised signature

65 Elizabeth's mark as on the first page (a letter C with a small circle within it)

Other Penshurst Everests

There were other Penshurst Everests whose relationship with each other, and with the other Everests, is not known.

Edward Everest (p846⁶⁶) had four children:

- | | | | |
|---|-----------|------|-------------|
| - | Elizabeth | p852 | 20 May 1599 |
| - | Edward | p853 | 26 Apr 1601 |
| - | William | p854 | 17 Jul 1603 |
| - | Thomas | p855 | 24 Nov 1605 |

William Everest (p847) had two children

- | | | | |
|---|---------|------|-------------|
| - | William | p857 | 17 Jan 1613 |
| - | Richard | p858 | 3 Jul 1616 |

Walter Everest (p848) had two children:

- | | | | |
|---|--------|------|-------------|
| - | Thomas | p860 | 2 May 1613 |
| - | Edward | p861 | 17 Dec 1615 |

Elizabeth (p862), the daughter of **Richard Everest** (p849) was baptised on 11th February 1648.

Edward Everest (p850) married **Ann Peckham** (p864) on 3rd February 1648.

66 "p" indicates a reference in the Penshurst database

The Eversfields of Shipbourne

Elizabeth (\$1364⁶⁷), daughter of **John Eversfield** (\$1362), was baptised on 11th January 1624. A John Eversfield was buried on 10th August 1624 when Elizabeth was seven months old. Whilst the John who died may have been her father, he could have been her grandfather - or a more distant relative.

William (\$2039), son of **Thomas Eversfield** (\$2037) was baptised on 9th November 1645 and buried on 6th September 1647.

67 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

The Ewells of Shipbourne

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
\$396 ⁶⁸	<u>EWELL, John</u> -----		22 Jul 1588	Johane Balden \$397	1	6	
• &504	<u>EWELL, Arhur</u>						0 0 5 Dec 1589
• \$551	<u>EWELL, William</u>	29 Aug 1591					0 0
• \$580	<u>Ewell, Katherine</u>	6 May 1593					0 0
• \$616	<u>Ewell, child</u>			"a child of John Ewell"			0 0 30 Jun 1595
• \$398	<u>EWELL, Bartholomew</u>	31 Aug 1597					0 0
• \$715	<u>Ewell, child</u>	24 Jul 1601		"an infant which was not baptised"			0 0 24 Jul 1595

68 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

F

More Families & Transcripts

Will of Moses Fan of Speldhurst	page 2.f.5
The Fanes of Ightham & Seal	page 2.f.7
The Fanes of Tudeley	page 2.f.8
The Fanes of Hadlow	page 2.f.9
Henry Farbrasse of Ightham	page 2.f.10
William Faunt of Tonbridge	page 2.f.11
The Fennes of Shipbourne & Ightham	page 2.f.15
The Fenners of Shipbourne & Ightham	page 2.f.16
The Fieldes of Shipbourne	page 2.f.18
The Fielders of Kemsing	page 2.f.20

The Finchs of Ightham	page 2.f.21
The Fines of Seal	page 2.f.23
George Fishenden of West Peckham	page 2.f.24
George Fishenden's Property	page 2.f.24
George Fishenden's Extended Family	page 2.f.27
Thomas Fisher & John Stoperfelde of Hadlow	page 2.f.36
The Flexmans of Kemsing	page 2.f.37
The Flowers of Ightham	page 2.f.38
The Fordes of Seal	page 2.f.40
Benete and Lettice Forman of Brenchley	page 2.f.41
Benete Forman of Brenchley	page 2.f.42
Lettice Forman, widow of Brenchley	page 2.f.45
The Foulks of Kemsing	page 2.f.49
The Foxs of Ightham & Seal	page 2.f.50
The Franks of Shipbourne & Seal	page 2.f.52

The Fremlyns of Kemsing	page 2.f.54
The Early Fremlyns	page 2.f.55
Later Sixteenth Century Fremlyns	page 2.f.64
William Fremlyn, the 1555 Testator	page 2.f.65
The Family of James Fremlyn	page 2.f.68
The Family of John Fremlyn	page 2.f.77
The Bequests of John, the Younger	page 2.f.81
The William Fremlyns	page 2.f.86
The Family of Richard Fremlyn	page 2.f.92
The George Fremlyns	page 2.f.94
George Fremlyn's Crops and Animals	page 2.f.95
George's Land and Debts	page 2.f.97
Geese Stolen from James Fremlyn	page 2.f.104
The Children of George Fremlyn	page 2.f.105
Fremlyn Brides	page 2.f.106
Seventeenth Century Fremlyns	page 2.f.108

The Friends of Seal

see [Chownings of Kemsing and Seal](#)

The Frenches of Shipbourne & Ightham	page 2.f.119
The Ightham Court Records	page 2.f.119

The Frys of Speldhurst and Penshurst	page 2.f.121
Will of John Fry of Tonbridge	page 2.f.123
Will of Thomas Fry of Penshurst (preamble)	page 2.f.125
Will of Thomas Fry of Speldhurst (preamble)	page 2.f.126
Agnes Fry, widow, of Penshurst	page 2.f.127
Edward Fry, yeoman of Speldhurst	page 2.f.136
John Frye of Penshurst Indicted for a Rescue	page 2.f.144

The Fullers of Seal, Shipbourne & Ightham	page 2.f.146
The Fullers of Ightham	page 2.f.146
Richard Fuller & Roberts Mathewes, Burglars	page 2.f.148
John Fuller, carpenter of Seal	page 2.f.150
William Fuller of Seal	page 2.f.150
William's Son Henry	page 2.f.152
The Fullers of Shipbourne	page 2.f.153

The Funnells of Seal	page 2.f.154
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This nuncupative will looks to be written by a professional scriptor but is not in the handwriting of those known to be writing wills in the vicinity at that time. Because it is a nuncupative will the name of the scriptor does not appear.

1 **Memorandum** that upon the second
2 day of September in the year of
3 our Lord Christ one thousand six
4 hundred, thirty and eight
5 Moses Fan of Speldhurst in the
6 county of Kent, **husbandman**, being
7 then in perfect mind and memory, did
8 make his last will nuncupative and
9 did utter these, or the very like words
10 in effect, as followeth. **First** he gave
11 to his **son, Moses Fan**, his mare.
12 **Item:** he gave to his **son, Solomon**,
13 his joined bedstead and willed that his

14 mother⁶⁹ should have the use thereof
15 during her life. **Item:** he gave to
16 his **son Henry** his cupboard⁷⁰. And he
17 willed to his **four younger sons**, viz.
18 **Richard**, Solomon, **William** and Henry,
19 the sum of twenty pounds to be
20 paid equally amongst them at their
21 several ages of one and twenty years
22 by his executrix.
23 And the residue of his goods, he willed
24 to his wife whom he named the executrix
of this his will.

These or the like words
in effect he spoke and uttered
the day above said in the presence of

William Fan his **W** mark

Henry Fan his **H** mark

69 Solomon's mother, the testator's wife?

70 "cubbard"

The Fanes of Ightham & Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i2549 ⁷¹	<u>FANE, Robert</u> -----	armig.		Dorothy Fane(m) i2550	1	2	
• i2551	<u>Fane, Maria</u>	22 Nov	1647			0	0
• i2628	<u>FANE, John</u>	15 Apr	1649			0	0

Robert Fane of Ightham with a son baptised in April 1649 could not have been the Robert Fane, Esquire (#3900⁷²) whose daughter Elizabeth (#3902) was baptised in Seal on 30th March 1649. Robert Fane of Seal village was listed in the Knole Manuscript of 1648 (see [Section Z in Families & Transcripts](#))

⁷¹ "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

⁷² # indicates a reference in the Seal database

The Fanes of Tudeley

There were Fanes (often spelled “Vane”) in a number of other villages besides Seal and Ightham. These included Richard Fane, gent., mentioned in an East Peckham will of 1604 and Sir Henry Fane, knight, mentioned in two Hadlow wills of 1619 and 1622. The latter could have been Sir Henry Vane of Shipbourne - see [Vanes in More Families & Transcripts](#)

Two wills have survived from Tudeley

Richard Fane	1540	PCC: Alenger 26
George Fane, Esq.	1571	PCC: Daper 40

George Fane was a JP from at least 1559 until his death in 1571. He asked to “be buried in such convenient place as mine executor shall think meet according to the laudable custom and usage that then shall fortune to be had and used through the realm of England in the Catholic church. To the inhabitants and church of Tudeley during 20 years after my decease 26s 8d whereof 13s 4d for the reparacons of the church.”⁷³

Did this mean 26s 8d (£1.33) each year for twenty years?

Henry Farbrasse of Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
i1068 ⁷⁵	<u>FARBRASSE, Henry</u> -----				1 2	1601 (will)
• i1070	<u>Farbrasse, Marie</u>	2 Oct 1580			0 0	17 Apr 1588 aged 7½ "daughter of Henry Harbrasse" when buried
• i1071	<u>FARBRASSE, Henry</u>	9 May 1585			0 0	

"**Henry Farbrace, clerk**" is mentioned in the Court Records 1586-1618; he was rector of Ightham 1574 to 1586. His will of 1601 has not been transcribed but he left the annual sum of £1 to be given to the poor, paid out of certain land in the parish⁷⁶.

75 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

76 The Story of Ightham, F.J.Bennett, Homeland Association Ltd., 1907, p.63

William Faunt of Tonbridge

The memorandum or nuncupative will of the weaver, William Faunt, (CKS: Drb/Pw 32) is written in the distinctive handwriting of George Hooper of the Hooper family of scriptors.

Richard Chowning was one of those present when William “[did utter and speak these words](#)” describing what he wanted to be done with his “[his goods, cattle, debts, household stuff and chattles of what nature or kind soever whereof he was then possessed or were to him owing](#)”. Richard Chowning wrote a number of wills for people in Tonbridge between 1626 and 1646 and his signature to this memorandum was written by him. It is likely that he made notes as William made his wishes known and later gave these to George Hooper who wrote this surviving document.

He expected the “[use, rent and profit from time to time to be made](#)” from his goods, etc. to be sufficient for his wife, Joane, to live on and also to pay to his son Alexander £5 within three years and his daughter Mary £5 in the next two years - an average net income of £2 a year in addition to that Joane needed for her own upkeep. But first she had to “[pay all the debts and duties by him owing](#)”.

1 Memorandum that upon the two and twentieth day of
2 December in the year of our Lord Christ one thousand, six
3 hundred, forty and five, William Faunt of Tonbridge in
4 in the county of Kent, **weaver**, being then sick in body and in
5 doubt of his recovery but being of sound and perfect mind and
6 memory, did utter and speak these words following or the like in
7 effect with intent the same should be put in writing and be
8 his testament and last will: viz. He⁷⁷ willed that **Joane, his**
9 **loving wife**, should have, hold and enjoy and receive and take
10 the use, rent and profit from time to time to be made during her
11 natural life of all his goods, cattle, debts, household stuff and
12 chattles of what nature or kind soever whereof he was then
13 possessed or were to him owing for her maintenance and livelihood,
14 she, the said Joan, preserving the same, so much as in her should lie,
15 during her said life. And he willed that the said Joane, his wife,
16 out of the use and benefit arising of her said goods and chattles, should
17 raise and pay to **Alexander Faunt, his son**, the sum of five

18 pounds of lawful money of England, within three years
19 next after his death. And to **Mary Faunt, his daughter**, other
20 five pounds of like money within two years next after
21 his death which said two sums he willed and gave to his said son
22 and daughter. And out of the use and benefit of his said goods and
23 chattles he appointed that the said Joane, his wife, should
24 raise and pay all the debts and duties by him owing. And further
25 he did declare that his will and meaning was that the said Mary,
26 his daughter, from and after her mother's death, should have for her
27 further portion all that his joined bedstead⁷⁸, standing in the best
28 chamber of his house, with the featherbed, two bolsters, two pillows,
29 two blankets and his coverlet, mixed⁷⁹ with red and blue, thereto
30 used and belonging with the other dependance. And also one pair of
31 sheets with a little joined chest standing in the chamber where he
32 then lay. And the residue of all other his goods and chattles not before
33 disposed of to the said Mary, his daughter, from and after his said wife's
34 death,
35 he did will a appoint should be and remain unto the said Alexander, his
son, and Mary, his daughter, equally to be divided between them. And he

78 "bedsteddle"

79 "mixt"

36 did make and ordain the said Joane, his wife, to be the sole executrix of
37 this his testament and last will. All which words he did deliver and speak
in
38 the presence of **Richard Chowning** whom he appointed to put the same in
39 writing, and **Anne Thorpe, widow**, who in testimony thereof
40 have hereunto set their names.

Richard Chownings

signed: Anne Throrpe:

○⁸⁰

The Fennes of Shipbourne & Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
\$441 ⁸¹	<u>FENNE, John</u> ----- 				1	1	
\$442	<u>Fenne(m), Margaret</u> -----				1	1	11 Sep 1601
• \$443	<u>FENNE, William</u>	4 Mar 1599			0	0	
i2381	<u>FENNE, George</u> -----			Elisa Fenne(m) i2390	1	2	
				Elisa's name given at baptism of both children			
• i2391	<u>Fenne, Elizabeth</u>	15 Nov 1635			0	0	26 Dec 1635
• i2392	<u>FENNE, George</u>	17 Sep 1636			0	0	

On 17th October 1647, Richard (i2395), son of Richard and Rachel Fen was baptised in Ightham.

On 11th August 1648, John Fenne (\$2145) was buried in Shipbourne

⁸¹ "\$" indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database and "i" for that for Ightham

The Fenners of Shipbourne & Ightham

Fenne and Fenner could be variations of the same name but the families shown here and on the previous page seem to be the a reasonable way to assemble the data.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
\$544 ⁸²	<u>FENNER, Richard</u> -----				1	2	
• \$999	<u>FENNER, George</u>		20 Oct 1610	Elizabeth \$1000	0	0	
• \$546	<u>Fenner, Johane</u>	15 Feb 1591			0	0	

On 22nd June 1630, in Shipbourne, **Mary Fenner** (\$1525) married **Thomas Browne** (\$1524). No children were recorded in Shipbourne

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

Thomas Feild (\$1021) was buried on 7th June 1611. Even if this is a variation of the name Field, his burial was before any of the above family events.

Another Field, from twenty years earlier, who cannot be “fitted in” to any family is “Susan, daughter of – Field” (#1782) who was baptised in Seal on 10th December 1592.

The Fielders of Kemsing

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
k388 ⁸⁴	<u>FIELDER, Allyn</u> -----				1	5	27 Apr 1594
• k390	<u>Fielder, Isabell</u>				0	0	18 Mar 1572
• k391	<u>FIELDER, Gilbert</u>	8 Feb 1575			0	0	17 Mar 1615
• k392	<u>Fielder, Margaret</u>	11 Aug 1576			0	0	
• k393	<u>Fielder, Elizabeth</u>	4 Sep 1581			0	0	
• k394	<u>Fielder, Sylvester</u>	27 May 1586	26 Jun 1606	Thomas POWSIE married at 20 of Ightham, k395 no Powsie mentioned in Ightham	1	0	
k381	<u>FIELDER, Thomas</u> -----				1	2	
• k383	<u>Fielder, Elizabeth</u>	5 Apr 1562			0	0	26 May 1562
• k384	<u>FIELDER, William</u>	23 May 1563			0	0	
k385	<u>FIELDER, William</u> -----				1	1	
• k387	<u>FIELDER, William</u>	1 Jan 1564			0	0	

84 "k" indicates a reference in the Kemsing database

The Finchs of Ightham

The first record of Finch in Ightham was the burial of **Elizabeth Finch** (i912⁸⁵) on 1st September 1572.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i903	<u>FINCH, John</u> -----				1	2	
• i905	<u>FINCH, Thomas</u>	19 Jan 1578				0	0
• i906	<u>Finch, An</u> "dau. of -- Fynch"; could have been daughter of William #907 below	24 Jan 1580				0	0
i907	<u>FINCH, William</u> -----				1	2	
• i909	<u>FINCH, John</u>	24 Nov 1583				0	0
• i910	<u>FINCH, James</u> "son of -- Fynch"	8 Feb 1590				0	0

85 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

On 5th April 1592, **John Finche** was fined 12d for allowing his wife, with other women, to spoil the hedges of their neighbours - see [Colvyn in More Families & Transcripts](#).

On 12th November 1604, **Alice Finch** (i913) was buried. In 1601, **William Weston** (i2206) was presented to the Court for taking in a number of people, including Finche, widow, without sureties. Was Alice this widow? See [Excerpts from Ightham Court Rolls in Section Z of Families & Transcripts](#).

The Fines of Seal

In his will dated 12th April 1449, **Sir John ffynes**, Lord of Saye and Seal, left to the works of the churches of “Kemsynge” and “Selee, where most needed, the sum of twenty marks” (£13.40) with similar sums left to the churches of **Sevenoaks** and **Mereworth**⁸⁶.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
#3788 ⁸⁷	<u>FINES, Thomas</u> -----			Ann Fines(m) #3791	1 3	19 Sep 1646
• #3789	<u>Fines, Anne</u>	21 Jan 1638			0 0	
• #3790	<u>FINES, Thomas</u>	10 Feb 1641			0 0	
• #3792	<u>Fines, Francis</u>	20 Mar 1644			0 0	

In 1642 Thomas Fines occupied land in Seal which belonged to Edward Atherfold

Walter Finne (#484) had a son, William (#486), who was baptised on 11th June 1570 and buried, aged four months, on 4th October 1570.

⁸⁶ Incumbents of Kemsing with Seal, A.C. Vol.20 p.264

⁸⁷ # indicates a reference in the Seal database

George Fishenden of West Peckham

This will (CKS: Drb/Pw 32) was written by George Hooper from the Hooper family of sriptors. There were other Fishendens in Brenchley but this is the only will to have survived from West Peckham and George Fishenden may himself have come from Brenchley since he is described as being “[now lying sick and weak in the parish of West Peckham](#)”. That he was not in his own house at the time his will was written is shown by him leaving £5 to “[Anne Parker, servant in the house wherein I now lie](#)”. He does not say in which parish he wishes to be buried.

George’s wife had died before him but neither can have been very old since George’s grandmother was still alive and George makes his father, Robert, his executor. No children are mentioned.

George Fishenden’s Property

George, described, as a husbandman, had made some complicated arrangements regarding some property he owned. This consisted of a messuage or tenement, barn, garden, orchard, close, some arable, meadow, pasture and wood, totalling

about fifteen acres and situated in Gowthurst, probably Goudhurst (often pronounced Gowdhurst; about six miles south east of Brenchley).

By an indenture dated 25th January 1648, just over a year before the will was written, George seems to have, in effect, mortgaged this property for £60 to Thomas Tympson for 99 years for a “rent of one pepper corn”. The indenture seems to have stated that £4 should be paid in 1648 and 1649 with £4 plus the £60 loan in 1650. Then “the said indenture shall be utterly void as in and by the same indenture at large appeareth”.

The £4 payment for 1648 had already been paid (this was an interest rate of 6.7%). The arrangements for the actual handing over of the money were specified in great detail; they were to be made:

on “the feast day of the purification of the blessed virgin Mary, at or upon the tombstone of Joan Mastrall standing in the churchyard of Gowthurst aforesaid between the hours of one and four of the clock in the afternoon”

But as well as mortgaging the property to Thomas Tympson, George had also “bargained and sold” it to William Walker, a clothworker of Brenchley., for £160 plus “the moneys yet to pay for the making void” of the indenture of lease. £4 of the £160 had already been paid to George who presumably used this to pay the 1648 £4 to Tympson. These arrangements seem more likely to have been set up to

help George's finances when he was alive (being young he would have expected to live long enough to benefit from them himself). In most cases when indentures are mentioned in wills, they have been set up to complement the will.

Of the £156 which, in 1649, William Walker still owed to George, £100 was to be paid to his "trusty and good friends" Edward Woodgate, mercer, and John Ferrall of Brenchley. With this money they were to purchase tenements and lands for the use of George's father Robert. William Walker was to use the other £56 to pay George's bequests:

To:	
Nicholas Fishenden, George's brother	£ 2
William Jeure for and to the use of William and Nicholas, his sons	£ 4
Anne Parker, servant in the house wherein I now lie	£ 5
Samuel Turke for the use of his two children	£ 4
Robert Fishenden, George's father and executor	£31

These add up to only £46 although the £31 is described as "the residue of the said sum of £156"; it would better enable "him to pay my debts and funeral charges and the charges in the proving of this my will".

1 In the name of god Amen. The twentieth day of February in the year of our
2 Lord Christ, according to the computation of the church
3 of England, one thousand six hundred forty and eight, I, George Fishenden,
4 now lying sick and weak in the parish of
5 West Peckham in the county of Kent, **husbandman**, but being at this
6 present of sound and perfect mind and memory for which I praise God
7 to whose gracious acceptance I commend my soul hoping and assuredly
8 trusting to have the pardon and remission of all my sins and eternal
9 salvation by th'only merits, death and passion of his dearly beloved son
10 Jesus Christ. And my body to the earth from whence it was taken in
11 decent manner to be buried. And for the disposition of that temporal estate
12 which God hath lent me here on earth I do make and ordain
13 this to be⁸⁹ my last will and testament and do leave and dispose of the
14 same as followeth. Whereas by indenture bearing date the five and

89 "bee" but "ee" not consistently used

8 twenty day of January in the three and twentieth year of the reign of our
late sovereign Lord king Charles⁹⁰ for the consideration of the
9 sum of three score pounds therein expressed, I have devoted?, granted and
to farm letten unto **Thomas Tympson**, then of **Brenchley** in the county
10 aforesaid, husbandman, one messuage or tenement, one barn, one garden,
one orchard, one close and four pieces or parcels of land, arable, meadow,
pasture
11 and wood, withall and singular th'appurtenances, containing in the whole,
by estimation, fifteen acres, situated, lying and being in the parish of
Gowthurst⁹¹ in
12 the said county of Kent near unto a bridge there called **Rysebridge**. To hold
all the said messuage, tenement and premises with th'appurtenances
13 unto the said Thomas Tympson, his executors and assigns, from the day of
the date of the said indenture unto the full end and term of
14 ninety and nine years from thence next and immediately ensuing and fully
to be complete and ended of the yearly rent of one pepper corn.

90 January 1648

91 Goudhurst? in Kent but in the diocese of Canterbury whereas West Peckham and Brenchley are in the diocese of Rochester

15 Nevertheless, upon this condition, that if I, mine heirs, executors, ad??⁹² or
assigns, do and shall well and truly pay, or cause to be paid,
16 to the said Thomas Tympson, his executors, administrators or assigns, on
the feast day of the purification of the blessed virgin Mary last past at
17 or upon the tombstone of Joan Mastrall standing in the churchyard of
Gowthurst aforesaid between the hours of one and four of the
18 clock in the afternoon of the same day, the sum of four pounds of lawful
money of England.(which was accordingly paid). And by the feast
19 day of the purification of the blessed virgin Mary which shalbe in the year
of our lord Christ one thousand, six hundred forty and nine, in or at the
place
20 aforesaid, and between the like hours, the sum of four pounds of lawful
money of England. And on the feast day of the purification of the blessed
21 virgin Mary which shalbe in the year of our lord Christ one thousand, six
hundred and fifty at or on the place aforesaid, between the hours as
aforesaid,
22 the sum of three score and four pounds of lawful money of England, that
then the said indenture shalbe utterly void as in and by the same
23 indenture at large appeareth. And whereas I have bargained and sold to
William Walker of Brenchley, aforesaid, **clothworker**, all the said

24 message, tenement, lands and premises with th'appurtenances and I
have received in hand and on word in part of payment of the said bargain,
the sum of
25 four pounds of lawful money of England and am to receive more of the said
William Walker, the sum of one hundred fifty and six pounds of
26 like lawful money of England for the full price and purchase of the same
tenements, lands and premises. And the said William Walker is to pay the
27 moneys yet to pay for the making void of the said ?? indenture of lease,
now to the intent that the said William Walker, and his heirs, shall
28 or may have, hold and enjoy the said tenement and premises according to
our said bargain and agreement. I do will and devise to the said William
29 Walker, his heirs and assigns, all my said message and tenement, barn,
garden, orchard, close and four pieces or parcels of land with
th'appurtenances,
30 containing, by estimation, fifteen acres, situated, lying and being in
Gowthurst aforesaid, near to Rysebridge as aforesaid, to hold, to th'only use
and behoof of the
31 said William Walker, his heirs and assigns, forever, upon condition that
upon or before the last day of March next coming, he, the said
32 William Walker or his heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, do pay or
cause to be paid to **Edward Woodgate, mercer, and John**

33 **Ferrall** of Brenchley, aforesaid, my trusty and good friends, or to one of
them, the sum of one hundred pounds of lawful money of England (parcel
of
34 the said sum of one hundred and fifty and six pounds) which said sum of
one hundred pounds I will and desire the said Edward Woodgate and John
Ferrall to
35 lay out and purchase therewith tenements and lands for and to the use of
Robert Fishenden, my father, during his natural life and from and after his
36 death to the use of **George Fishenden, son of Nicholas Fishenden, my
brother**, and of the heirs and assigns of the said George, forever. Provided
37 always if the said George, my said brother's son, shall depart this life before
his age of one and twenty years, then the same tenements and lands
38 so to be purchased shall be and remain from and after my said father's
death to the use of the said Nicholas Fishenden, my brother, his heirs and
assigns,
39 forever. And upon condition further that the said William Walker, his heirs,
executors, administrators or assigns, upon or before the said
40 last day of March next coming do pay the sum of fifty and six pounds, the
residue of the said sum of £156 to the several persons hereafter
41 named as my gift⁹³, viz. the sum of forty shillings thereof to the said
Nicholas Fishenden, my brother; the sum of four pounds thereof to

42 **William Jeure** for and to the use of **William and Nicholas, his sons**; the sum
of five pounds more thereof to **Anne Parker**, servant in the house
43 wherein I now lie; the sum of four pounds more thereof to **Samuel Turke** for
the use of his two children; and thirty and one pounds (the residue
44 of the said sum of £156) to mine executor hereafter named, the better to
enable him to pay my debts and funeral charges⁹⁴ and the charges in the
proving
45 of this my will. **Item:** I will and give to **Barbara Dennis, my grandmother**, in
token of my love, ten shillings to be paid to her by mine executor. **Item:**
46 I give to **Martha, wife of William Jeure**, the best gown and best petticoat
which was my late wife's. **Item:** I give to **Sara, the wife of William Terry**, a
47 gold ring in her custody. **Item:** the residue of my goods and chattles not
formerly disposed of I leave to the said Robert Fishenden, my father, who I
48 make and ordain the sole executor of this my testament and last will. In
witness whereof to this my testament and last will I, the said George
49 Fishenden have thereunto set my hand and seal the day and year first
above written. sign. George Fishenden. Read, sealed published and
declared by the said
50 George Fishenden to be his testament and last will these words in one
place being interlined: *Robert Fishenden, my father, during his natural life*

51 *and from and after his death to the use of* in the presence of **Geo: Hooper**,
sign. Samueles Turke, William Jeure and sign. **Susanna Launder**

The words inserted, indicated in italics, occur at the end of line 35 and the beginning of line 36 above. This “original” was thus a copy of the original will, written, as was the original, by George Hopper. Thus the signatures (or marks) of the witnesses are not given. That it definitely is a copy is also indicated by a Latin phrase at the bottom stating it to be a true copy.

{insert end of will with phrases}

Thomas Fisher & John Stoperfelde of Hadlow

In his will of 1509 (CKS: Drb/Pwr 6.258) Thomas Fisher (or Fyssher) left a total of £30 to the church of Hadlow:

- £10 to buy a cope
- £20 “to the making of a new rood loft in the said church”.

In his will, dated 1506, proved 1510 (CKS: Drb/Pwr 6.278) John Stoperfelde left to the rood loft 40s and “to a staff for the best cross of the said church 20s”.⁹⁵

These bequests compare very favourably with the 12d left in 1491 by John Dane of Seal “to the making of the rood loft” with George att Wood leaving 6s 8d a year later.

The Flexmans of Kemsing

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
k502 ⁹⁶	<u>FLEXMAN, Reynold</u> ----- 				1	2	21 Nov 1601
k503	<u>Flexman(m), Martha</u> -----				1	2	27 Nov 1613
				widow when she was buried 13 years after k502 but there is no evidence that she was his wife			
• k504	<u>FLEXMAN, George</u>	25 Feb 1593					0 0
• k505	<u>FLEXMAN, James</u>	24 Sep 1595					0 0

96 "k" indicates a reference in the Kemsing database

The Flowers of Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i2018 ⁹⁷	<u>FLOWER, William</u> ----- 		7 Nov 1602	Alice Broughton i2019	1	1	9 Jun 1636
i2019	<u>Broughton, Alice</u> -----				1	1	1 Sep 1649
• i2020	<u>FLOWER, John</u>	18 Oct 1612		Alice Flower(m) i2024	1	2	
• • i2026	<u>FLOWER, William</u>	13 Mar 1637			0	0	19 Mar 1637
• • i2025	<u>Flower, Alice</u>	18 Mar 1638			0	0	
the "Alice Flower, widow" who died in 1649 could have been the widow of i2020 whose name is known from the baptisms of her children.							
i2021	<u>FLOWER, Thomas</u> -----		8 Jul 1627	Marie Egles i2022	1	4	
• i2023	<u>Flower, Alice</u>	29 Mar 1629			0	0	
• i2396	<u>Flower, Marie</u>	29 Aug 1630			0	0	16 May 1640
• i2028	<u>Flower, Judith</u>				0	0	10 May 1640

97 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

On 10th July 1637 **Alice Flowers** (i2029) married **Nicholas Barnes** (i2030).
Alice and Thomas (i2021 on the previous page) could both have been the children
of William (i2018).

This William could also have been the **William Flower** who was one of those
found responsible, at the Court held on 26th October 1618, for neglecting to clean
a ditch - see [Cripps in More Families & Transcripts](#) for details.

There was also a William Flower, **borsholder**, and a Nicholas Flower, mentioned in
the Court Records for 1586-1618 (CRI 1938, p.58)

Thomas (i2021) and Alice (i2029) could both have been the children of #2018
particularly since William's wife was "Alice".

The Fordes of Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#183 ⁹⁸	<u>FORDE, Lawrence</u> -----				2	1	6 Apr 1570
	<i>Marriage 1</i>						
#561	<u>his wife, Margaret</u> -----				1	0	5 Jul 1563
	<i>Marriage 2</i>						
#184	<u>Thomas, Mary</u> -----		2 Jul 1564		1	1	
• #185	<u>Forde, Margaret</u>	1 Nov 1565	30 Mar 1592	Edward ATHERFOLD	1	8	15 Sep 1640
							#520

Lawrence Forde witnessed the wills of - **Thomas Olyver** (#233) in 1562
 - **Thomas Rowland** (#332) in 1563

Although Margaret was 26 when she married, her husband Edward Atherfold (senior, as he became known) was only 20; they both lived into their 70s - see [Atherfold in Families & Transcripts](#)

Thomas (i2262), son of Richard Forde, was baptised, in **Ightham**, on 24 Sep 1626.

98 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

Benete and Lettice Forman, widows of Brenchley

Twelve wills have survived for the Formans (or Foreman) of Brenchley with some from other parishes but only those of two widows have been transcribed:

Benete Forman	6 May 1576	CKS: Drb/Pw 12; DRb/Pwr 15.16	page 2.f.42
Lettice Forman	27 Mar 1640	CKS: Drb/Pw 31	page 2.f.46

With Lettice dying sixty-four years after Benete, their relationship (if any) cannot be deduced from their wills. Benete's will was probably written by the vicar, John Kerall. Lettice's was written by George Salmon who wrote a number of Brenchley wills.

The will of Dunstan Forman, weaver of Brenchley, (**CKS: Dra/Pw1; Drb/Pwr 19IIB.40**) has survived but has not been investigated. It was proved in 1639 and he could have been Lettice's husband.

Benete Forman, widow of Brenchley

Benete Forman was the mother of three sons and two daughters and with twelve or so grandchildren. The grandchildren were each to receive a shilling with two granddaughters receiving extra items.

will:		- Benete		x1579 ⁹⁹			
		6 May		1576			

x1580	x1581	x1582	x1583	x1589	x1584	x1590	
Robert	Thomas	- John	- Joane	- John Awood	Elizabeth	Steven Austin	
-----		-----		-----		-----	
x1586				x1588			
Benet				Margaret			

Will of Benete Forman of Brenchley

written 6th May 1576

transcript from probate copy

- 1 In the name of god Amen.
- 2 The 6th day of May Anno 1576 witness that I,

99 "x" indicates a reference in the miscellaneous database

3 Benete Forman of the parish of Brenchley,
4 widow, sick of body but of good remembrance,
5 thanks be given unto god, do make this my
6 last will and testament in manner and form
7 following: **First** I bequeath my soul to Almighty
8 god, our heavenly father, and my body to the
9 earth. **Item:** I do give and bequeath unto the children
10 of my **son, Thomas Forman**, 5s by even portions
11 between them. **Item:** I do give to
12 **Benet Forman, my son Thomas's daughter**,
13 a pewter dish and a pillow. **Item:** I do give and
14 bequeath to **Lawrence Gorst and his wife** 5s
15 and a pair of sheets. **Item:** I do give and bequeath
16 to **Mildred, the wife** of Lawrence Gorst, a smock,
17 a karcher¹⁰⁰, my best apron and a caill. **Item:** I do
18 give to **John Forman, my son**, my best cauldron.
19 **Item:** I do give and bequeath to **Margaret Forman,**
20 **the daughter of John Forman, my son**, my
21 cupboard? and my christening sheet at the day
22 of her marriage. And I will that John Forman,
23 her father, shall have the keeping of it for her

24 until the time of her marriage. **Item:** I do give
25 to **Joane Awood, my daughter**, my best red
26 petticoat. **Item:** I do give to **Elizabeth Austin,**
27 **my daughter**, my best kirtle. **Item:** I do give
28 and bequeath unto 4 children of my **son-**
29 **in-law, John Awood**, by even portions,
30 four shillings to be divided amongst them,
31 the which 4s I will **Steven Austin, my son-**
32 **in-law**, shall pay unto them and the rest
33 of the money that he doth owe unto me I
34 do give unto his children to be divided a
35 mongst them by even portions conditionally
36 that he, the aforesaid Steven Austin, shall
37 pay the four shillings above bequeathed
38 to the children of John Awood. The rest of
39 all my goods and cattell, my debts and legacies
40 paid, I do give unto **Robert Forman, my son**,
41 whom I do make and ordain my executor of
42 this my last will and testament. These
43 being witnesses **John Kerall, vicar, Robert**
44 **Corchford** and **Mildred, the wife of**
45 Lawrence Gorst.

Lettice Forman, widow of Brenchley

Lettice Forman seems to have owned her “[messuage or tenement](#)” in her own right as distinct from the more usual arrangement whereby a man’s widow inherits his messuage for life, or until the eldest son reaches the age of twenty-one.

Lettice had three sons with Dunstone appointed her executor and inheriting her messuage. Her other two sons, Robert and Alexander were each left £1. There was also Richard, son of Richard who was to have ten shillings to be paid to him within four years “[next after my decease](#)”.

				?? Forman - Lettice	x1592
					27 Mar 1640

x1593		x1594		x1595	
Dunstone		Robert		Alexander	Richard -
					x1598
					Richard

1 In the name of god Amen. The seven and twentieth
2 day of March in the sixteenth year of the reign of
3 our most gracious sovereign Lord King Charles, by
4 the grace of god, king of England, Scotland, France
5 and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. Anno. dm 1640. I,
6 Lettice Forman of the parish of Brenchley in the
7 county of Kent, **widow**, being diseased in body but
8 of good and perfect remembrance, laud and praise be
9 given to Almighty god, do make and ordain this
10 my present testament and last will in manner and form
11 following: **First** and principally I commit my soul into
12 into the hands of Almighty god and my body to be
13 buried in the churchyard of Brenchley aforesaid.
14 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Robert Forman** and
15 **Alexander Forman, my sons**, to each of them twenty
16 shillings to be paid to them, or their assigns, within two
17 years next after my decease. **Item:** I give and
18 bequeath unto **Richard Forman, son of Richard**
19 **Forman**, ten shillings to be paid unto him or his assigns

20 within four years next after my decease. **The residue**
21 of all my moveable goods whatsoever, my will fulfilled and
22 funeral expenses discharged, I do hereby wholly
23 give and bequeath unto **Dunstone Forman, my son,**
24 whom I do make my executor of this my present
25 testament and last will.

26 **This is** the last will and testament of me, the
27 foresaid Lettice Forman, made and declared the day
28 and year above written, touching and concerning
29 the disposing of all that my messuage or tenement
30 with all buildings and edifices thereunto belonging and
31 also the close, garden and orchard to the same messuage
32 or tenement also belonging and appertaining, situated,
33 lying and being in **Tonbridge** in the county aforesaid.
34 To have and to hold all the said messuage or tenement
35 and all other the premises afore specified¹⁰¹ to the said
36 messuage or tenement belonging, with thappurtenances, unto
37 the foresaid Dunstone Forman, my son, and to his
38 heirs and assigns forever, immediately after my
39 decease. **In witness** whereof I, the said Lettice

101 an unusual word

40 Forman, have hereunto set my hand and seal the
41 day and year afore written

In witness hereunto **Thomas
Irons?** and **George Salmon, scr.**

sign. ??

I¹⁰²

Thomas Irons

?? mark of
the X foresaid
Lettice Forman

102 looks like a form of "I"

The Foulks of Kemsing

In 1566 William Watts gave to “Mowers widow and to Elyn Foulks, her daughter, 6s 8d. And to George Foulks and his wife 6s 8d”. Was Elyn George's wife?. The baptisms of six children of George Foulks were recorded in Kemsing:

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
k860	<u>Foulks, George</u> -----				1	6	
• k862	<u>Foulks, George</u>	22 Jun 1566				0	0
• k863	<u>Foulks, Ellen</u>	19 Sep 1568				0	0
• k864	<u>Foulks, John</u>	10 Dec 1570				0	0 30 Mar 1571 at 3½ mths
• k865	<u>Foulks, William</u>	2 Jun 1572				0	0
• k866	<u>Foulks, Thomas</u>	30 Feb 1581				0	0
• k867	<u>Foulks, Alles</u> (Alice)	25 Apr 1584				0	0

Given the long gap between #865 and #866, perhaps Thomas and Alice were children of a second marriage.

The Foxs of Ightham & Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
i1610 ¹⁰³	<u>FOX, John</u> ----- 		12 Mar 1593	Anne Fanne i1611	1 2	
i1611	<u>Fanne, Anne</u> -----				1 2	27 May 1639
• i1682	<u>FOX, James</u>	9 Feb 1606	24 Feb 1640	Sara Hayes married at 34 i1684	1 2	
• •	i1686 <u>Fox, Rachel</u>	22 Feb 1645				0 0
• •	i1685 <u>FOX, John</u>	28 Aug 1651				0 0
•	i1683 <u>FOX, William</u>	29 Oct 1609				0 0

Agnes Foxe and John Fox were mentioned in the Court Records for 1586-1618; these could have been #1610 and his wife Anne/Agnes. There was a long time between the marriage and the birth of their first recorded child; Anne could have

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

been the "[Agnes Fox, widow](#)" buried 27 May 1639 when she would have been approaching 70.

There was also a long time between the marriage and birth of the first recorded child of their son James Fox. and yet again a long time between the births of Rachel and John.

There was a **James Fox** who was a **borsholder** sometime between 1586 and 1618 but this could not have been #1682 since he would have been only 12 in 1618.

"On 16th October 1604, five failures to trim hedges were dealt with, orders being made in each case for the hedge to be cut before 1st March under penalty 3s 4d." One of these was **James Fox**, with a hedge between **Ivy Hatch and the Mote**. (CRI 1937, p.201). This James was presumably the same one as was the borsholder,

A **John Fox** was churchwarden in 1605

There were two Fox **baptisms in Seal**:

William (#1902) son of **Thomas Fox** (#1900) on 18th March 1596

William (#2009) son of **Samuel Fox** (#2007) on 29th September 1598

The Franks of Shipbourne & Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
\$827 ¹⁰⁴	<u>FRANK, John</u> ----- 		31 May 1605	Joane Harrison \$826	1	2	
\$826	<u>Harrison, Joane</u> -----				1	2 3	Apr 1641
• \$1669	<u>FRANK, John</u>				1	3	
● ● \$1671	<u>Frank, Susanna</u>		13 Mar 1636				0 0
• • \$1672	<u>Frank, Anna</u>		12 Mar 1637				0 0
• • \$1673	<u>Frank, infant</u>		John's wife was buried the same day				0 0 5 Sep 1639
• #977	<u>FRANK, Everest</u>		18 Mar 1610		1	1	
• • \$2008	<u>Frank, Susanah</u>						0 0 21 Feb 1645

It is not known how the Franks were connected with the Everests.

104 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#3743 ¹⁰⁵	<u>FRANK, Edward</u> ----- gent.				1	2	
• #3746	<u>FRANK, William</u>	26 Aug 1618			0	0	
• #3747	<u>FRANK, John</u>	14 Feb 1620			0	0	
#3744	<u>FRANK, Robert</u> -----		7 Oct 1649	Ann Nicholas #3748	1	1	
• #3749	<u>Frank, Anne</u>	12 Mar 1655			0	0	

105 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

The Fremlyns of Kemsing

The Fremlyns are one of Kemsing's largest families but it is difficult to fit the individual families together. A large number of Fremlyn wills have survived including six from before 1520. Since there is a gap of nearly forty years to the next will it is not possible to decide how the later testators were related to the earlier ones. There is also another gap of fifty-three years between the will of 1587 and that of 1644.

In the families on the following pages, “k” indicates a reference in the Kemsing database and # a reference in the Seal database.

There were Fremlyns in Kemsing over a hundred years before the first surviving will was written. Gilbert de Keleshill was installed as rector of Kemsing and Seal on 28th February 1339. On 18th September 1339 “he obtained the royal licence to accept from Robert Fremlyn of Kemsing a rod of land lying adjacent to the rectory house and to annex it thereto for the purpose of enlargement”¹⁰⁶.

106 Pat. 13 Edward III, pt.2, m.21 (quoted by Frampton, p.260)

The land owned by the Fremlyns whose wills have been transcribed was held in “fee simple”, that is it was freehold and could thus be sold without any problem.

The Early Fremlyns

		CKS:	Drb/Pwr	Drb/Pw
John Fremlyn	1457	2.73		
Walter Fremlyn	1460	2.157		
Thomas Fremlyn	1499	5.329		
Walter Fremlyn	2 Oct 1501	6.32		page 2.f.57
Robert Fremlyn	Nov 1513	7.7		page 2.f.58
Raynold Fremlyn	1515	7.49		page 2.f.60

Thomas, in 1499, left ten shillings to repair the buttress of Kemsing church.

Walter’s will of 1501 was written by William Yanson, vicar of Seal and Kemsing and is all in English except for the opening phrase. Walter’s wife was Johane and he had two sons, Robert and William, and a daughter Alice. Both Walter and Raynold specify an age of twenty-four for their children to inherit

The witnesses (and therefore possible scriptor) are not given for Raynold’s will but William Yanson died in 1508; he was succeeded by William Lincoln. It is also not possible to decide on the relationship between Walter and Raynold.

1 In dei nom. Amen The 2 day of the month of October in the year of our
2 lord 1500 and one, I, Walter Fremlyn of Kemsing, whole in mind but sick
3 in body, make my testament in this wise. **First** I bequeath my soul to al
4 mighty god and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Kemsing. **Item:**
5 I bequeath to the high altar in the said church 6d. The residue of my goods,
6 my debts an bequests paid, I give and bequeath to **Johane, my wife**, whom
7 I
ordain and make my executrix.

Walter Fremlyn

8 This is the last will of me the said Walter made the day and year above
said.
9 **First** I will that Johane, my wife, have during her life my tenement with all
10 my lands lying and being in the parish of Kemsing. And after her decease I
will
11 it remain to **Rob¹⁰⁷, my son**, and to his heirs and assigns for evermore
paying to

12 **his brother William Fremlyn** £3 6s 8d within 3 years next after the decease
13 of Johane, my wife. Also I will that the said Rob pay to the marriage
14 of **Alice, his sister**, 40s. These being witness

Sir William Yanson, vicar there
Robert Miller and William Fremlyn

Will of Robert Fremlyn of Kemsing

written November 1513
transcript from probate copy

1 In dei nm Amen ?? day of November
2 Anno D. 1513 I, Robert Fremlyn of Kemsing
3 compus mentis . . .
4 . . . my body to be buried
5 in church . . . of Kemsing. **Item:** I give to the high
6 altar of Kemsing 12d.

- This is the last will of Robert Frelyn made the
- day and year above written. **First** I will that my
- mother shall have all her ?? and her rights at

- the law will and my wife to have the residue.
- And after the decease of my mother, I will that my wife
- shall have all the term of her life. And if my mother
- and my wife depart both, I will my children shall
- have it. And if it please god to send for my children,
- I will it shall be disposed for the most profitable of
- the souls? . . . I will it shall be sold
- a piece of land of 6s 8d, more or less, lying in
- ?? to pay my debts.

Probate 8 March 1513

1 In de Amen.
2 January A.D. 1515, I, Raynold
3 Fremlyn of Kemsing, compus mentis

4 **First** I give . . .
5

6 **Item:** I give to the high altar (for my tithes
7 forgotten) 20d. **Item:** I give . . . 6s 8d
8 residue, my legacies and debts paid . . . I give to

9 **Elizabeth, my wife, and Thomas Fremlyn, my son,** [whom
10 I make my executors.

witnesses: **William Gregory. Johane Wybarn** and others.

11 This is the last will of me, Raynold Fremlyn,
12 made the day and year above written. **First**
13 I will that Elizabeth, my wife, shall have all
14 my lands and tenements in Kemsing for the space
15 and term of two years immediately after my
16 decease. And after the said two years be past,
17 then I will that Thomas Fremlyn, my son,

18 shall have the one half of that my said land
19 in Kemsing to him, his heirs and assigns,
20 forever. And the said Elizabeth, my wife, the other
21 half by equal portions to be divided during
22 the term of her life. And after her decease
23 the said lands so bequeathed to my wife to
24 remain to the said Thomas, my son, to his
25 heirs of his body lawfully begotten, for ever more
26 under manner and condition following, that is to
27 say, I will the said Thomas, my son, shall pay
28 unto **William Fremlyn, my son**, ten marks
29 of lawful money of England when he cometh
30 to the age of 24 years. And to **John Fremyln,**
31 **my son**, ten marks of good usual money of
32 England at the age of 24 years. And if
33 my said son Thomas will not pay the money
34 foresaid, then I will that the said John and
35 William shall enter into the whole closes of
36 **Bolnays** and **Crokes Pitt** as their own forever.
37 And if it fortune Thomas, my son, to die
38 without heirs of his body lawfully begotten,
39 then I will that William Fremlyn, my son, shall enter
40 as next heir in the said half of my lands and tenements..

41 And if it fortune that William die with
42 out heirs of his body lawfully begotten,
43 then I will that John Fremlyn, my son,
44 shall enter as next heir of the said half of my
45 lands and tenements. And if it fortune that John Fremlyn
46 dies without heirs of his body lawfully
47 begotten, then I will that **William Fremlyn,**
48 **my cousin,** shall have **Harbardes Closes** to him
49 and his heirs forever. And the residue
50 of my lands and tenements to be sold by mine executors
51 or their assigns. And the one half of the
52 money thereof . . . to buy a vestment to
53 the church of Kemsing. And the other
54 half to keep an obit in the church of Kemsing
55 yearly as long as it will endure after,
56 3s 4d by the year. Also I will that
57 **William Fremlyn, my brother,** shall have
58 **Colman Field** lying in the parish of S ???
59 which he hath bought. Also I will that my
60 feoffees shall deliver him a lawful a...
61 in the said Colmans Field immediately after
62 my decease. Also I will that if the said
63 Thomas, my son, pay the 20 marks

65 to his said brothers, then he to have
66 Bolnays and Crokes Pitt forever to him and
67 to his assigns and no other wise.

Probate: April 1515

Later Sixteenth Century Fremlyns

Seven wills have survived from the second half of the sixteenth century:

William Fremlyn	1555	11.348	5	page 2.f.65
James Fremlyn	1556	12.40	5	page 2.f.70
John Fremlyn	1562	13.68	7	buried 7 Sep 1562
John Fremlyn	1576	14.316	12	
John Fremlyn	25 Oct 1576	15.61		page 2.f.82
William Fremlyn	17 May 1577	15.56		page 2.f.?
George Fremlyn	17 Jun 1587	17.211	14	page 2.f.98

The families of these Fremlyns are difficult to assemble; investigation of the wills which have not been transcribed would probably make this easier.

The three later wills which have been transcribed were written by “William Hasden, writer hereof” as given on John’s will. In William’s will, the surname is written “Hassedden” and in George’s “Haseden”.

Both William and George make their wives their sole executrix but the responsibility for paying their debts was to be shared between their wife and one of their sons.

William Fremlyn, the 1555 Testator

William made two of his sons, William and John, his executors and it was to them that he left his “houses and land”. His third son, Gilbert, was to have £20.

William also had a brother, Robert, whose son John was to be his heir if all three of his sons died without heirs.

It has not been possible to see how this William was related to the other Fremlyns.

Will of William Fremlyn of Kemsing

written 26th August 1555

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. I, William
2 Fremlyn of the parish of Kemsing within the county
3 of Kent do make this my testament and last will
4 as here followeth. **First** and before all things
5 I commit me unto god and to his mercy. And now as
6 touching my lands and temporal goods,
7 **First** I will and bequeath unto **William Fremlyn** and
8 **John Fremlyn, my sons**, all my houses and all my land
9 lying and being within the parish of Kemsing, to them during

10 their lives and afterwards to their heirs male of their
11 bodies lawfully begotten. And if it fortune that William
12 Fremlyn and John Fremlyn, my sons, die without heirs
13 male of their bodies lawfully begotten, then I will
14 that **Gilbert Fremlyn, my son**, shall have all my houses
15 and lands within the parish of Kemsing aforesaid. to him and
16 to his heirs male of his body lawfully begotten forever.
17 And if it fortune that William Fremlyn, John Fremlyn and
18 Gilbert Fremlyn, my sons, die without heirs male

page 2:

19 of their bodies lawfully begotten, then I will and give unto
20 my **cousin, John Fremlyn, my brother Robert Fremlyn's**
21 **son**, shall have all my houses and all my land within
22 the parish of Kemsing aforesaid, to him and to his heirs for
23 ever. Now concerning my temporal goods, **First** I will
24 and give unto Gilbert Fremlyn, my son £20 of good and
25 lawful money of England to be paid within two
26 years next after my decease, that is to say £10 parcel
27 of the said £20 to be paid within one year next after
28 my decease. And th'other £10 parcel of the foresaid £20
29 to be within two years next after my decease. And
30 for lack of the foresaid £20 to be paid according to

31 the time appointed aforesaid, I will that Gilbert
32 Fremlyn, my son, shall enter into one parcel of my
33 land called **Old House** and he to have the forsaid
34 land called Old House to him and to his heirs male of
35 his body lawfully begotten And all the residue of
36 my temporal goods that I have not given or divided
37 or ?? by writing being date of this present
38 writing, I do will and give to William and John
39 Fremlyn, my sons, whom I constitute and make
40 my executors of this my last will and testament.
41 In witness hereof, I the aforesaid William Fremlyn,
42 have subscribed my name with my own hand and
43 set my seal the 26th day of August in the 2nd
44 and 3rd years of Philip and Mary, king and queen, etc.
45 witnesses: Gilbert Fremlyn, John Fremlyn,
46 by me William Fremlyn.

The Family of James Fremlyn

James had three sons, John, George and Robert, and two daughters, Johane and Agnes. When he wrote his will in 1556 only John had reached the age of twenty-one.

James left land called Bitchette Downes to his son John but this land is subsequently mentioned by the George who wrote his will in 1587. James's son John could have died without heirs in which case Bitchette Downes would have passed to his son George. Thus the George who wrote his will in 1587 could have been James's son. This gives the tree shown on the next page.

There is a large amount of repetition in this will regarding the inheritance of his land if each of his sons died particularly since, in each case, "the 2 parcels of land with a wood called Bitchette Downes" were excepted. There were finally given to John. As long as Agnes remained a widow she was to have half of George's mansion house and half of all his other houses and land. If she remarried, she was still to receive an annuity of 40s..

	k960 James - Agnes k961					
<i>will:</i>	15 Oct 1556					

	k926	k963	k967	k964	k965	k966
	John	George -	Margaret	Robert	Johane	Agnes
<i>will:</i>	17 Jun 1587					

	k968	k969	k970			
	James	George	Thomas			

James's legacies of £20 to each of his two younger sons were to be paid, by John, £5 at 21, £5 at 22, £5 at 23, £5 at 24 years. This was presumably because John would be obtaining the money from the yearly profits of the land he inherited and James thought £10 was a reasonable amount to be taken annually for this purpose.

1 In the name of god Amen. That I, James Fremlyn,
2 of the parish of Kemsing within the county
3 of Kent, **yeoman**, being of perfect mind, thanks
4 be to god, doth make this my present testament
5 and last will in manner and form following:
6 **First** and before all other things, I commit
7 my soul unto Almighty god, my maker
8 and Redeemer and unto Christ Jesus, my
9 Redeemer, believing without any doubt that
10 I have and shall have remission of all my
11 sins by the mercy of god for Christ
12 Jesus's sake, my saviour. And my body to be
13 buried within the church yard of
14 Kemsing at the discretion of my executor.
15 And now, concerning the distribution of
16 my houses, lands and temporal goods.
17 **First** I will and bequeath unto **Agnes, my wife**,
18 half my mansion house with half the other
19 houses and half my lands lying and

20 being within the parish of Kemsing during
21 her life except two parcels of land with a wood
22 called **Bitchette Downes** if she keep herself
23 sole and unmarried and no longer. And the other
24 half of my houses and lands
25 lying and being within the parish of Kemsing,
26 I will and bequeath unto **John Fremlyn,**
27 **my son,** and to his heirs male of his
28 body lawfully begotten except 2 parcels of
29 land with a wood called Bitchette Downes
30 And if it fortune that John Fremlyn, my
31 son, die without heirs male of his body
32 lawfully begotten, then I will and give
33 to **George Fremlyn, my son,** the foresaid
34 half of my houses and land lying and
35 being within the parish of Kemsing to him
36 and to the heirs male of his body lawfully
37 begotten except 2 parcels called Bitchette
- Downes. And if it happen that
- George Fremlyn, my son, die without heirs
- male of his body lawfully begotten, then I will
- and give unto **Robert Fremlyn, my son,**
- the foresaid half of my houses and land lying

- and being within the parish of Kemsing to him
- and to the heirs male of his body lawfully
- begotten except 2 parcels of land with a wood called
- Bitchette Downes. . And if
- it fortune that Agnes, my wife, do marry, then
- I will and give to John Fremlyn, my son,
- all my houses and lands lying and being
- in the parish of Kemsing and to his heirs male
- of his body lawfully begotten except 2 parcels called
- Bitchette Downes. And if it fortune that
- John Fremlyn, my son, die without heirs
- male of his body lawfully begotten, then I will and give
- to George Fremlyn, my son, all my houses and land lying and
- being within the parish of Kemsing to him
- and to his heirs male of his body lawfully
- begotten except 2 parcels called Bitchette
- Downes. And if it fortune that
- George die without heirs male of his body lawfully
- begotten, then I will and give to Robert Fremlyn
- and to his heirs male of his body lawfully begotten
- except 2 parcels called Bitchette Downes..
- And if it happen that Agnes, my wife, do marry, then I will
- and give unto her, out of the foresaid

- lands, one annual rent of 40s a year
- of good money during her life to be paid
- at 2 ?? time of the year by 8 ??
- And for lack of payment of the said 40s
- a year yearly, then I will that it shalbe
- lawful for Agnes, my wife, and for her
- assigns, to ?? distraint upon any
- ?? parcel of all my foresaid houses
- and lands except before excepted. And
- the distress so taken to drive and carry
- away and that distress to hold until
- the foresaid Agnes, my wife, be fully
- contented and paid and ??
- thereof. And also further, I will and
- give unto George Fremlyn, my son, 20
- pounds of good and lawful money of England to be paid
- within the church of Kemsing aforesaid. And
- that I will my son John Fremlyn shall
- pay him in manner and form following, that
- is to say £5 at the age of 21 years of the
- said George and other £5 at age of 22 years and another
- £5 . . . 23 years
- and £5 at the age of 24

- years. And also further, I will and give unto
- Robert Fremlyn, my son, £20 of good and
- lawful money of England to be paid within
- the church of Kemsing aforesaid. And
- that I will that my son, John Fremlyn,
- shall pay him in manner and form following:
- £5 at 21, £5 at 22, £5 at 23, £5 at 24
- And that the foresaid sum of £40 to be paid to the
- foresaid George and Robert according to the times above
- written or within 30 days after either of the
- foresaid times. And for lack of payment of
- the foresaid £40 to George and Robert Fremlyn
- during the ?? ?? then I will
- that it shalbe lawful for George, Robert and
- either of them to whom the sum of money
- shall be due to enter into one meadow and close
- of land called **Faier Fields** and they to
- have it to them and their heirs male
- of the body lawfully begotten. **Item:** I will
- and give unto John Fremlyn, my son, two
- parcels of land with wood called **Bytchetts**
- **Down** with all th'appurtenances thereto belonging
- to him and his heirs and assigns, forever. **Item:** I

- will and give to **Agnes Fremlyn, my daughter**,
- £6 8s 4d when she cometh to the full
- age of 20 years. And that I will that Agnes, my
- wife and John Fremlyn, my son, shall pay, or
- cause to be paid, to the foresaid **Johane**¹⁰⁸ and
- Agnes, my daughters, the sums aforesaid
- of good and lawful money of England accord-
- ing to the times appointed. If it fortune that
- John Fremlyn, my son, die without any heirs male,
- of his body lawfully begotten, before he hath fulfilled
- this my last will and testament, Then I will
- that George Fremlyn, my son, shall fulfill
- all such bequests that my son John Fremlyn
- hath not fulfilled in this my last will and
- testament. And if it fortune that George
- Fremlyn, my son, die without any heirs male, of his
- body lawfully begotten, before he hath fulfilled this my
- last will and testament, Then I will that Robert
- Fremlyn, my son, shall fulfill all such bequests
- that my sons John Fremlyn and George Fremlyn, my sons,

108 first time Johane has been mentioed; did an identical bequest made to Johane precede that to Agnes with either me, when transcribing the will, or the person making the probate copy omitting it by mistake?

- have not fulfilled in this my last will and testament. And all the
- residue of my temporal goods that I have
- not given nor do I do will and give to
- Agnes, my wife, and John Fremlyn, my son,
- whom I constitute and make my executor of this
- my last will and testament. In witness
- hereof I, the aforesaid James Fremlyn, have put
- my hand and seal the 15th day of October in
- the second and third years of Philip and
- Mary, by the grace of god, king and queen of
- England. In witness of the sealing and
- delivering of the testament, **John Fremlyn,**
- **the elder, Robert Fremlyn and John Fremlyn the younger.**

The Family of John Fremlyn

In the 1560s both John Fremlyn, the elder, and John Fremlyn, the younger were having children and it is in the parish registers that they are described as the elder and younger. By this time John, the elder, was married to Margaret Scrales but John, the younger, whose will was written on 25th October 1576, was probably his son by an earlier marriage. From his family, he would have been born in the late 1530s.

John, the younger, was buried two days after his will was written. Another John Fremlyn, who could have been John, the elder, was buried on 10th April 1577. Since the will of another John Fremlyn, also written in 1576, has not been investigated, it is not known if it is the will of John the elder or not.

From his will, the eldest daughter of John, the younger, was called Amy; she must have been born before his son Stephen, just before parish registers started. When he died, John's surviving five children ranged from about sixteen to the youngest, Sylvester, just a year old.

Another John Fremlyn was buried on 10th May 1567.

Num	Name	Born	Married Spouse	M C	Died
k409	<u>FREMLYN, John</u> ----- the elder			2 5	10 Apr 1577
	<i>Marriage 1</i>			1 2	
• k417	<u>FREMLYN, John</u>	in late 1530s		1 8	
• k959	<u>FREMLYN, Walter</u>			0 0	
	nothing is known of a first marriage but it is likely that, since John was "the elder", he had been married before his marriage to Margaret and that he was father of John, the younger (see next page for his children) and his brother Walter				
	<i>Marriage 2</i>	2 Nov 1562	Margaret Scrales	1 3	
k410	<u>Scrales, Margaret</u> -----			1 3	29 May 1587
	married Thomas DENMAN (Seal) after April 1577 - see Denmas in Families & Transcripts				
• k411	<u>Fremlyn, Catheryn</u>	30 May 1563		0 0	
• k412	<u>FREMLYN, John</u>	8 Aug 1564		0 0	
• k413	<u>Fremlyn, Margaret</u>	17 Mar 1566		0 0	30 Mar1566 at 2 wks
	above children of "John Fremlyn, the elder"				

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
k417	<u>FREMLYN, John</u> ----- the younger			Margery Fremlyn	1	8	27 Oct 1576
• k958	<u>Fremlyn, Amy</u>				0	0	
• k419	<u>FREMLYN, Stephen</u>	17 Jan 1563			2	4	
	see next page for his marriages and children						
• k420	<u>Fremlyn, Elizabeth</u>	21 Oct 1565			0	0	
• k421	<u>FREMLYN, William</u>	24 Jan 1567			0	0	
	probably died before May 1571 when his brother was baptised William						
• k422	<u>FREMLYN, John</u>	22 Sep 1568			0	0	16 Jun 1571 age 2.75
• k423	<u>FREMLYN, William</u>	6 May 1571			0	0	
• k424	<u>Fremlyn, Sylvester</u>	18 Sep 1575			0	0	
	probably died at under a year since the next daughter was also baptised Sylvester and, given the short interval before the next birth, it is most likely that #424 died very soon after birth						
• k425	<u>Fremlyn, Sylvester</u>	13 Oct 1576			0	0	

In 1563, William (k415), son of John Fremlyn was buried on 1st August and John (k416), also the son of John Fremlyn, on 1st September. Were these also the sons of John, the younger, born before 1563?

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
k419	<u>FREMLYN, Stephen</u> -----	17 Jan 1563			2	4	
	<i>Marriage 1</i>		15 Oct 1585	Mary Blatcher	1	3	
			married at 22 in Shipbourne				
k426	<u>Blatcher, Mary</u> -----	<1565			1	3	14 May 1617 in her 50s
• k427	<u>FREMLYN, John</u>	29 Jan 1589					0 0
• k428	<u>Fremlyn, Mary</u>	15 May 1591					0 0
		probably died before spring 1593 when her sister was baptised "Mary"					
• k429	<u>Fremlyn, Mary</u>	7 Apr 1593	16 Jul 1615	James DURRANT	1	3	
			married at 22 see below				
	<i>Marriage 2</i>				1	1	
• k431	<u>Fremlyn, Timothy</u>	6 Sep 1619					0 0
		"daughter of Stephen Fremlyn" when baptised; no other Stephen Fremlyn recorded for this time; did #419 remarry in his 50s?					

Stephen's daughter Mary married James Durrant on 16th July 1615 and they had three children:

- James baptised 10th May 1616
- Dorothy baptised 22nd July 1618
- George baptised 20th February 1620.

Nothing more is known of the Durrant Family.

The Bequests of John, the Younger

When he died, John's three surviving daughters were about sixteen, eleven and one. Each was left £5 which they were to receive when they reached the age of twenty-three or, at least for the younger two, when they married if that was before they were twenty-three. If all three died before that time, John's two sons were to receive this money.

John's wife, Margery, was given permission to sell four acres of land with the money so raised going to pay his debts and legacies. Besides all his moveable goods, Margery was to have the profits of all his lands and tenements for as long as she remained a widow. If she remarried, half these profits were to go to his sons, Stephen and William when they reached the age of twenty-one. When Margery died these lands were to go to Stephen and William

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 The 25th day of October in the eighteenth
3 year of the reign of our sovereign lady
4 Queen Elizabeth, I, John
5 Fremlyn of Kemsing in the county
6 of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick of body
7 but of perfect memory and Remembrance,
8 thanks be to Almighty god, do make this
9 my last will and testament in manner
10 and form following: **First** I bequeath
11 my soul to Almighty god, my maker and
12 Redeemer, trusting to be saved by the merits
13 of his passion and my body to be buried
14 in Christian burial at the discretion of
15 mine executrix. **Item:** I will that there
16 be given at my burial 6s 8d of money,
17 or else the value in bread, to the poor
18 folk of Kemsing at the will of mine
19 executrix. **Item:** I give and bequeath to

20 **Amy, my eldest daughter**, five pounds at
21 the age of 23 years. **Item:** I give and
22 bequeath to **Elizabeth, my daughter**, five
23 pounds at the age of 23 years or at the
24 day of marriage which shall first happen.
25 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Sylvester, my**
26 **daughter**, five pounds at the age of 23
27 years or at the day of marriage which
28 shall first happen. And if it shall fortune
29 that any of my said daughters do depart
30 this precious life before the accomplishing
31 of their ages of 23 years, that then
32 I will he part so deceased shall remain
33 to the overliver of them equally to be
34 divided between them. And if it shall happen
35 that all my said daughters do depart this
36 precious life before the day of the receiving
37 of their money, that then I will all the
38 same pounds of money to be equally
39 divided between my **two sons**, that is to
40 say, **Stephen Fremlyn** and **William Fremlyn**,
41 my sons or to the overliver of them both..
42 **Item:** I will that for the discharge of

43 all my debts and legacies, I will to **Margery**,
44 **my wife**, four acres of land, to be sold
45 if she will, lying in the westons between
46 the two highways. And all the rest of
47 my moveable goods, my debts being paid,
48 I give to Margery, my wife, whom I make
49 my sole executrix of this my last will
50 and testament. And further, I will that
51 in consideration of bringing up my
52 children virtuously and in the fear of
53 god and the paying of all my debts and
54 legacies, I give to Margery, my wife, the
55 profits of all my lands and tenements
56 during her natural life, if she so long
57 live my widow. But if it shall fortune
58 her to marry, that then I will my two sons,
59 Stephen and William, shall enter upon the
60 one half of all my land and tenements
61 as they come to their ages of 21 years.
62 **Item:** I will that **my brother Walter** shalbe
63 my overseer. In witness whereof I have set to my hand.

64 This is the last will of
65 me, the said John Fremlyn, as touching the
66 fee simple of all my lands and tenements
67 set, lying or being within the parish of
68 Kemsing or elsewhere within the county
69 of Kent. **Item:** I give to Stephen Fremlyn
70 and to William Fremlyn, my two sons,
71 all my lands and tenements lying within
72 the parish of Kemsing or elsewhere to
73 be equally divided between them by equal
74 portion to them and to their heirs for
75 ever. By me John Fremlyn. witnesses to
76 this present will **Richard Blage, gentleman,**
Thomas Lashe, William Hasden, writer hereof.

The William Fremlyns

William Fremlyn, the elder, was buried on 9th May 1576. He could have been the testator of 1555 and the father of the William who wrote his will in 1577. William, the 1577 testator, mentions four daughters:

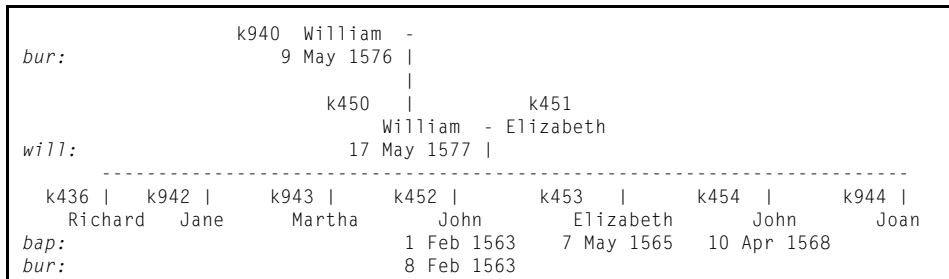
- Jane who was to receive some money (amount unreadable) three years she married
- Martha who was to receive xls (40s) when she married
- Elizabeth who was to receive iiijs (4s) when at the age of 24
- Joan who was to receive an amount which is difficult to read but was probably 40s at the age of 24

Why was Elizabeth's legacy only 4s? Given the way they were written, it seems unlikely that this was an error by the scribe or clerk making the copy.

Why was Jane to get her legacy only after she had been married for three years? What if she and Martha never married?

William's wife Elizabeth and son Richard were to share his moveables, etc. and the profits from his land and, whilst Richard was to be his sole executor Elizabeth was to share with him the responsibility for paying his debts and legacies.

There was a William who had three children baptised in the 1560s and it is possible that he was the testator of 1577 with his other children being born before records of baptisms have survived. If the following tree is correct, neither the burial of the John born in 1568 nor the baptism of Joan were recorded in the Kemsing parish register.



If Richard was William's eldest child, born, say about 1555, he could have been old enough to be the Richard Fremlyn who married Sylvester Kips on 11 July 1578. See page 2.f.92 for Richard's family.

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 The 17th day of May in the 19th year of
3 the reign of our sovereign Lady Queen
4 Elizabeth. I, William Fremlyn of
5 Kemsing in the county of Kent, **yeoman**,
6 being sick of body but of perfect mind
7 and remembrance, thanks be to Almighty
8 god, do make this my present last will and
9 testament in manner and form following:
10 **First** I bequeath my soul to Almighty
11 god, my maker and redeemer, trusting
12 to be saved by the merits of his passion and
13 my body to be buried within the churchyard
14 of Kemsing aforesaid at the discretion of
15 my executor. **Item:** I give and bequeath
16 6s 8d to be given to the poor of Kemsing
17 at the discretion of my executor. **Item:** I give
18 and bequeath to **my daughter, Jane** ??
19 three years after the day of her marriage.

20 And I give and bequeath to **my daughter Martha** 40s
21 at the day of her marriage. **Item:** I give
22 and bequeath to **my daughter Elizabeth** 4s¹⁰⁹
23 at the age of 24 years. **Item:** I give and
24 bequeath unto **my daughter Joan** 40s? at the
25 age of 24 years. **Item:** I will that if any
26 of my said daughters do depart this
27 present life before the time of the accomplishing

page 2:

28 of their money, that then the part or
29 portion of her so deceased shall remain
30 to my executor and **Elizabeth, my wife**. **Item:** I will
31 and bequeath unto Elizabeth, my wife, the one
32 half of all my moveable goods both within
33 and without the house, equally to be
34 with **my son Richard** to whom
35 I give the other half of my moveable
36 goods. **Item:** I will that Elizabeth, my wife,
37 shall have the profit of the one half of

109 iij s whereas the amount to Martha was xl s; the amount to Jane is lost at the end of the line whilst that to Joan could be 40s

38 my lands and tenements during her
39 natural life, equally to be divided with
40 my son, Richard, unto whom I give the
41 other half of all my lands and tenements.
42 **Item:** I will that Richard, my son, and
43 Elizabeth, my wife, shall pay or cause to be
44 paid all my debts and legacies equally
45 between them. **Item:** I will that if Elizabeth,
46 my wife, shall carry, or cause to be carried, any
47 moveable goods away, that then she shall put
48 in sufficient surety by obligations to discharge
49 the one half of all my debts and legacies.
50 Also I will that if Elizabeth, my wife,
51 happen to marry, that then she shall put in
52 sufficient surety to my obligations to discharge
53 the one half of all my debts and legacies.
54 Also it is guaranteed by Elizabeth, my wife,
55 that she shall bear the charges of the
56 bringing up of my youngest daughter,
57 Also further, I will, make and nominate
58 my son, Richard, to be my executor,
59 of this my last will and testament **Item:**
60 as touching the fee simple of all my
61

62 lands and tenements aforesaid, I give
63 and bequeath unto Richard, my son, with
64 the appurtenances wheresoever they be set,
65 lying or being within the county of Kent
66 or elsewhere, to have and to hold the
67 same lands and tenements to the said
68 Richard, my son, and to his heirs, for
69 ever. Witnesses to this present will:

William Denman **William Wygsell**
William Haseden with others

The Family of *Richard Fremlyn*

	k436 Richard - Sylvester Kips k24					
<i>mar:</i>	11 Jul 1578					

	k437	k439	k441	k442	k443	
	Margaret	William	Sylvester	Richard	Susan	
<i>bap:</i>	16 Dec 1582	20 May 1587	8 Mar 1590	2 Dec 1590	21 Oct 1592	
	k438	k440			k444	k445
	Sylvester	Elizabeth			Nicholas - Mary Banks	
<i>bap:</i>	10 Nov 1585	25 Apr 1588			25 Nov 1597	
<i>mar:</i>					4 Jul 1624	

	k446	k447		k448		k449
	Richard	Ann	-	Nicholas		Parnell
<i>bap:</i>	8 Jan 1626	25 Mar 1628		28 Jun 1630		2 Aug 1635
			k900			
			Tymothy			
<i>bap:</i>			11 Feb 1644			

Richard (k436) was possibly the son of William, the testator of 1577. The Kips were another large Kemsing family - see [More Families & Transcripts](#) - but it has not been possible to identify Richard's wife.

k438 probably died before 1590 when her sister, also Sylvester, was baptised. Richard was baptised less than nine months after the second Sylvester; perhaps she was a few months old when she was baptised.

In 1628 a Richard Fremlyn was assessed for 20s in land and 4s in goods. This could have been k442 but nothing other than his baptism is known about him.

"[Tymothy, daughter of Ann Fremlyn](#)" appears to be an illegitimate child.. k447 is the only recorded Ann of the right age to have had a child in 1644.. A daughter of Stephen Fremlyn was baptised Tymothy in 1619 - see page 2.f.80. Tymothy was also used as a girl's name in the Kips families in 1617 and 1622.

The George Fremlyns

The George Fremlyns are no easier to sort out than the other Fremlyns.

- the possibility that George was the son of James who wrote his will in 1556 has already been mentioned - see page 2.f.68
- George Fremlyn's will was written on 17th June 1587; he had a wife Margaret, two sons, James and George both over 21 and a younger son Thomas.. George Fremlyn, the elder, presumably the testator, was buried on 20th June 1587
- a George Fremlyn had a number of children baptised between 1562 and 1582 - see page 2.f.105.
- Margaret, wife of George Fremlyn, was buried on 4th October 1596. If she had been the wife of the 1587 testator she would have been recorded as a widow. Margaret could have been the wife of the George who had children from 1562 onwards.

The question is, was the father of the children the testator's son?

In 1587, his sons James and George were over twenty-one but Thomas was only at school learning to read and write. His wife was the mother of all three sons so that it is unlikely that their son George was old enough to have had a child in

1562. The testator and the George having children from 1562 onwards were, from the age of their children, contemporaries and George, son of George Fremlyn, baptised 28th January 1565 could be the son of either of them. Baptisms of James and Thomas have not been recorded. Since Thomas was born after 1566 and probably in the later 1570s, if his father was then living in Kemsing, a record of his baptism would be expected.

George Fremlyn's Crops and Animals

George's wife, Margaret, who was to be his executrix, and his son James were his main heirs and he gives considerable detail about his crops and left both of them a number of animals. These bequests show the variety of crops he was growing and the relatively large number of at least cattle and sheep which he had.

He left to Margaret his "wheat standing and growing upon the ground" and "one acre and three yards of barley standing and growing upon the ground". His pease and some other crop "standing and growing" having been "bound in sheaves" were to be equally divided between Margaret and James "as they will at their discretion".

If James was content to “save the 8 acres of fallow that is to be made this year”, he was to have “so much wheat as shall sow his part so that he shall have for his own sowing and he the one half of the fallows and (Margaret) the other”.

The animals left to Margaret were:

- two kine and their calves
- one heifer bullock going in the park of two years old
- the bay mare and white blonde gelding
- all his “ewes, sheep and wether sheep“

He left James his young black mare but he had to pay the price for it to Thomas Rich. James was, however, to receive in the normal way:

- twenty bullocks “of the one year and a half”
- a my lame black horse
- one red cow of five years old

At the end of his will George comes to the felling, in the following spring, of trees in some land called Five Acres which was “at the eleven years growth”. Margaret was to have the proceeds from this and George leaves detailed instructions. She was to carry out the felling “in seasonable time and hedging it sufficiently and leaving it stabled according to law and felling more of the oldest oaks that be now growing there and also all the other pollardes in the hedge to be felled by my wife and my son James to the use of firewood for the house and not to be sold”.

George's Land and Debts

When Margaret died James was to have a joined bedstead and some other furniture including “the glass about the . . . parlour” but if Margaret remarried she was “not to carry away these things” from the house.

Margaret was to have all his unbequeathed moveable goods. She was to keep his “son Thomas to school till he can write and read and then bind him prentice to some good occupation that he hath most mind to, either in London or else in the country”. During his apprenticeship Margaret was to pay him 20d a quarter.

George owned land and tenements in Kemsing and “elsewhere” in Kent. Margaret was to have one half of the profits from these during “her natural life”. Some land was bequeathed directly to James but he, Thomas and the third son George (this is the first time George was mentioned) were to have the rest “divided between them by equal portions as they and their friends shall most indifferently divide it” Since James and George were already of lawful age, they inherited their land directly (although from the earlier bequest, Margaret was to have half the profits from it until she died). Thomas was not to “come to his lands before the age of 21 years” and, until then Margaret, was to have all the profits from them.

Although Margaret was his sole executrix, James was to share with her the responsibility for paying his debts. He details those to two men giving first the major amount followed by an additional sum “to be paid the same day” - see lines 114 to 119. Were both these debts actually loans as the “bonds do specify” with the additional payments being the interest owed?

Will of George Fremlyn of Kemsing

written 17th June 1587

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The
2 17th day of June in the year of our Lord
3 god, one thousand, five hundred, five score and
4 seven, I, George Fremlyn of Kemsing
5 in the county of Kent, being sick of body but
6 of perfect mind and remembrance, thanks
7 be to Almighty god, do make and ordain
8 this my last will and testament in manner
9 and form following: **First** I bequeath
10 my soul to Almighty god, my maker and
11 redeemer, and trusting to be saved by the death
12 and passion of Jesus Christ and my body to be

13 buried in the churchyard of Kemsing aforesaid
14 at the discretion of my executor. **Item:** I give
15 and bequeath unto **Margaret, my beloved wife**, all
16 my wheat standing and growing upon the
17 ground. **Item:** my will and mind is that, if
18 **my son James** be contented to save the 8 acres
19 of fallow that is to be made this year, that then
20 I ?? ?? my son James to have in exchange
21 my ?? ?? for so much wheat as shall sow his

page 2:

22 part so that he shall have for his own sowing and he the one half for
23 of the fallows and she the other. **Item:** I
24 will and bequeath my pease and
25 ?? standing and growing upon the
26 ground unto Margaret, my wife, and
27 to my son James to be equally divided
28 between them, to be bound in sheaves in the
29 ?? as they will at their discretion. **Item:** I
30 give and bequeath unto Margaret, my
31 wife, my two kine and their calves. **Item:**
32 I will unto the same Margaret, my wife,
33 one acre and three yards of barley standing

34 and growing upon the ground. **Item:** I
35 give and bequeath to Margaret, my wife,
36 one heifer bullock going in the park of
37 two years old and the r---le. **Item:** I will and
38 bequeath to Margaret, my wife, the bay ??
39 mare and my white blonde gelding ??
40 ?? **Item:** I give and bequeath to my son James
41 my young black mare for that he pay **Thomas**
42 **Rich?** for it the price. **Item:** I give and
43 bequeath to my son James one score bullocks

page 3:

44 of the age of one year and the half?. **Item:** I
45 will and bequeath to my son James my lame
46 black horse. **Item:** I give and bequeath
47 unto **my son Thomas** one ?? ?? **Item:**
48 I give and bequeath to Margaret, my
49 wife, all my ewes, sheep and wether
50 sheep. **Item:** I give to my son James one
51 joined bedstead standing in the inner chamber
52 after my wife's decease and if it fortune
53 her to marry she shall not carry that
54 bedstead from the house. **Item:** I give to my

55 son James the cupboard in the parlour and
56 the table and the forms in the same chamber
57 and the benches that be round about the parlour
58 and the glass about the same parlour and
59 the great vase? after the decease of Margaret,
60 my wife, and if it fortune her to marry
61 not to carry away these things out of the
62 and to my son James for this ??
63 years that he doth occupy ?? ?? with
64 his mother to have the occupation of all my
65 implements of husbandry. **Item:** I will and
66 bequeath to my son James one red cow
67 of five years old. **Item:** I will that
68 Margaret, my wife, shall keep my son
69 Thomas to school till he can write

page 4:

70 and read and then bind him prentice to some good
71 occupation that he hath most mind to, either in
72 London or else in the country. And all the rest of
73 my moveable goods unbequeathed I give unto
74 Margaret, my wife, whom I make my whole
75 executor of this my last will and testament.

76 **Item:** my mind and will is that Margaret, my
77 wife, shall give to my son Thomas 20d
78 a quarter during his prenticeship and
79 concerning the fee simple and inheritance of all
80 my lands and tenements within Kemsing
81 or elsewhere within the county of Kent. **Item:**
82 I give and bequeath unto Margaret, my
83 wife, the profit of the one moiety of all my
84 lands and tenements within the parish of
85 Kemsing during her natural life. **Item:**
86 I give and bequeath unto my son James
87 ?? ?? and **Bitchet**¹¹⁰ ?? grove
88 and also a parcel of land and wood called
89 the **Five Acres** which is called the ?? to
90 him and to his heirs for ever. And all the residue
91 of all my lands and tenements within
92 Kemsing aforesaid, I give unto my son
93 James the first part and to **my son** (Thomas)¹¹¹
94 **George** the second part and also to my son

110 James in 1556 mentions "2 parcels of land with a wood called Bitchette Downes" in Kemsing

111 crossed out

page 5:

96 divided between them by equal portions as they and
97 their friends shall most indifferently divide it and
98 James and George are of lawful age already and my
99 son Thomas shall not come to his lands before
100 the age of 21 years and I also give unto Margaret,
101 my wife, the profits of all my son Thomas's lands
102 till he cometh to the age of 21 years. **Item:** my
103 mind and will is that my wife shall have the felling
104 next of the spring called Five Acres at the eleven
105 years growth, felling it in seasonable time and
106 hedging it sufficiently and leaving it stadled
107 according to law and felling more of the oldest
108 oaks¹¹² that be now growing there and also all the
109 other pollardes in the hedge to be felled by my wife
110 and my son James to the use of firewood for the
111 house and not to be sold. And all my debts that I
112 do owe, I will that Margaret, my wife, and my son
113 James shall pay them between them equally, that is

112 "okes"

114 to say, ten pounds to **Richard Best, the younger,**
115 and also I do owe to the same Richard Best 20s to be
116 paid the same day. And also to **William Walker**
117 I do owe five pounds and also the same
118 William Walker 10s to be paid the same day as my
119 bonds do specify. All my debts, I will they be paid
120 according to my will by the hand of Margaret,
121 my wife, and James, my son, equally
122 between them. And all other debts not
123 here remembered, I will they shall pay them
124 equally between them. By me George
125 Fremlyn. In witness to this present will
126 **William Haseden and John King**

Geese Stolen from James Fremlyn

At the March 1625 Assizes John Peckham, labourer of Kemsing, was indicted for petty larceny. On 20th December 1624, at Kemsing, he stole 4 geese (8d) from James Fremlyn. By the time of the Assizes, John Peckham was dead.¹¹³ If this

113 Cockburn (James); 995

James was the son of George and Margaret, he would have been in his sixties in 1624.

The Children of George Fremlyn

It is not known how this George Fremlyn was related to the other Fremlyns.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
k455	<u>FREMLYN, George</u> -----	<1540			1	8	
• k457	<u>Fremlyn, Elizabeth</u>	29 Nov 1562			0	0	
		possibly died before 1582 when sister Elizabeth was baptised					
• k458	<u>FREMLYN, George</u>	28 Jan 1565			0	0	
• k459	<u>Fremlyn, Dorothy</u>	08 Jun 1567			0	0	
• k460	<u>Fremlyn, Margaret</u>	04 Jun 1570			0	0	
• k461	<u>Fremlyn, Anne</u>	16 Oct 1575			0	0	
		probably died before March 1577 if "Annes" and "Anne" are the same name but "Annes" could be "Agnes"					
• k462	<u>Fremlyn, Annes</u>	18 Mar 1577			0	0	
• k463	<u>Fremlyn, Mary</u>	22 Feb 1580			0	0	
• k464	<u>Fremlyn, Elizabeth</u>	02 Feb 1582			0	0	

Fremlyn Brides

The marriages of a number of Fremlyn women were recorded in Kemsing without it being possible, on the data examined, to identify their parents. Those where nothing other than their marriage, plus any details in the fourth column, is known are given in the following table.

Date		Married:	
6 Feb 1563	Elizabeth Fremlyn	Richard Branfield	
11 May 1576	Anne Fremlyn	Harry Clagget	Anne Clagget, daughter of Henry Clagget was baptised, in Ightham, on 26th July 1579. She could have been Anne Fremlyn's daughter
16 Jun 1576	Joan Fremlyn	Nicholas Newson	
11 Nov 1577	Margery Fremlyn	Richard Nordich	Margery was buried on 17th March 1592
15 Nov 1583	Anne Fremlyn	Richard Streatfield	
18 Apr 1631	Alice Fremlyn	Gideon Wharton	

Where they married into other families for which information has been recorded, details can be obtained by consulting references to them in the index of names. In each case the records of Seal, Kemsing and Ightham have been searched for references to their married names.

Women often married men from further afield than those parishes consulted here and, even when they married local men, the married couple could move a considerable distance before settling down to raise a family.

Seventeenth Century Fremlyns

Three wills have survived from the 1640s:

James Fremlyn	17 Jun 1640	22.392	30		page 2.f.110
William Fremlyn	1644	22.575	31	yeoman	
Sylvester Fremlyn	1 Nov 1644	22.577	31		page 2.f.117

Although in his will, James is described as a yeoman, at his burial on 27th November 1640 he was given as “gent.”.

Sylvester Fremlyn was James’s widow but, since William’s will has not been investigated, it is not possible to say whether or not he was their son. From their mention in both wills, James and Sylvester both held their sons-in-law in high esteem but James’s will is difficult to read in many places and the names of the daughters are hard to decipher. Sylvester makes one of her sons-in-law, Alexander Chawney (or Chanty) her executor. No children were recorded in Kemsing, Seal or Ightham for any of these sons-in-law and of their sons, children are recorded only for John and James.

A James Fremlyn had nine children baptised in Kemsing between 1591 and 1614 and his son James mentioned in his will could have been their youngest child. Unfortunately James does not mention grandchildren at all and Sylvester

just makes bequests to all her grandchildren. Except for son George, all the children mentioned by James the testator can all be identified with those who were baptised between 1591 and 1614. George could have been borne in the late 1590s or between 1606 and 1610. Twenty-five years of childbearing was not unique but it has to be assumed that James, their first son, died before their last son, also called James and those not mentioned died before their father. These would be:

- either Francis or Sara with the surviving one marrying John Barnard
- Robert, his second son, which makes William, the first son mentioned and his executor, the eldest surviving child.

	k465 James - Sylvester k466												
will:	17 Jun 1640 1 Nov 1644												
bur:	27 Nov 1640												

	k467	k469	k971		k472					k475			
bap:	James	William	George		Francis					Dorothy			
bur:	29 Oct 1591	6 Mar 1595			21 Apr 1603					21 Feb 1614			
	<1613									1615			
		k468	k470	k972	k471	k973	k473	k906	k474	k974		k901	k902
bap:	Robert	Margaret	Robert	Mary	Alexander	John	Ann	Sara	John	James	Mary		
			Hoath		Chawney				Barnard				
	8 Sep 1593	6 Aug 1596		22 Feb 1601		5 May 1605		21 Apr 1611		21 Feb 1614			

	k907	k905	k908	k909	K910		k903		k904				
bap:	Ann	James	John	Sara	William		Sylvester		James				
bur:	27 Feb 1632	27 May 1634	3 Apr 1637	4 Mar 1639	23 Aug 1642		14 Mar 1639		27 May 1634			28 May 1641	

In his will of 1640, Thomas Turner of Sevenoaks left £10 each to John Fremlyn and his wife Ann and also to each of their four children “Ann, James, John and Sarah”. Although John Fremlyn, in Turner’s will, is described as of the parish of “Lempsing”, this looks like a version of Kemsing . From the parish registers, John and Ann Fremlyn (k473 and k906) had children names Ann, James, John and Sara with William born after 1640. Thus the benefactors of Turner’s will look to have been this family.

A James Fremlyn was one of the assessors for the subsidy granted to Charles I in 1628 and was himself assessed for 40s in land and 8s in goods. He could have been k901.

Will of James Fremlyn of Kemsing

written 17th June 1640

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. I
2 James Fremlyn, the older, of Kemsing in the county
3 of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick in body but of good and
4 perfect memory, praised be god, therefore do make and
5 ordain this my last will and testament in manner and
6 orm following: **First** and above all things I bequeath

7 my soul to god, my maker and redeemer, assuredly
8 trusting through Jesus Christ, his merits, to obtain
9 remission and forgiveness of all my sins and my body
10 to Christian Burial to be ordered in a decent and fitting
11 manner at the discretion of my executor hereafter to be named.
12 And as concerning my personal estate, I will and dispose of it in
13 manner and form following: And **First** whereas about four
14 years since I assigned, put or gave unto **my son**
15 **William Fremlyn** all my stock of cattle, corn, waggons,
16 plough and all other my utensils and implements of . . .¹¹⁴
17 upon condition that he, my said son William, . . .

18 unto me for to such person or persons as I should . . .
19 the sum of £200 at such time or times as . . .
20 by me ?? required and do . . .
21 constitute and appoint my said son William . . .
22 whole and sole executor of this my last will and
23 testament, to see my funeral rites . . .
24 to perform and pay my legacies and bequests
25 after following. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto my
26 loving **son-in-law Robert Hoath** and **Margaret, my**

114 end of these lines lost

27 **daughter, his wife**, forty pounds to be paid unto
28 them, or their assigns, within one whole year of
29 my decease. **Item:** I give unto my loving **son-**
30 **in-law Alexander Chawney, gent.** and **Mary, my**
31 **daughter, his wife**, forty pounds to be paid unto them,
32 or their assigns, within two years after my decease.
33 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto my ;loving **son-in-law**
34 **John Barnard** and **Sara? my daughter, his wife**,
35 forty pounds to be paid unto them, or their
36 assigns, within four years after my decease.
37 **Item:** I give and bequeath forty shillings to the
38 poor of the parish of Kemsing and **Seal**,
39 thirty shillings to the poor of the parish of ??
40 and ten shillings to the poor of the parish of ??
41 to be bestowed and didtributed at the discretion
42 of my executor within one week after my decease.
43 **Item:** I give and bequeath **Richard Johnson?**,
44 my servant, five pounds to be paid unto him, his heirs or
45 assigns, within four years after my decease.
46 My mind and will is that **Sylvester, my wife**,
47 have and enjoy the one half of all my bedding . . .
48 and woollen and all other my lawful . . .
49 her own use for as long as she shall live and (the other)

50 half of my said household stuff I give
51 unto my said son William and the said half of my
52 goods and household stuff bequeathed unto my said wife
53 for her use during her life, from and after her decease I
54 likewise give and bequeath unto my said son William
55 for the better enabling of him to perform and pay the legacies
56 and bequests mentioned in this my will. **Now**
57 concerning these my lands whereof I stand seized in fee simple
58 and are not formerly conveyed unto **my son James Fremlyn**
59 and my said son William Fremlyn, I devise and bequeath as followeth:
60 **First** I give and bequeath unto **my son John Fremlyn**
61 one piece or parcel of land called the **Five Acres** containing
62 by estimation five acres and a half, more or less, lying and
63 being in the East Common fields in the parish of Kemsing
64 aforesaid and one other parcel of land called **Christmas Bush**,
65 containing by estimation three acres and a half, more or
66 less, lying and being likewise in the said parish of Kemsing
67 and abutting to the high way leading from **Kemsing Street**
68 to **Heverham** north and east, to have and to hold the said
69 to pieces or parcels of land unto my said son John
70 Fremlyn and his heirs forever provided always and
71 upon condition that my said son John shall release unto
72 my son William and his heirs all my right, title and

73 ?? , claim and demand which my said son
74 John and his heirs may or might hereafter claim in
75 the house and land formerly by me and Sylvester, my wife,
76 conveyed and assured unto my said son William and his
77 heirs an in all other the land of this my will here
78 after given and bequeathed unto my said son William
79 within three months after my said son John
80 shall thereunto required by my said son William
81 and upon condition likewise if my said son John shall forgive
82 unto **my son George Fremlyn, his brother**, ten
83 pounds which my said son George oweth my
84 son John. And if my son John shall refuse
85 for to release as aforesaid and to acquit his said
86 brother George of the said ten pounds debt, then
87 my mind and will is my son William shall give
88 unto my son John twelve pounds and it thereupon and
89 from thenceforth this my will as touching the two
90 pieces or parcels of land before bequeathed
91 unto my son John and his heirs shall be utterly void
92 and of none effect and I do hereby give and bequeath the
93 said two pieces or parcels of land called Five Acres
94 and Christmas Bush unto my son William
95 and to hold unto ny said son William and his heirs

96 forver. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto my son
97 William Fremlyn all those my . . .
98 parcels of land following: that is to say one
99 called **The Park meadow**, containing by estimation ??
100 acres, more or less, two pieces or parcels of land
101 called the **Seven Acres** containing by estimation ??
102 acres, more or less, one other parcel of land,
103 the **Long Two Acres** lying at the upper end of the
104 said fifteen acres, two other pieces or parcels of
105 called **Wilkins piece** containing by estimation ??
106 acres, more or less, and one other parcel
107 called the **Long Acre** formerly by me purchased from
108 **William Chowning** and other parcels of land
109 before exchanged with **Richard Porter** called
110 five acres, one other parcel of land called
111 **Scribbs** containing one acre and a half, touching
112 the lands of **John Withers**, one parcel
113 called the **Hobbs** containing by estimation ??
104 acres, more or less, heretofore purchases of Rich.. ??
115 certain parcels of land called
116 **Crofts**, the **Haslebury**, the **White Leaves** . . .
117 and other parcels of woodland adjoining . . .
118 **Stony Crofts**, containing in the whole . . .

119 more or less and two other pieces or parcels of
120 called the **Down** containing by estimation ??
121 acres, more or less and all other my lands,
122 ?? , pastures and woodlands whatsoever
123 . . . unto my said son ??
124 Fremlyn and herein not before bequeathed
125 hereby will and bequeath unto my son William
126 Fremlyn, to have and to hold all and
127 . . . unto my said son
128 William Fremlyn and his heirs for ever.
129 I give unto my son James Fremlyn
130 ?? and to my son George Fremlyn five pounds?
131 And I devise my very loving **friend John Theobald,**
132 **Esq.,** and my cousin **William Kips** of Kemsing
133 aforesaid to be the overseers of this my last will
134 and testament, hoping they will see it truly and
135 faithfully performed and do give to each of them
136 20s a piece for their pains herein to be bestowed.
137 As witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand
138 and seal this seventeenth day of June 1640.
139 James Fremlyn, his mark. Signed, sealed and published as
140 his last will in the presence of John Theobald, **Richard Theobald,**
141 ?? **Longley,** is mark, **Robert Wigzell,** his mark.

1 Memorandum that Sylvester Fremlyn,
2 late of Kemsing in the county of Kent
3 deceased, being of perfect mind and memory,
4 notwithstanding ?? and aged in body
5 also doubtful of her further ??
6 where she then lived was
7 of an intent and purpose to declare her last will
8 and testament ?? ?? or by word of mouth,
9 did on or about the first day of November, one
10 thousand, six hundred, forty three, utter and speak
11 the words following or the like in effect. Out of
12 the money due unto me from my son James
13 Fremlyn, I give ten pounds thereof unto
14 **Alexander Chawney, my son-in-law**. Such
15 other ten pounds thereof to **John Barnard**¹¹⁵
16 **my son-in-law**. And to all my grandchildren
17 ten shillings a piece hereof and the remainder

115 or "Barnett"

18 hereof equally to be divided between my living
19 grandchildren of my sons and daughters.
20 And to this her last will and testament, she
21 did make and nominate her said son-in-law
22 Alexander Chawney, her sole executor
23 with words or the like in effect were by her
24 said testating. in the presence
25 of **John Fremlyn, George Fremlyn and John Ch...**
the marks of John Fremlyn, George Fremlyn.

The Frenches of Shipbourne & Ightham

The Frenches were a large Seal family - see [Families & Transcripts](#). Details are given here of those who were recorded in Shipbourne and Ightham who cannot be identified among the Seal families.

On 25th August 1577 Thomas (\$137¹¹⁶), son of Thomas Frenche (\$135), was baptised in Shipbourne. A Thomas Frenche, probably \$135, was buried on 13th November 1604.

The Ightham Court Records

A Robert Frenche of Seal was mentioned in the Court Records for 1586-1618 but there were a number of Robert Frenches in Seal. Maria Frenche (i2241), wife of Robert Frenche (i2240) was buried on 27th February 1650. It is most unlikely that the one mentioned, at the latest in 1618, was Maria's husband.

116 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database and "i" on the Ightham database

Agnes French, Ann French, Henry French and William French were also mentioned in the Court Records for 1586-1618

A Henry French had two children baptised in Ightham in the 1620s.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i2236	<u>FRENCH, Henry</u> -----				1	2	2 Aug 1652
• i2238	<u>French, Ann</u>	1 Feb 1624			0	0	
• i2239	<u>FRENCH, John</u>	6 Nov 1625			0	0	2 Jan 1632

This Henry is again unlikely to be the one mentioned in the court Records but he could have been the "[Henry French of Plaxtol here buried](#)" on 2nd August 1652.

The Frys of Tonbridge, Speldhurst & Penshurst

The earliest Fry will which has been looked at is that of:

John Fry	1591d; 1596p	Tonbridge	CKS: Drb/Pw 17; 18.458	page 2.f.123
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This will is interesting because it is written in a mixture of Latin, English and French which makes it very difficult to read. It is not known who wrote it. John Fry appears to have had two sons, William and Mathew, whom he made his executors and heirs. John himself was a yeoman but his two sons are described as husbandmen.

The will of **Walter Fry of Speldhurst (PCC: Stafforde 1)** was written on 12th March 1604/5 by **George Brooker, scriptor**. but it was not proved until January 1605/6. The other witnesses were **William Moyse, Thomas Fry** (who made his mark) and **Robert Streatfield**.

Two Thomas Fry wills have been investigated:

Thomas Fry	20 Jan 1616/7	Penshurst	PCC: Weldon 52	page 2.f.125
Thomas Fry	3 May 1621	Speldhurst	PCC: Bryde 11	page 2.f.126

Penshurst and Speldhurst are neighbouring parishes and the Thomas from Penshurst left money to the poor of both parishes.

The Penshurst will was written by Thomas Leddall, scriptor of a number of wills for the Penshurst area. The preambles of that will and the 1621 will are given below. Thomas Leddall also wrote the wills of Agnes Fry and Edward Fry which have been transcribed in full with the original of Edward's having survived:

Agnes Fry	17 Apr 1632	Penshurst	PCC: Audley 87; Prob 11/162	page 2.f.129
Edward Fry	14 Nov 1637	Speldhurst	PCC: Coventry 44; Prob 10/601	page 2.f.136

Other Fry wills which have survived for this area are:

John Frye	1522/3	Tonbridge	CKS: Drb/Pwr 7.280; Drb/Pw 2	
William Frye	1555	Hadlow; Speldhurst; Leigh	CKS: 11.333;	5
William Frye	1593p	Tonbridge	CKS: 18.229	16
Edward Frye	1603	Penshurst	PCC: Bolein 32	
Matthew Frye	1611p	Tonbridge	CKS: 20.267	21
John Frye	1612p	Tonbridge	CKS	22 yeoman
Thomas Fry	1617	Speldhurst	PCC: Weldon 53; nuncupative	
William Frye	1638p	Tonbridge	CKS: 22.264	30 broadweaver

At the March 1579 Assizes **John Frye** of Penshurst, husbandman, was indicted - see page 2.f.144.

1 Omnibus¹¹⁷ Christi fidelibus ad quo? ?? ??
2 scriptum prevenit Johes Fry de parish de
3 Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, Salutem in ??
4 ?? ?? me ?? Johannem
5 Fry ?? in consideration viginto Libra... bone et
6 leg... ?? ?? ?? Johanne Fry ?? quosdam
7 William Fry de parish de Tonbridge ??
8 ?? ?? husbandman and Mathew Fry de
9 parish de Tonbridge ?? ?? ?? husbandman,
10 filies me.. ?? solut et contenat unde
11 fat?? me plenarie satisfact et ?? ?? ??
12 William Fry et Mathew Fry hered executors
13 et Administratores suos et heredes executors et
14 Adminstrators ?? ?? ??
15 exonerate et acquietat ?? ?? ??
16 ?? ?? ?? I desire
17 vendi... bargain? ?? et ?? ??

117 decorated "O"

18 me ?? ?? William Fry and Mathew
19 Fry filies me.. Omnia bona et catalls ??
20 mobilia et immobilia viva et mortna¹¹⁸ soning
21 generis ?? speciei et in quorum manibus sen
22 ?? ?? ?? equaliter et
23-26 ?? ?? ?? ??
27 ?? bona et catalls ?? mobilia et immobilia viva
28 et mortna ?? ??
29 ?? ??
30 ?? William Fry et Mathew Fry, their
31 assigns ?? ?? In witness ??
32 ?? ?? script, mee ego ?? John Fry
33 ?? ?? dat primo die May
34 ?? reg.. ?? Elizabeth ?? Anglie
35 France et Hibernie regina, fidei defenser
36 ?? Tert¹¹⁹

118 all my goods and chattels (cattle), moveable an unmoveable, live and dead,

119 first May in the reign of . . . Elizabeth, . . . of England, France an Ireland, queen, defender of the faith, the thirty third (1591)

- . . . notwithstanding of good and perfect remembrance.
- **First** and principally I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty god, my maker, and to Jesus Christ, his only
- son by whose death and passion I trust to be saved and I commit my body to the earth to be buried in the
- churchyard of Penshurst or elsewhere as it shall please god. **Item:** I give to the poor of Penshurst and Speldhurst 3s 4d.
-
-

Thomas Leddall, scriptor, Samuel Halfhide and Ephrain Jessop

- First I commend my soul to
- Almighty god, my maker, with a steadfast faith and belief that the same, after my departure
- out of the valley of tears and vale of misery, by and through the merits , death and passion
- of my redeemer, Christ Jesus, shall be made partaker of life everlasting.
- **Item:** I commit my
- body to the earth to be buried in the churchyard of Speldhurst
- in sure and certain hope of a joyful resurrection of the same unto life immortal.

He left 13s 4d to the “poor of the parish that shall resort to my burial”.

Witnesses: **Edward Fry, Robert Barpes.**

Agnes Fry, widow, of Penshurst

Agnes, who was buried on 17th August 1632, was a very rich widow able to leave a total of £321 in money bequests to a large number of relatives:

To:	
William Fry of Withiam, kinsman	£80
John, Ruben, Thomas, William and Agnes Jeffry, children of John Jeffry of Speldhurst, yeoman	£20*
Susan, wife of John Fry of Speldhurst, yeoman	£20
Walter Fry of Tonbridge and Andrew Fry of Speldhurst	10s each
Thomas Fry of Michells in Speldhurst	£20
Joane, wife of Thomas Fry of Lanckington	£20
Richard, son of Thomas Fry, late of Michells, deceased	£20
Thomas Arnoll, senior, of Furlle in Sussex	£20
Elizabeth Aoer of Beddingham in Sussex, widow, kinswoman	£20
Constance, wife of John Cossam of Furlle, kinswoman	£20

four children of Agnes Goodson, my kinswoman late deceased	£20*
John Izaacke of Furlle	£20
Agnes, wife of Giles Sullander of East Grinstead	£13 6s 8d ¹²⁰
Dorothy, wife of Thomas May of Haysome, kinswoman	£13 6s 8d
Joane, wife of Robert Ballard, kinswoman	£13 6s 8d
* divided between them	TOTAL £321

Her executor was to be her kinsman, Richard Cossom and the household items she left him included a green rug; John Smith of Hyland in Franfield in Sussex was to have six silver spoons. The rest of her household stuff was to be divided into six portions, one going to the five Frys already mentioned with the sixth being equally divided between the five children of Ruben Jeffery who also had £20 between them.

Agnes appointed as her supervisors William Luck and Robert Beecher, with both the Lucks and Beechers being Penshurst families (see [Lucks and Beechers in](#)

Families & Transcripts). William Luck could have been the William (p188¹²¹) who had seven children baptised between 1620 and 1635. Robert Beecher could have been the Robert whom Edward Beecher appointed as his executor in 1635.

Although Agnes mentions a number of people from Speldhurst, Edward whose will written five years later has survived is not one of them.

Will of Agnes Fry, widow, of Penshurst

written 17th April 1632

transcript from probate copy

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The
- 2 seventeenth day of April Annoq. domini one thousand six hundred thirty
two in the eighth
- 3 year of the reign of our sovereign Lord King Charles, etc. I, Agnes Fry, of
Penshurst in the county

121 p indicates a reference in the Penshurst database

4 of Kent, **widow**, do ordain and make this my last will and testament in
manner and for following:
5 **First** resting my soul into the hands of Almighty god, my maker and
creator, and to Jesus Christ, my alone
6 saviour and redeemer, by whose death and blood shedding I fully trust to
attain to the joyful resurrection
7 of eternal life, committing my body to the earth and to be buried in the
churchyard of Penshurst aforesaid. **Item:**
8 I give unto a preacher to make a sermon at my funeral twenty shillings.
Item: I give to the poor people of
9 Penshurst twenty shillings to be distributed to them on the day of my
burial. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
10 **William Fry of Withiham, my kinsman**, four score pounds of of lawful
english money to be paid unto him,
11 his heirs or assigns, within one whole year next after my decease by my
executor hereafter named. **Item:** I
12 I give and bequeath unto **John, Ruben, Thomas, William and Agnes**
Jeffry, the sons and daughter of
13 **John Jeffry of Speldhurst**, yeoman, twenty pounds of like lawful money to
be equally divided between them
14 and paid unto them, their heirs or assigns, within one whole year next
after my decease by my said executor.

15 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Susan Fry, now wife of John Fry of**
16 **Speldhurst**, yeoman, twenty pounds
17 of lawful english money to be paid to the said Susan, her heirs or assigns,
18 within one whole year next after
19 my decease by my said executor. **Item:** I give unto **Walter Fry of**
20 **Tonbridge** and **Andrew Fry of Speldhurst**,
21 unto either of them, ten shillings. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
22 **Thomas Fry of Michells in Speldhurst**
23 twenty pounds of lawful english money to be paid unto him, his heirs or
24 assigns, within one whole year next
25 after my decease by my said executor. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
26 **Joane Fry, the now wife of Thomas**
27 of **Lanckington**, twenty pounds of lawful english money, to be paid unto
28 her, her heirs or assigns, within
29 one whole year next after my decease by my said executor. **Item:** I give
30 and bequeath unto **Richard Fry, son**
31 of **Thomas Fry**, late of Michells, deceased, twenty pounds to be paid to
32 the said
33 Richard, his heirs or assigns, within one whole year next after my
34 decease by my said executor. **Item:** I give
35 and bequeath unto **Thomas Arnoll, senior, of Furlle in Sussex** twenty
36 pounds of lawful english

26 money to be paid unto him, heirs or assigns, within one whole year next
after my decease by my said executor.

27 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Elizabeth Aoer of Beddingham in Sussex,**
widow, my kinswoman, twenty

28 pounds of good and lawful money to be paid unto her or her heirs or
assigns, within one whole year next

29 after my decease by my said executor. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
Constance, the now wife of John Cossam

page 2:

30 of Furlle aforesaid, my kinswoman, twenty pounds of lawful english
money to be paid unto the said Constance

31 or her assigns, within one whole year next after my decease by my said
executor. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the

32 four children of **Agnes Goodson,** my kinswoman late deceased, twenty
pounds of lawful english money to be

33 equally divided between them and paid by my executor within one whole
year next after my decease. **Item:** I give

34 and bequeath unto **John Izaacke** of Furlle aforesaid twenty pounds of
lawful english money to be paid

35 unto him within one year next after my decease by my said executor.
Also my will and meaning is that if

36 the said John shall happen to die without issue of his body, then I will
and devise the said money before willed to
37 the said John Izaark shall be paid unto Thomas Cossam¹²² aforesaid.
Item: I give and bequeath unto **Agnes**
38 the **now wife of Giles Sullander of East Grinstead in Sussex**, twenty
marks of lawful english money to
39 be paid unto the said Anne¹²³, her heirs or assigns, within one whole year
next after my decease by my said
40 executor. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Dorothy, the now wife of**
Thomas May of Haysome, my kinswoman,
41 twenty marks of lawful english money to be paid unto the said Dorothy,
her heirs or assigns, within one
42 whole year next after my decease by my said executor. **Item:** I give and
bequeath unto **Joane, the now wife of Robert Ballard, my**
43 **kinswoman**, twenty marks of lawful english money to be paid to the said
Joane, her heirs or assigns, within one
44 whole year next after my decease by my said executor. **Item:** I give and
bequeath unto **Richard Cossam, my**

122 it was a John Cossom who was mentioned before (line 29)

123 definitel "Anne" here and "Agnes" on line 37; was this mistake in the original will or made by the man making the probate copy?

45 **kinsman**, one featherbed and bolster being in the loft over the hall of my
now dwelling house with one
46 blanket, one green rug and two pairs of sheets and one joined bedstead,
one joined chest standing in
47 the parlour and one plain chest. **Item:** I give unto **John Smith of Hyland
in Franfield in Sussex** six
48 silver spoons. **Item:** I give and bequeath all the residue of my household
stuff unto **William Fry, Thomas**
49 **Fry, Richard Fry, Susan Fry** and **Joane Fry** to be equally divided between
them. And also one part
50 of the said stuff to be equally divided between the five children of Ruben
Jeffery¹²⁴ of Speldhurst. The
51 residue of all my moveable goods¹²⁵ unbequeathed, cattells and chattells
whatsoever, my debts, funeral and
52 legacies paid and discharged, I give unto Richard Cossam, my kinsman
aforenamed whom I do ordain and
53 make the full and sole executor of this my testament and last will. And I
do appoint my loving friends,

124 spelled "Jeffry" earlier in the will

125 what moveable goods other than "household stuff" would Agnes have had? Wearing apparel and jewelry, perhaps books since she was so wealthy.

54 **William Luck** and **Robert Beecher** of Penshurst aforesaid, supervisors
therof to whom I give ten
55 shillings apiece over and above their pains to see this my last will truly
performed according to my mind.
56 In witness whereof I have set my hand and seal the day and year first
aforesaid. written signed
57 Agnes Fry. Published and declared to be the last will and testament of
the said Agnes Fry in the presence
58 of **William Beecher, Thomas Leddall, scr.**

Edward Fry, yeoman of Speldurst

Edward Fry had four sons and owned land in Penshurst as well as Speldhurst which are two parishes. He appointed his son Robert as his executor and the will was proved by him.

Will of Edward Fry of Speldurst

written 14th November 1637

transcript from original

1 In¹²⁶ the name of god Amen. The fourteenth day of November
2 Ao dm 1637 in the thirteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord
Charles
3 by the grace of God of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, king,
defender of the
4 faith, etc. I, Edward Fry, the elder, of **Greene Lane** in the parish of
5 Speldhurst in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being at this time in good
health of
6 body and of sound mind and memory (God be praised) do make and
ordain this

126 slightly decorated "I"

7 my last will and testament in manner and form following: **First**
yielding¹²⁷ my
8 soul to Almighty god with an assured hope of salvation through the
merits and
9 mediation of Jesus Christ, my alone saviour. And my body to the earth in
decent
10 manner to be buried. I give to the poor people of Speldhurst thirty
shillings to
11 be distributed to them at the discretion of mine executor hereafter
named. **Item:**
12 I give and bequeath unto **Joane, my loving wife**, five pounds of lawful
money
13 to be paid unto her, or her assigns, by mine executor. **Item:** I give and
bequeath unto
14 **George Fry, my son**, twenty pound of lawful money of England to be paid
15 unto him by my executor. **Item:** I give unto the said George one
cubbert¹²⁸ and one
16 bedstead being in the now dwelling house of **Edward Wanker** and one
joined chest and

127 "yealding", a spelling which occurs in other wills

128 cupboard?

17 my worst joined bedstead standing in the inner loft of my dwelling house
with one
18 half of the linen being in the chest aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath
unto
19 **John Fry, my son,** twenty pounds of lawful english money to be paid him
20 when he shall accomplish his age of one and twenty years by mine
executor.
21 **Item:** I give to the said John one cubbert standing in the now dwelling
house of
22 **Thomas Swayland** and the joined bedstead standing in the new room
where the said
23 John lyeth and one joined chest and one old bedstead being in the inner
loft and the other half of the linen
24 being in the chest given to George aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath
unto
25 **Edward Fry, my son,** five pounds of lawful english money to be paid him
26 by mine executor. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Edward Fry, the son**
27 of my son Edward, five shillings. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
Elizabeth
28 **Fry, the daughter** of my said son Edward, ten pounds of lawful money
29 of England to be paid unto her when she shall accomplish her age of
30 one and twenty years or day of her marriage which shall first happen.
31 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Edward Fry, the son of my son Robert**

32 and **Joane Fry, his daughter**, to either of them five shillings a piece.

page 2:

33 **The residue** of all my moveable goods, cattell and chattels whatsoever,
34 my debts, legacies and funeral discharged, I give and bequeath unto

Robert Fry, my son,

35 whom I do make the full and sole executor of this my last will and
testament. And

36 I do appoint and make my loving cousins **Edward Fry of Legge** and
Thomas Fry of

37 **Lanckington** supervisors thereof to see this my last will performed.

38 This is also the last will and testament of me, the said Edward Fry, the
39 elder, made and declared the day and year before written, touching the
dispos

40 ing of all my lands, tenements and hereditaments with their
appurtenances. **First** I give,

41 devise and will unto Edward Fry, my son, his heirs and assigns forever,¹²⁹
all that

129 this definitely looks like a semi colon(which is most unusual but occurs in other wills written by Thomas Leddall)

42 message or tenement wherein he now dwelleth with the barn and
buildings, close and yards,
43 gardens, orchard and appurtenances and eight acres of land with
th'appurtenances by
44 estimation to the said message or tenement belonging purchased by
my father and me
45 of **Thomas Moyse**. And also one parcel of meadow ground with
th'appurtenances
46 containing, by estimation, three acres and a half, late purchased of
Benjamin Jessup.
47 All which said message or tenement and other the premises are
situated, lying and being in
48 Penshurst in the county aforesaid. **Item:** I give, devise and will unto
Robert
49 Fry, my son, his heirs and assigns forever: All that message or tenement
where
50 in I now dwell called **Bredgers** with the barn, buildings, houses, yards,
gardens.
51 orchards and six parcels of land with th'appurtenances thereunto
belonging called all by
52 the name Bredgers together, situated, lying and being in Speldhurst
aforesaid.

53 And also one other parcel of land with th'appurtenances containing, by
estimation, three acres
54 lying on the west side of Green lane. And one other parcel of land called
Ley Croft
55 and a wood adjoining to it with th'appurtenances containing, by
estimation, eight acres,
56 in Speldhurst aforesaid. And also one other parcel of land with
th'appurtenances called
57 **Green Lane Field** now in two parts divided, containing by estimation,
four acres and
58 late purchased of **Sir Thomas Smith, knight**. And also one other parcel
59 of land with th'appurtenances called **Isgates** with the barn thereupon
and
60 two fox stawles thereunto belonging (at the corner of **Hasefield**),
containing by
61 estimation, five acres.

page 3:

62 And also I give and will to the said Robert, my son, his heirs and assigns,
one
63 other parcel of land with th'appurtenances being part of Hasefield wood
which was
64 given me by the last will and testament of my late father, containing by

65 estimation three acres and a half. And also three severals or parcels
66 of land and wood with th'appurtenances containing by estimation six
67 late purchased of **Moses Moyse** and **Robert Moyse, his son**. And also
68 two parcels of land and wood with th'appurtenances containing by
69 estimation eleven acres, late purchased of **John Waller, gent**. All which aforesaid
70 lands and premises are situated, lying and being in Speldhurst aforesaid.
71 **Item:** I give, devise and will unto George Fry, my son, his heirs
72 and assigns, forever, All that messuage or tenement with the barn
73 buildings, yards, gardens, orchards and lands with th'appurtenances
74 which I late purchased of Thomas Fry of Lanckington. **Item:**
75 I give, devise and will unto John Fry, my son, his heirs and assigns,
76 forever, one parcel of land with th'appurtenances called **Dukes Croft**
77 containing by estimation two acres with the cottage thereon and all
78 other the appurtenances thereunto belonging, lying in Speldhurst aforesaid
79 and purchased by my father and me of Sir Thomas Smith, aforesaid, knight.
80 In witness whereof to this my present testament and last will,
81 revoking all former wills, I the said Edward Fry, have hereunto
82 set my hand and seal the day and year aforesaid

Edward Fry

130

his mark

Read and acknowledged to be the last will of the said Edward Fry containing three sheets of paper¹³¹ in the presence of

**Thomas Leddall scr.
Daniell Charpman
Fortune Budgen¹³³**

**Edward Farye
Robert Streatfield¹³²**

130 verical cross

131 the first two also signed with Edward's mark

132 Robert's and Edward Farye's could be signatures whereas the names under that of Thomas Leddall's look to be written by him. A Robert Streatfield witnessed the will of Walter Fry in 1606, again signing his name. With thirty years between these two wills it is possible the same man witnessed the two wills.

133 Fortune Budgen also witnessed the will of James Beecher of Chiddingstone written in 1638 which, like this will, was written by Thomas Leddall

John Frye of Penshurst Indicted for a Rescue

At the March 1579 Assizes **John Frye** of Penshurst, husbandman, was indicted for a rescue. On 31st December 1578, at Penshurst, he assaulted Mathew Lamperd, a sheriff's bailiff, and rescued **Ralph Beache** who had been arrested on a sheriff's warrant, but, according to the Calendar of Assize records, the verdict is unknown¹³⁴.

In July 1579, however, it was recorded that a writ had been issued at Rochester by John Southcote, J.¹³⁵, on 19th March 1579, for the production at Maidstone Assizes on 23 July 1579, of William Gresham of Bethersden, shearman, and John Frye of Penshurst, husbandman. This was endorsed by Thomas Wotton, sheriff, "they are not in my bailiwick".¹³⁶ A bailiwick was the district over which the bailiff had authority.

Over six years later, at the February 1586 Assizes, **John Frey** of Penshurst and **Richard Allen** of Speldhurst, labourers, were indicted for grand larceny. On 18th

134 Cockburn (Eliz.); 958

135 J - Judge of the Common Pleas or Queens's Bench

136 Cockburn (Eliz.); 994

December 1585 at Speldhurst, they stole a sheep (5s) from John Phillipp. What happened to Frey is not recorded but Allen was also charged with stealing a bushel of wheat with chaff (valued at 11d) on 13th January 1586 from **Richard Harte** at Peshurst. Allen was found guilty on this second count and whipped.¹³⁷

John Frey could have been the John Frye of earlier.

Nearly five years later Richard Harte was a victim again. At the February 1591 Assizes, **Thomas Bennett** of Tonbridge, labourer, was indicted for grand larceny. On 10th December 1590 at Peshurst, he stole 3 shirts (5s) and a sheet (20d) from Richard Hart. Bennett was found guilty but allowed benefit of clergy.¹³⁸

137 Cockburn (Eliz.); 1472

138 Cockburn (Eliz), 1881

The Fullers of Seal, Shipbourne & Ightham

Fullers were recorded in the Seal and Shipbourne parish registers but, although there are other references to Fullers in Ightham, none appear in the parish register. However, in all the parishes it is difficult to find any relationship between the various small families. The name Fuller must have been fairly common given that the trade of fulling was carried out in the locality.

The will of **John Fuller of Seal** (#4363¹³⁹) written on 14th August 1492 has survived (CKS: Drb/Pwr 5.193) but it is in Latin and has not been investigated.

The Fullers of Ightham

In **Ightham**, on 6th October 1561, **John Fuller** (i2760) was presented to the Court for "**overcharging**" the lord's common with his sheep and cattle and fined 40d. This is the earliest reference to the protection of the common pasture from excessive use by individuals. This same John Fuller was, by the same Court, also fined 12d because his wife had gathered acorns upon the lord's common

139 # indicates a reference in the Seal database, "i" in that for Ightham

contrary to the order therefore taken at the Court by the tenantry. (CRI 1937, p.209)

A "**John Fuller, borsholder**" is mentioned in the Court Records 1553-74 (CRI 1938, p.55) and this could be the same John.

In 1582, the house of an **Alice Fuller, widow, (i2762) in Ightham** was burgled whilst her **daughter Anne** was there - see **Andrew Brewer in Families & Transcripts**. Alice could have been the wife who had gathered acorns 21 years previously but, more unlikely but still possible, she could have been the widow of John Fuller, the carpenter (see below), whose wife was Alice Holloway. If so, this would mean that:

- the carpenter died before 1582 and Alice moved to Ightham
- Alice and John had had a daughter Anne - Anne could be the Agnes born at the end of 1568.

An **Alice Fuller, spinster, (i2764)** was indicted for murder by witchcraft at the February 1589 Assizes - see **William Petley in More Families & Transcripts**.

At the Court held on 14th April 1586, **William Fuller (i2761)** was fined 20d for "**breaking the peace within the view of the frankpledge**." (CRI 1938, p.35)

Eight years later, at the Court held on 17th October 1594, **William Fuller** was fined 3s 4d for having, "on 20 July last, assaulted **Thomas Blatcher** at Ightham", striking him and drawing blood. (CRI 1938, p.5)

Richard Fuller & Roberts Mathewes, Burglars

At the March 1641 Assizes, **Richard Fuller** (i2774) and **Robert Mathewes** (i2776), **labourers** of Ightham, were indicted for burglary. On 13th January 1641 "they burgled the house of **William James, gent.**, at Ightham and stole a knife (6d), 20 pewter dishes (£4), a pair of stockings (6d) and 2 cloaks (£1)". This indictment was endorsed by William James (i1915), John Lemme (i2414), John Jennings (i2533), John Wells and Samuel Overy as a true bill.

On the same day they burgled the house of **Thomas Bucknor**, Doctor of Theology¹⁴⁰, at **Chevening** and stole a feather-bed tick¹⁴¹ (30s) and a bolster (3s) belonging to **Richard Smith** and 2 Bible(6s) and 2 pieces of velvet (2s) belonging to Bucknor. This indictment was endorsed by Richard Smith and Samuel Overy as a true bill.

140 given as "Theol. D." in Cockburn

141 the cover of a mattress

Fuller and Mathewes were found guilty on the first count and sentenced to hang.¹⁴²

No reference John Wells has been found in Ightham. Edward Overy of Sundridge who wrote his will in 1638 had a brother Samuel. Both Samuel and Overy are uncommon names but there is no mention of him other than in Edward's will. Sundridge and Chevening are adjacent parishes about six miles west of Ightham.

142 Cockburn (Chas.I); 1850

John Fuller, carpenter of Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#190 ¹⁴³	<u>FULLER, John</u> -----		19 Nov 1564	Alice Holloway #191	1	4	
• #192	<u>FULLER, James</u>	16 Dec 1565				0	0
• #383	<u>Fuller, Margaret</u>	2 Mar 1567				0	0
• #429	<u>Fuller, Agnes</u>	12 Dec 1568				0	0
• #551	<u>FULLER, William</u>	16 Apr 1571				0	0

William Fuller of Seal

In 1580, Henry Goodwyn of Shipbourne (\$32), a wheelwright, willed "to **William Fuller of Seal, my late trusty servant, one load of spokes (if he will have them)**" and to "**Henry Fuller, his son (my godson), one twelve monthling heifer bullock coloured brown with a white back**" - see **Goodwyn in More Families & Transcripts**.

143 # indicates a reference in the Seal database and \$ in that for Shipbourne

William's family can be assembled from the parish register:

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
#840	<u>FULLER, William</u> -----			Elizabeth Hills #841	1 3	
• #842	<u>FULLER, Henry</u>	9 Feb 1577	9 Nov 1601	Elizabeth Colfe	1 0	
• • #3654	<u>Fuller, Elizabeth</u>	17 Jul 1603			#2022	0 0 8 Jul 1620
	no evidence to link 842's daughter to the Elizabeth Fuller who died in 1620 -----					
• #894	<u>Fuller, Dorothy</u>	19 Dec 1578	4 Aug 1608	Gregory HIGH married at 29 ¹⁴⁴	#1318	1 5 28 Aug 1638
• #1178	<u>FULLER, William</u>	26 Dec 1582		Margaret Fuller(m)	1 3	
• #2653	<u>his wife, Margaret</u> ¹⁴⁵					1 3 21 Sep 1618
• • #3665	<u>Fuller, Dorothy</u>	6 Mar 1608				0 0
• • #3717	<u>FULLER, William</u>	16 Jun 1612				0 0
• • #2651	<u>FULLER, John</u>	13 Sep 1618		"son of William Fuller"		0 0 22 Feb 1624

144 Dorothy's husband was only 23; they had 5 children - see [Highs in More Families & Transcripts](#)

145 "wife of William Fuller" when buried a week after the baptism of John, #2651

William's wife is known to be Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Hills of Seal (#599) from Thomas's will dated 1593 - see [Families & Transcripts](#)

William's Son Henry

William's son Henry was "Harry" when he married, aged twenty-four; his daughter, Elizabeth, was probably John Weekes's goddaughter (see his will in [Families & Transcripts](#)). A Henry Fuller was listed in the Assessments to a Subsidy granted to Charles I in 1628; he was assessed for 20s (land) and 4s (goods) - see [Section Z in More Families & Transcripts](#).

A Henry Fuller was listed, for Seal village, in the Knole MS of 1648 when #842 would have been 71 - see [Section Z in More Families & Transcripts](#). Perhaps William's son had a son Henry in which case the Elizabeth Fuller, widow, who was buried on 20th January 1621 could have been Elizabeth Colfe. Alternatively she could have been the widow of Henry's father who would have been about seventy in 1621.

The Fullers of Shipbourne

In **Shipbourne**, three children of **Ralph Fuller** were recorded all of whom died young:

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
\$994	<u>FULLER, Ralph</u> -----				1	3	
• \$1107	<u>Fuller, Jeane</u>	9 May 1613			0	0	19 Jun 1616 aged 3
• \$1250	<u>FULLER, William</u>	19 Apr 1618			0	0	18 Jan 1627 aged 8
• \$1251	<u>FULLER, John</u>	21 Jan 1621			0	0	18 Jan 1627 aged 8

Also in Shipbourne, **Jane Fuller** (\$1656) married **John Couchman** (\$1627) on 28th September 1635.

The Funnells of Seal

Two baptisms and the burial of a child were recorded:

- John (#1329¹⁴⁶), son of **William Funnell** (#1327) was baptised on 23rd January 1586
- John (#1628), son of **John Funnell** (#1267) was buried on 30th April 1586
- John (#1432), son of **Robert Funnell** (#1430) was baptised on 25th May 1587.

At Maidstone Assizes, on 10 July 1587, **John Funnel of Seal**, husbandman (possibly #1267), who was already a prisoner in Maidstone gaol, was indicted for grand larceny. He was accused of breaking into the close of **William Funnell** (#1327?) at Seal on 10 June 1587 and stealing 4 cows worth £4. He was found guilty but allowed benefit of clergy¹⁴⁷. See **Grand Larceny in Walklyns in More Families & Transcripts** for details of benefit of clergy.

146 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

147 Cockburn (Eliz.) 1575

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More Families & Transcripts

The Gardners of Seal	page 2.g.4
The Gardners of Shipbourne	page 2.g.15
The Gardners of Ightham	page 2.g.16
Walter Gardner's Family	page 2.g.16
Walter Gardner in the Court Records	page 2.g.18
Isabel Gardner, widow	page 2.g.19
Robert Gardner and John Lovegrove	page 2.g.25
Other Gardners mentioned in the Court Records:	page 2.g.27
The Seventeenth Century Gardners	page 2.g.28
The Garlands of Ightham	page 2.g.29
Geffrey -	see Jeffrey in More Families & Transcripts
Will of Francis Giles, yeoman, of Speldhurst (extract)	page 2.g.32

The Glovers of Ightham	page 2.g.33
The Goddens of Ightham	page 2.g.35
Anthony Godden of Speldhurst	page 2.g.36
The Godfreys of Seal	page 2.g.41
John Godfrey, curate of Ightham	page 2.g.42
Olyver Godfrey, parson of Penshurst	page 2.g.42
John Goldsmith of Speldhurst	page 2.g.44
The Goldsmiths of Seal, Ightham & Shipbourne	page 2.g.54
Andrew Goldsmith of Bidborough	page 2.g.56
The Goldstones of Tudeley and Tonbridge	page 2.g.62
The Goldstone Family	page 2.g.63
The Wealthy Tanner	page 2.g.64
The Goodwyns of Ightham and Seal	page 2.g.77
The Goodwyns of Shipbourne	page 2.g.79
Henry Goodwyn of Shipbourne (1580)	page 2.g.81
John Goodwyn, wheelwright	page 2.g.87
Richard Goodwyn of Shipbourne	page 2.g.94
The Family of Henry Goodwyn and Elizabeth Collyns	page 2.g.101

The Gardners of Seal

Gardner was also written as "Gardiner". There were Gardners in Ightham (see below) but there is no obvious connection between the Ightham and Seal families.

A **John Gardner** witnessed the will of John French (#576¹⁴⁸) in 1578 perhaps the father of Thomas (#270, below) and John (#738, page 2.g.10) who could have been brothers. If the John who married Ursula Tanner in 1599 was #270's son, he would have been twenty-eight when he married so that this is a reasonable possibility.

The baptisms of over fifty Gardner children were recorded in Seal between 1571 and 1637.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died	
#270	<u>GARDNER, Thomas</u> -----		8 Nov 1568	Agnes Carter #271	1 5		
• #498	<u>GARDNER, John</u>	14 Jan 1571	9 Jul 1599	Ursula Tanner		1 3	
		see below for John and Ursula's descendants					
• #756	<u>Gardner, Elizabeth</u>	1 Nov 1573				0 0	
• #825	<u>Gardner, -</u>	17 May 1576				0 0 26 May 1578	
• #1087	<u>GARDNER, Richard</u>	22 Aug 1580				0 0	
• #1319	<u>GARDNER, Christopher</u>	8 Nov 1585				0 0	

#498	<u>GARDNER, John</u> -----	14 Jan 1571	9 Jul 1599	Ursula Tanner married at 28 yrs	1 3	
#1724	<u>Tanner, Ursula</u> -----	of Hadlow			1 3	
		bans published in both parishes (Seal and Hadlow)				
• #2664	<u>GARDNER, George</u>	4 Dec 1603				1 5
		for details of marriage and children see page 2.g.6				
• #2665	<u>GARDNER, John</u>	13 May 1610				0 0
• #2693	<u>GARDNER, John</u>	1 Oct 1615				1 5

If both these John Gardners were sons of #498, the first one, #2665 probably died before October 1615 when #2693 was born but the father of #2693 is not given in the parish record.

James (#901, see page 2.g.8) who married in 1638, could also have been a son of John and Ursula.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#2664	<u>GARDNER, George</u> -----	4 Dec 1603	17 Oct 1630(I)	Helen Ifield #2679	1	6	
● #3968	<u>GARDNER, William</u>	24 Aug 1631(I)					0 0
● #2680	<u>Gardner, Jane</u>	12 Oct 1634					0 0
● #2681	<u>GARDNER, James</u>	28 Dec 1636					0 0
● #2682	<u>Gardner, Elizabeth</u>	18 Oct 1640					0 0
● #2683	<u>GARDNER, George</u>	19 Aug 1645		"son of George and Ellin"			0 0
● #2684	<u>Gardner, Hannah</u>	12 Dec 1647		"da. of George and Hellin"			0 0

George and Helen married in Ightham where their first child was baptised. The Ifields were an Ightham family but it is not known where Helen "fits in".

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
	<u>GARDNER, John</u> -----		11 Jun 1637	Adria (Audrey) Hunt	1	5	
							#902
• #2694	<u>Gardner, Elizabeth</u>	6 May 1638					0 0
• #2695	<u>Gardner, Margaret</u>	23 Feb 1640					0 0
• #2696	<u>Gardner, Thomasine</u>	20 Mar 1642					0 0
• #2697	<u>GARDNER, William</u>	28 Feb 1649					0 0
• #2698	<u>Gardner, Alice</u>	16 Jun 1651					0 0

This John Gardner is likely to be either #2665 or #2693 in which case he married at either 27 or 21; he would expected to be in the **Knole MS of 1648** but he is not included.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#901	<u>GARDNER, James</u> -----		8 Apr 1638	Adriah (Audrey) Mace	1	6	
							#2686
			could have been the son of John, #498 - see page 2.g.5				
•	#2687 <u>Gardner, Mildred</u>	24 Feb 1639			0	0	1 Mar 1645
•	#2688 <u>Gardner, Mary</u>	27 Apr 1641			0	0	
•	#2689 <u>GARDNER, Thomas</u>	26 Feb 1643			0	0	
•	#2690 <u>Gardner, Elizabeth</u>	2 ??? 1645			0	0	
			"da. of James and Atherrew" (Awdrey/Awdry)				
•	#2691 <u>Gardner, Frances</u>	21 Feb 1647	daughter		0	0	
•	#2692 <u>GARDNER, George</u>	18 Feb 1649			0	0	

A possible tree for the above Gardners is given on the next page.

#270 Thomas - Agnes Carter #271

#498 | #1724 | #756 | #825 | #1087 | #1319 |
John - Ursula Tanner Elizabeth -- Richard Christopher
bap: 14 Jan 1571 | 1 Nov 1573 | 17 May 1576 | 22 Aug 1580 | 8 Nov 1585
| | died young |

#2664 | #2679 | #2665 | #2693 | #902 | #901 | #2686
George - Helen Ifield John John - Adria Hunt James - Adria Mace
bap: 4 Dec 1603 | 13 May 1610 | 1 Oct 1615 |

#3968 | #2680 | #2681 | #2682 | #2683 | #2684 | #2687 | #2688 | #2689 | #2690 | #2691 | #2692 |
William Jane James Elizabeth George Hannah Mildred Mary Thomas Elizabeth Frances George
bap: 24 Aug 1631 | 18 Dec 1636 | 19 Aug 1645 | 24 Feb 1639 | 26 Feb 1643 | 21 Feb 1647 |
bur: 12 Oct 1634 | 18 Oct 1640 | 12 Dec 1647 | 27 Apr 1641 | 2 ??? 1645 | 18 Feb 1649
| | | | 1 Mar 1645 |

#2694 | #2695 | #2696 | #2697 | #2698 |
Elizabeth Margaret Thomasine William Alice
bap: 6 May 1638 | 23 Feb 1640 | 20 Mar 1642 | 28 Feb 1649 | 16 Jun 1651

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
#738	<u>GARDNER, John</u> ----- <i>Marriage 1</i>		13 Apr 1578	Johane Clarke	1 9	
#739	<u>Clarke, Johane</u> -----				1 9	25 Jun 1595
• #903	<u>GARDNER, John</u>	13 Feb 1579			0 0	
• #1078	<u>GARDNER, Richard</u>	10 Apr 1580			0 0	18 Sep 1586
• #1128	<u>GARDNER, Thomas</u>	24 Sep 1581			1 9	
				for details of children see page 2.g.12		
• #1204	<u>Gardner, Elizabeth</u>	22 Sep 1583	29 Jan 1618	John FRENCH married at 34	1 4	
				#1253 see Families & Transcripts		
• #1295	<u>GARDNER, Robert</u>	21 Mar 1585	5 Oct 1611	Margery Barre married at 26	1 1	
				#1322 see Families & Transcripts		
• • #2199	<u>Gardner, Clemence</u>	2 Oct 1612			0 0	4 Oct 1612
• #1389	<u>GARDNER, Gregory</u>	17 Jul 1586			0 0	
• #1509	<u>GARDNER, William</u>	28 Apr 1588			0 0	
• #1599	<u>GARDNER, Steven</u>	26 Apr 1590	13 Nov 1614	Elizabeth Gaunte married at 24	1 4	
				#2045		
				for details of children see page 2.g.13		
• #1839	<u>Gardner, Johane</u>	9 Feb 1595	22 Aug 1626	Roger WOOD if it was this Johane who married Wood, she married at 31	#2699 1 6	

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
#738	<u>GARDNER, John</u> -----				2 10	
	<i>Marriage 2</i>		12 Jul 1696	Dorothy Porter	1 1	
#762	<u>Porter, Dorothy</u> -----	14 Feb 1574	12 Jul 1596		1 1	4 Aug 1628 age 54
			married at 22; husband at least sixteen years older			
•	#1925 <u>GARDNER, John</u>	13 May 1599	6 Aug 1621	Joane Vanson married at 22 yrs #2076	1 5	
•	• #2703 <u>Gardner, Johane</u>		5 Jun 1622			0 0 12 Jun 1622
•	• #2704 <u>Gardner, Elizabeth</u>		20 Jul 1623			0 0
•	• #2705 <u>GARDNER, Richard</u>		9 Jul 1626			0 0
•	• #2706 <u>GARDNER, Mark</u>		7 Apr 1634			0 0
•	• #2707 <u>GARDNER, Thomas</u>		4 Jun 1637			0 0

Thomas was the "son of John and Joane" so that it looks like same mother for all five children

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#1128	<u>GARDNER, Thomas</u> ¹⁴⁹ -----	24 Sep 1581			1	9	
• #2667	<u>GARDNER, Jacob</u>	19 Apr 1610			0	0	
• #2668	<u>GARDNER, Richard</u>	7 Aug 1614			0	0	
• #2669	<u>Gardner, Susanna</u>	18 Aug 1616			0	0	
• #2670	<u>Gardner, Judith</u>	30 May 1619			0	0	
• #2671	<u>Gardner, Jane</u>	25 Feb 1621			0	0	
• #2672	<u>Gardner, Mercy</u>	9 Mar 1623			0	0	
• #2673	<u>Gardner, Elizabeth</u>	2 May 1624	19 Sep 1652	Thomas WATES married at 28	1	0	
• #2674	<u>GARDNER, Christopher</u>			no baptism recorded	0	0	6 Sep 1625
• #2675	<u>Gardner, Katherine</u>	17 Jun 1627			0	0	

149 In 1630, Robert Pelsett, the eldest son of Richard Pelsett of Seal, left "two old doublets and a pair of breeches" to his neighbour, Thomas Gardner who could have been #1128.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#1599	<u>GARDNER, Steven</u> ¹⁵⁰ -----	26 Apr 1590	13 Nov 1614	Elizabeth Gaunte married at 24		1 4	
• #2676	<u>GARDNER, William</u>	13 Jun 1618				0 0	27 Jun 1625
• #2677	<u>Gardner, Elizabeth</u>	30 Sep 1621	6 Jan 1647	George ASHDOWN married at 25		1 1	
• #3809	<u>Gardner, Jane</u>	10 Oct 1624	daughter of "- Gardner"			0 0	
• #2678	<u>Gardner, Martha</u>	15 Mar 1629				0 0	
• #2685	<u>GARDNER, James</u>	2 Oct 1636				0 0	

A possible tree for the family of John #738 is given on the next page.

150 there are large gaps between #1599's children - five children (assuming Jane belongs here) with 18 years between the first and last one recorded but James is recorded as the "son of Steven and Elizabeth" so that it looks like the same mother for them all

The Gardners of Shipbourne

In Shipbourne, on 1st January 1607, **James** (\$867¹⁵²), the son of **Christopher Gardner** (\$865), was baptised. This Christopher could have been #1319, the son of Thomas, baptised in Seal in 1585 (see above).

There were three marriages in Shipbourne:

George Gardner (\$898) married **Elizabeth Fielden** (\$900) on 23rd February 1608 “being formerly asked 3 several sabbaths at **Wrotham** as by a testimonial appeareth”

John Gardner (\$1831) married **Joan** (\$1832, surname not given) on 20th June 1642.
Joan Gardner (\$1997) married **Samuel Price** (\$1894) on 2nd January 1645.

Both John and Joan could have been Christopher's children.

The **Elizabeth, wife of George Gardner**, who was buried in **Kemsing** on 27 October 1633 could have been Elizabeth Fielden.

152 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

The Gardners of Ightham

Gardner was also written as "Gardiner". There were a large number of Gardners in Seal but there are no obvious connections between them and those living in Ightham

The will of Walter Gardner, dated 10th June 1612 and proved at the PCC and the original as well as the probate copy has survived (**PCC: Capell 31; Prob 10/300**).

Only the first and last pages have been transcribed. page 2.g.20

This will was written by **George Salmon** who wrote others wills in the locality from at least 1611 up to 1632 although only six have been found, the other five being from Brenchley. Since they are not decorated to the same extent as many of the wills written by the Hoopers, they are not so easy to discover.

Walter Gardner's Family

Although only the first and last pages of the will have been transcribed, it is obvious that Johane was Walter's only child alive when he wrote his will; she was

baptised on 17th May 1576 and would therefore have been thirty-eight. She does not appear to be married and Walter makes his nephew William Were (or Ware) of Brenchley his heir and executor. This connection with Brenchley may explain how the will came to be written by a scriptor of wills from that parish.

<i>will:</i>	i712 ¹⁵³	Walter - Margaret Goodwyn	i758		i772	Mary - Thomas Ware	i771 ¹⁵⁴							
	10 Jun 1612													
<i>bap:</i>	i759		i760		i761		i773		i966		i967		i1246	
	Walter		Johane		Thomas		Walter		William		Isabell		Thomas	
	Sep 1573		17 May 1576		7 Jun 1579		1 Mar 1573		23 May 1579		16 Sep 1582		14 Apr 1584	
<i>bur:</i>	23 Sep 1573				22 Feb 1602 ¹⁵⁵		¹⁵⁶				3 Oct 1582			

-
- 153 "i" indicates reference in the Ightham database; William and Margaret were married, in Ightham, in February 1571; since she is not mentioned in his will, Margaret presumably died before 1612
 - 154 married 23rd January 1572; if "Marie Ward" who was buried in 1624 was Thomas's wife or widow, she was in her seventies when she died
 - 155 this burial is likely to be that of the son of i712 since Walter did not have a son alive when he wrote his will; if so, Thomas was twenty-one when he died
 - 156 Walter Gardner refers only to William and Thomas Ware; did Walter die before 1612 or had he left the area?

Walter sister's Mary was married to Thomas Ware who occupied two copyhold tenancies and appears a number of times in the Court Records - see [Ware in More Families and Transcripts](#) for details.

Walter Gardner in the Court Records

Walter Gardner appeared a number of times in the Court Records:

- In the autumn of 1587, he was attacked by **John Goffe** - see [John Goffe of Ightham in Families & Transcripts](#)
- On 11th October 1592, Walter Gardner was fined 12d for having assaulted **John Bound** in the highway at Ightham on 12th September (CRI 1938, p.5)
- On 11th October 1597, **Walter Gardner and Isabel Gardner, widow**, were presented to the Court for receiving a stranger - **John Skele**. They were to be fined £5 if he was not removed or sureties found. (CRI 1938, p.18)

At the same Court as Walter and Isabel were presented for harbouring John Skele, John Skeile, labourer, was one of those found guilty of having cut down various "[beeches and byrches](#)" in the lord's wood. Thus the need for sureties to be found if

he were to stay seems a reasonable precaution. Stay he seems to have done since a year later, at the Court held on 8th May 1598, **John Skeale** was himself to be fined 40s if the "stranger" **Jerome Symons** stayed without sureties being found for him. (CRI 1938, p.18) Does this last extract refer to the same man as the first two?

On 7th August 1597. James, the son of — Symons was baptised and on 17th April 1603 the son of Jeremy Simons. It thus looks as if "Jerome Symons" stayed in Ightham.

Isabel Gardner, widow

Presumably the Isabel Gardner, widow, presented to the court in 1597 was the Isabel Gardner, widow, who was buried on 30th November 1603. Since it appears she was living with Walter, was she his mother? If so she would have been in her seventies.

On 16th April 1601 Isabel Gardener was presented to the Court because she had, "within the last five months, erected a cottage at **Radwell**¹⁵⁷ in Ightham and 'hath not laid unto it' four acres of land, contrary to law". (CRI 1938, p.10) Does this

157 **Radwell/Redwell** was one of the eight Ightham hamlets, 3/4 mile south-west of Ightham village.

mean that each cottage had to have a minimum of four acres of land attached to it? Was this the Isabell Gardner, widow, brought before the Court in 1597? One can build an interesting picture of Walter's widowed mother erecting a cottage so that she need no longer be dependent on her son but these snippets are all we have to go on.

Will of Walter Gardner of Ightham

written 10th June 1612; proved April 1613

transcript from original

1 In the name of god Amen. The tenth day of June in the tenth year of the
reign
2 of our most gracious Sovereign Lord King James, by the grace of god king
of England, France
3 and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. And of Scotland the 45th. Ao Dm.
1612. I, Walter
4 Gardner, of the parish of Ightham in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being
some what diseased
5 in body but of good and perfect remembrance, thanks be given to Almighty
god, do make and
6 ordain this my present testament and last will in manner and form
following (videlt)

7 **First and Principally** I commit my soul into the hands of Almighty god, my
8 only saviour and redeemer; And my body to buried¹⁵⁸ at the discretion of
my executors
9 hereunder named. **Item:** I will to be bestowed at the day of my burial, by
my executor,
10 13s 4d of lawful money of England to be distributed amongst the poor
people of Ightham
11 aforesaid. **The residue** of all my moveable goods whatsoever I give and
bequeath unto **William**
12 **Were** of **Brenchley, tailor, my sister's son**, whom I do make and
13 ordain my executor of this my present testament and last will. And I do
make and appoint
14 my loving friend **John Oliver of Bitchett in the parish of Seal**¹⁵⁹ overseer of
this my present
15 testament and last will desiring him to see the same well and truly
performed according to
16 the intent and meaning hereof. And I give unto him for his pains herein
taking, besides his

158 "be" omitted

159 John Olyver of Bitchett (#1200) died in 1622 when he was about sixty - see [Olyver in Families & Transcripts](#)

17 charges and expenses touching the same, 5s. This is the last will and
testament of me,
18 the above named Walter Gardner, made and declared the day and year
above written
19 touching the order and disposition, all and singular, my messuages or
tenements and lands
20 whatsoever, situated, lying and being in Ightham aforesaid. **Item:** I will,
give and
21 devise unto the above named William Were, all and singular my
messuages or tenements
22 belonging and lands whatsoever in Ightham aforesaid, withall and singular
th'appurtenances, to have
23 and to hold the same and every part and parcel thereof, with
th'appurtenances, unto the said William Were . .

last page:

- it shalbe lawful to and for the said Thomas Were and his assigns into all
and singular my said
- messuages and lands whatsoever, aforesaid, to enter and distrain and the
distress and dispossesses
- therefore taken and found to impound, keep and withhold until the foresaid
yearly sum

- before willed, with th'arearages thereof (if any such be unto the said Thomas or his
- assigns) be fully contented, satisfied and paid. **Furthermore** and lastly, my will and
- mind is that **Mary, my sister**, shall have the one half of the yearly rent of my
- foresaid messuages or tenements and land for and during the term of her natural life, to be
- paid unto her, the foresaid Mary or her assigns, by the forenamed William Were, my
- executor, or by his¹⁶⁰ executors or assigns, half yearly to the same Mary or her
- assigns to be truly without any trouble to be paid. The gift before yearly going and to
- be paid out of the said messuages and lands unto the foresaid **Johane, my daughter**
- And **Thomas Were** only excepted. Any thing before in this present to the contrary
- notwithstanding. And I, the foresaid Walter Gardner, do by those present, make

- void all former wills and gifts whatsoever before by me made and do hold this for
- my present testament and last will and no other. In witness whereof I the foresaid
- Walter Gardner, have hereunto put and seal the day and year before written

Witnesses hereunto

**Edward Prawle, Thomas
Hofmer, Thomas Caroath?
George Salmon (script.)**

Sign.per me Edward
Prawle

Sign.per me ¹⁶² Thomas
Johnson

Signed per me ¹⁶¹
Walter
Gardner

161 complicated mark; looks like two golfclubs with heads to the right

162 Edward Prawle - vertical cross; Johnson - "Y" with leg extended upwards; was Johnson one of the surnames above?

Robert Gardner and John Lovegrove

Robert Gardner, ale taster, who was buried 20th May 1595 was another Gardner to appear a number of times in the Court Records:

- Robert Gardner was fined 3s 4d on 14th April 1586 for "[spoiling, breaking down and carrying away the Lord's wood](#)". (CRI 1938, p.35)
- On 4th October 1586, it was found that Robert Gardner had allowed **John Goffe** to come within the precincts of the View of the Frank-pledge without sureties for his good behaviour - see [John Goffe in Families & Transcripts](#)
- Two and a half years later, on 11th April 1589, he was presented to the Court for a similar offence having "[received certain strangers into his houses, namely Margaret Warren, Jane Usmer and Ellen Busbye, who have not found pledges for their good behaviour but live unlawfully and overburden the common of the lord. To remove them or find sureties under penalty 6s 8d.](#)" (CRI 1938, p.15)
- On 5th April 1592, he and John Lovegrove were each to be fined 10s if **Robert Launder** (see [Launder in More Families & Transcripts](#)) stayed without sureties being found for him (CRI 1938, p.17).

- On 17th October 1594 yet again he was presented for receiving a stranger - see **Christopher Budd** in [Excerpts from Ightham Court Rolls in Families & Transcripts](#).

John Lovegrove (i1285) had two children baptised in Ightham:

Anne Lovegrove (i1287) on 17th July 1586

John Lovegrove (i1349) on 8th September 1588

He died before 24th April 1599 since, on that date, the jury "were given till the next Court to inquire whether John Lovegrove, lately a tenant of this manor, died without any heir and afterwards to certify to the Court." At the Court held eighteen months later, on 20th October 1600, "at the instance of the jury, a time was named for anyone who as next heir of John Lovegrove could claim a tenement and garden containing half an acre of land in Trice Lane, to come to the next Court, or else the premises should be seized into the hands of the lord as escheat." (CRI 1938, p.44,45) It looks as if John's wife and children died before John himself.

There is an earlier mention of a **Robert Gardner**, in 1558, with regard to a piece of copyhold land of which he was to have the use at a rent of 5d per annum - see [Hawke in More Families & Transcripts](#) for details.

Other Gardners mentioned in the Court Records:

- 1553-74 Robert Gardner, borsholder - he could have been the Robert
occupying the copyhold land
(see above)
- Steven Gardner**
- 1586-1618 **Jane Gardner**

The Seventeenth Century Gardners

Elizabeth Gardiner (i1848) married **Thomas Bruton** (i1847) on 8th June 1600; their daughter **Dorothy** (i1849) was baptised on 20th September 1601.

Margery (i2210), the wife of **Henry Gardner** (i2209), was buried on the 20th February 1618.

Robert Gardner (i762) married **Susan Baker** (i763) on 15th June 1618. A Robert Gardner was buried on 2nd September 1623; if this was Susan's husband, he died only five years after the marriage.

The Garlands of Ightham

A three generation family has been built up from the parish records starting with Robert Garland who married Agnes Staly in 1598; this is shown on the next page. Earlier, **Richard Garland** was one of the church wardens in 1560; perhaps he was the father of i68¹⁶³ or even his grandfather. A **John Garland** was mentioned in the Court Records for 1553-74.

On 20th October 1600, **Mary, wife of Edward Lambard**, and the **wife of John Garland** were presented to the Court for having "**assaulted John Johnson, drawing blood.**". Both the husbands were were fined 20d (CRI 1938, p.6)

Agnes Garland (i83?), and **Robert Garland (i68)** were mentioned in the Court Records for 1586-1618.

In **Shipbourne**, on 24th September 1643 **Dorothy Garland** (\$1910) married **Thomas Godfrey** (\$1901); nothing more is known of either of them.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
i68	<u>GARLAND, Robert</u> ----- 		17 Jul 1598	Agnes Staly 147	1 4	
i47	<u>Staly, Agnes</u> -----	25 Nov 1565		married at 32	1 4	
• i75	<u>GARLAND, Robert</u> 			Anne Garland(m)	1 2	> Jun 1647
• i76	<u>Garland(m), Anne</u>			"wife of Robert Garland" when buried	1 2	25 Jun 1647
• • i78	<u>Garland, Agnes</u>			"dau. of Robert Garland she could have been a daughter of #68 dying in her teens, or even i71 (below) with "Anne" becoming "Agnes"	0 0	2 Aug 1623
• • i77	<u>Garland, Anne</u>		20 May 1624		0 0	
• • i470	<u>Garland, Margaret</u>		19 Apr 1629		0 0	17 Sep 1629
				5 months old when she died		
• i69	<u>GARLAND, William</u>	2 May 1602			1 1	
• • i469	<u>Garland, Alice</u>	26 Dec 1628			0 0	
• i70	<u>GARLAND, John</u>	8 Jan 1604			0 0	18 May 1633
				if baptism and burial refer to the same John, he died aged 29		
• i71	<u>Garland, Anne</u>	9 Feb 1606			0 0	

There were two women, both "[Anne, wife of Robert Garland](#)" whose burials were recorded on, respectively, 27 April 1630 and 25 Jun 1647. The one who died in

1630 could have been the wife of i75 whose daughter Margaret was buried in September 1629. Alternatively, was Agnes, the wife of i68 recorded as "Anne" in which case she is the more likely one to have died in 1630 when she would have been 65. There could, of course, have been another Robert Garland.

On 4th May 1612 **Agnes Garland** (i83) married **Thomas Hayman** (i84). "**Thomas Hayman, borsholder**" was mentioned in the Court Records for 1586-1618 but no children were recorded for Thomas and Agnes. Agnes Hayman "**widow and householder**" was buried on 12th April 1629.

Richard Garland (i72) married **Elizabeth Fenn** (i73) on 16th November 1616 and their daughter, **Alice** (i74) was baptised on 10th March 1617 only four months after the marriage.

Lucy Garland, widow, (i82), married **John Coomber** (i2465) on 2nd September 1633. Who was her first husband?

First and principally I commit my soul into the hands of Almighty god, my creator, who made me of nothing that I might be something in his sight, and of Jesus Christ, my redeemer, steadfastly believing to have free remission and forgiveness of all my sins through his death and passion. And for my body, being but earth, I commend the same to the earth from which it came, to be interred at the discretion of my executrix.

Witnesses: Robert Stretfeild, William Beavis, Thomas Constable, sriptor

The Glovers of Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i540 ¹⁶⁴	<u>GLOVER, Bartholomew</u> ----- 		6 Feb 1563	Alice Parker 180	1	9	12 Dec 1600
i80	<u>Parker, Alice</u> -----				1	9	25 Feb 1623
• i79	<u>GLOVER, John</u>	2 Apr 1564			0	0	
• i541	<u>GLOVER, William</u>	26 Feb 1567			0	0	
• i542	<u>GLOVER, Thomas</u>	4 Sep 1569			0	0	
• i543	<u>Glover, Elizabeth</u>	9 Mar 1572			0	0	
• i544	<u>Glover, Katherine</u>	4 Sep 1575		1600 Edward Bett married at 25, in Merryworth	1	0	
• i545	<u>Glover, Joane</u> if the baptism and burial refer to the same person, Joanne did not marry and died when she was 61	1 Jun 1578			0	0	27 Dec 1640
• i546	<u>Glover, Marie</u>	6 Nov 1580			0	0	
• i547	<u>GLOVER, Robert</u>	30 Mar 1584			0	0	
• i548	<u>GLOVER, William</u>	4 Dec 1586			0	0	

Bartholomew Glover was mentioned in the Court Records for 1586-1618. "Alice Glover, widow" was buried in 1623; if this was Alice Parker, she lived 22 years as a widow; the nine children of Bartholomew Glover were born over 22 years.

A large number of wills for **yeomen and husbandmen Glovers of Cudham** have survived but they have not been investigated.

The Goddens of Ightham

The Goddens of Seal are detailed in [Families & Transcripts](#) and the will of Anthony Godden of Speldhurst below, An area in the south of the parish of Seal is called "Godden Green".

In Ightham **Peter Goddin** was mentioned in the Court Records for 1586-1618. On 11th March 1591, **Mabille** (i1508), daughter of **Robert Godden** (i1506) was baptised. There is no obvious place where Mabille fits in with the Goddens of Seal.

Anthony Godden of Speldhurst

Only the first page of Anthony Godden's will (CKS: Drb/Pw 30; Drb/Pwr 22.359) has been transcribed. It was written by a professional scribe but the writing is not that of George Hooper or Thomas Leddall, two of those writing at that time.. There were Goddens in Seal and Ryarsh ([Families & Transcripts](#)) but there is no obvious connection with Anthony.

Anthony had two brothers to whom he left twelve pence each. Samuel, the son of a third brother, was his executor and was to inherit Anthony's lands in Ash, Meopham and Stansted which were about fifteen miles north of Speldhurst and near to Trottscliffe where one of his brothers lived. He left forty shillings to the "[poor of that parish where it shall happen my body to be buried](#)" perhaps indicating that he spent a considerable time in places other than Speldhurst.

1 In the name of God Amen. The twenty fourth
2 day of May in the fifteenth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord Charles
3 of land, Scotland, France and Ireland king, defender of the faith, etc. Anno
Dm 1639,
4 I, Anthony Godden of Speldhest¹⁶⁵ als. Spildherst in the county of Kent,
yeoman,
5 being in perfect bodily health and good remembrance, thanks be given
unto Almighty God,
6 therefore do make and ordain this to be my last will and testament in
manner and form
7 following, that is to say, **First** and principally I commend my soul into the
hands of Almighty
8 God and of Jesus Christ, my creator and redeemer by whose precious blood
shedding I hope to be
9 saved. And I commit my body to the earth in decent manner to be buried.
Item: I give and bequeath

165 "Speldherst

10 to the poor of that parish where it shall happen my body to be buried forty
shillings of good and
11 lawful money of England to be distributed unto them at my burial. **Item:** I
give and bequeath unto
12 **my brother, Thomas Godden of Trottiscliffe**¹⁶⁶ twelve pence of lawful
money to be paid unto him within
13 one year next after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath **my brother**
James Godden of
14 **Bidborough**¹⁶⁷ twelve pence of lawful money to be paid unto him within
one year next after my decease.
15 **The residue** of all my goods and chattells I give and bequeath unto **Samuel**
Godden, son of
16 **my brother Stephen Godden**, whom I make and ordain the whole and sole
executor of this my last
17 will and testament. **And whereas** I, the said Anthony hath by indenture
bearing date the first

166 "Trottiscliffe"; about eleven miles northeast of Spelhurst

167 "Bidborough"; adjacent parish

18 day of April in the year of our lord god one thousand six hundred, etc¹⁶⁸.
made between me, the
19 said Anthony of the first part, yeoman, and the said Stephen, my brother,
and one **Thomas Saxpes**, of the other
20 part for the considerations in the said ?? indenture expressed and
declared, co?? ied and ass??? in
21 the said ?? indenture unto the said Samuel after my decease. All my
messuages, lands and
22 tenements whatsoever with their appurtenances, situated lying and being
within the parishes of **Ash, Meopham,**
23 ?? and **Stansted** in the said county of Kent, he the said Samuel, his heirs,
executors or
24 assigns paying all such sum or sums of money and legacies to all and
every such person and persons all
25 and every such time and time and in all and every such manner and form
as I, the said Anthony, by this
26 my last will and testament, under my hand and seal made the day and
year above written
27 have limited or appointed to be paid after my decease. **And if** the said
Samuel Godden, his

168 does this indicate he was not sure of the year?

28 heirs, executors and assigns, shall make default in the payment of such
sums of money or legacies or
29 any of them or any part or parcel of them, that then the person or persons
to whom any such sum or
30 sums of money or legacies shall be given or appointed to be paid as
aforesaid. And which shall be for
31 behind and unpaid. their heirs and assigns shall enter into the said
messuages, lands and premises
32 and take the issues and profits thereof unto his, her and their own use and
behooof until he, she,
33 they and every of them so behind and unpaid, shall have received of the
issues and profits
34 thereof as much as shall amount unto the same sums of money and
legacies so to be given, ??
35 or appointed to be paid unto him, her, or them. And the damages and
costs which he, she, they
36 or any of them shall sustain or be?? for or by reason of the none payment
or recovery of this sum

The Godfreys of Seal

There were two Godfrey families in Seal in the 1640s

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
#2778 ¹⁶⁹	<u>GODFREY, Thomas</u>			Mary Godfrey(m)	1 4	
		listed in Knole MS of 1648 for Seal village				
#2780	<u>Godfrey(m), Mary</u>				1 4	1 Aug 1652
• #2781	<u>GODFREY, John</u>	6 Feb 1642				0 0
• #2782	<u>GODFREY, Daniel</u>	31 Mar 1644				0 0 9 Jul 1653
• #2783	<u>GODFREY, George</u>	11 Feb 1648				0 0
• #2784	<u>GODFREY, Robert</u>	21 Jan 1651				0 0 17 Sep 1653
#2779	<u>GODFREY, Oliver</u>			Mary Godfrey(m) #2785	1 3	
	-----	expected to be in Knole MS of 1648 but was not included				
• #2786	<u>GODFREY, Pistor</u>	19 Dec 1647	son			0 0 3 Jan 1648
• #2787	<u>Godfrey, Elizabeth</u>	11 Sep 1651				0 0
• #2788	<u>Godfrey, Mary</u>	19 Jul 1653				0 0

169 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

John Godfrey, curate of Ightham

John Godfrey was the curate of Ightham in 1552 when an inventory of the parish goods was taken.

Olyver Godfrey, parson of Penshurst

Olyver Godfrey/Godfraye, **clerk**, was the parson of Penshurst in 1550. In his will of that year (PCC: Coode 20) he asked to be “buried in the place which I have prepared in Penshurst church if it chance me to leave my life there, if in London then in the cathedral church of Paules near Mr. Doctor Cokks”. He also left a “rent of 30s I bought of lands of William Moyses of Penshurst called Swaylandes, 20s to find a sexton in the parish of Penshurst or such other use for the most profit and benefit of the parish”.¹⁷⁰

170 Duncan, 1906, p.59

John Goldsmith of Speldhurst

This will (CKS: Drb/Pw 15; Drb/Pwr 17.294) was written by Nicholas Hooper who wrote a large number of wills from the 1580s to his death in 1613. It has a small version of his mark at the top and the “I” and “A” in the phrase “In the name of God Amen” are both decorated.

Both sides of the will have rotted so that the beginnings and ends of the lines are often difficult to read; the probate copy has not been examined. John, the elder, appears to have two sons, Thomas and John (his second son) and two daughters who were underage when he wrote his will. There are complications regarding the payment of his legacies to his daughters - see the notes within the will.

A further complication arises at the end of the will - line 68 - where John, the testator introduces his eldest son John:

“my said son John, . . . pay to my eldest son John, . . . three pounds lawful money. And my said son Thomas, . . . shall pay to the said John, my eldest son, . . . 20s. All to be paid within one whole year next after my decease in full recompense of any title of my said eldest son of and in any of my land and tenements aforesaid”.

It would appear that the testator had two sons called John, the eldest perhaps by a first wife.

Will of John Goldsmith of Speldhurst

written 9th March 1588

transcript from original

Nicolas Hooper's
mark

1 In the name of god Amen. The ninth day of March in the year of our
2 lord god one thousand, five hundred, four score and seven. And in the
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, John Goldsmith
5 the elder, of Speldhurst in the county of Kent, **shovelmaker**, being sick and
weak

6 in body but yet of perfect mind and remembrance, thanks therefore be¹⁷¹
given to god almighty,
7 do make this my present testament and last will in manner and form
following¹⁷²: And
8 **First** and principally I give, commend and bequeath my soul into the hands
of Almighty
9 god, my maker, beseeching him, for the merits of his dear son, Jesus
Christ, my only
10 redeemer and saviour, that the same may be presented (as my hope is it
shall), without spot
11 before the throne of his majesty. And my body to be buried in the
churchyard of
12 Speldhurst aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath equally between my **two**
sons, John
13 **Goldsmith, the younger, and Thomas Goldsmith,** all my shop tools and
stock ?? ??
14 to the same shop, to be had and enjoyed equally between them. ?? ??
15 whereof I will that they, my two sons, shall pay all my debts, ?? ??
16 ?? to such persons as I owe the same. **The residue** of ??

171 "bee" and "mee" throughout

172 "folowing", Hooper's usual spelling

17 ?? whatsoever and debts to me owing and corn in the ground, I wholly,
fully ?? ??
18 ?? give and bequeath to **Phillis, my wellbeloved wife**, which Phillis I ??
19 ?? the whole and sole executrix, to see this my will proved and my body
??
20 brought to the earth. And I will that the said Phillis, before her decease
21 shall will or bequeath to my two daughters, viz. **Johane** and **Agnes**, some
part of the
22 ??, what part to her shall seem good. And I desire my **brother William**
Goldsmith to
23 be supervisor and overseer of this my will to whom their¹⁷³ pains ?? of
24 my good will over and above their charge and way about this my will to be
laid out
25 the sum of 3s 4d a piece. **Item:** I give and bequeath to my eldest son
John¹⁷⁴ 20s to be paid within
26 one whole year next after my decease.

173 "his" changed to "their" here and on the next line and "a piece" added on line 25 without the mention of anyone other than his brother William; although the sides of the will have decayed, there does not appear to be space for another name to have been added. Perhaps the probate copy would show this name. - see also the note to the witnesses

174 see line 68

27 **This is the last** will of me the said John Goldsmith, the elder, made and
28 declared the day and year first above written, concerning all my lands and
29 tenements
30 with appurtenances lying and being in Speldhurst aforesaid and **Tonbridge**
31 in the
32 said county. **And first** I give and bequeath to the said Phillis, my wife, all
33 that my messuage wherein I now dwell¹⁷⁵, one garden, one orchard,
34 ?? one parcel of land thereto adjoining now in two divided, called the
35 **lower Reede**, by estimation
36 6 acres more or less and also two other parcels of land lying on the other
37 side of the way??
38 the shop called **Rowes meade** and **Lower Curth?** land, containing by
39 estimation 6 acres
40 ?? in Tonbridge in the said county. To have and to hold the same, with
41 all and
42 singular th'appurtenances, unto the said Phillis, my wife, during the whole
43 time of her

page 2:

37 natural life. And she keeping the reparations and making no wilful waste
38 in and upon

175 "with the edifice thereto be" crossed out

38 the same. And after her decease I will and bequeath all the said messuage
and all the
39 said parcels of land before named together with my shop to my son
Thomas, to have and
40 to hold the same, with all and singular th'appurtenances , unto the said
Thomas, my son, his heirs
41 and assigns forever. And I will that the said Thomas, my son, his heirs or
assigns, shall pay out of the
42 said land to him willed the sum of fifteen pounds of lawful money to my
two daughters
43 aforesaid, viz. to my daughter Agnes ten pounds thereof and to my
daughter Johane five pounds
44 ?? thereof, at their and either of their several days of marriage or ages of
21 years
45 which shall first happen. And if either of them happen to decease before
their or either of
46 said age or marriage aforesaid, then I will her part so deceased shall
remain and be paid
47 to the overliver. And if they or either of them shalbe unpaid at the day,
days or times
48 aforesaid, contrary to the meaning of this my will, then I will that they or
she who

49 shalbe so unpaid shall enter in and upon all the said parcel of meadow
called Rowes meade
50 to hold to her and them so unpaid and to her and their heirs forever.¹⁷⁶
Item: I
51 will and bequeath all other my lands not afore named, viz. one barn and
seven several
52 parcels of land thereto adjoining called **Newmarle**, three yards, **Richard**
burwine, Middlefield
53 **Uppercroft, Uppermeade** and the **Middlemeade** with a little house (upon
Richard burwine) in
54 the occupation of **Alice Long**¹⁷⁷ containing in the whole by estimation 25?
acres ??
55 ?? be had together, situated, lying and being in Speldhurst aforesaid.
And
56 one other parcel of land and meadow called **Upper Lawte Land** and
Milpens containing by estimation
57 ?? 3 acres and a half, together lying and being in Tonbridge aforesaid, to
my son

176 what if Phillis was still alive when Agnes and/or Johane married or reached the age of twenty-one? Only Thomas seems to have been instructed to pay the money. Would he be liable to pay it as a back-dated amount when he came into his inheritance?

177 this surname is difficult to read; what has been taken here as "L" could be two or three letters

58 John Goldsmith, the younger, my second son. To have and to hold the
same, with all and singular
58 th'appurtenances , unto the said John, my said second son, his heirs and
assigns, forever. And
59 I will that the said John, my said second son, his heirs or assigns, shall
pay, or cause to
60 be paid, to my said daughter Johane the sum of £5 lawful money at her age
of 21 years
61 or the day of her marriage which shall first happen. And if she decease
before, then
62 the sum of £5 shalbe paid to my said daughter Agnes at her age of 21 years
or
63 the day of her marriage, which shall first happen. And if she decease
before, then
64 the said sum of £5 shalbe paid to my said daughter Agnes at her age of 21
years or
65 on the day of her marriage, which shall first happen. And for lack of
payment of the said
66 £5, I will that the said Johane or Agnes so unpaid shall enter in and upon
the said parcel called
67 Upper Lawte land and the same shall enjoy to her and her heirs forever.
And I will

68 that my said son John, his heirs or assigns, shall pay to my eldest son
John, his heirs or assigns, the ??
69 ?? three pounds lawful money. And my said son Thomas, his heirs or
assigns, shall pay to the said ??
70 my eldest son, his heirs or assigns, 20s. All to be paid within one whole
year
71 next after my decease in full recompense of any title of my said eldest son
of and in
72 any of my land and tenements aforesaid. In witness whereof
73 ?? ?? set my hand and seal the day and year first
74 above written in the presence of **Nicholas Hooper, Robert**
75 ??¹⁷⁸ above named, William Goldsmith above named
76 John ?? and

William Goldsmith
Thomas Oxenbridge

178 no Robert was mentioned in the will (or at least not in the readable parts); was he the joint overseer with William Goldsmith - see line 23

at the right hand side of the page by the witnesses is :

the mark of			John
Gold	_____		_____ Smith
	_____		_____
the			elder

The Goldsmiths of Seal, Ightham & Shipbourne

Here are recorded a number of isolated events concerning the Goldsmiths.

In **Seal**, on 20th June 1576, **Margaret** (#975¹⁷⁹), the daughter of **John Goldsmith** (#973), was baptised.

In **Ightham**, a **Thomas Gouldsmith** was mentioned in the Court Records 1586-1618. On 9th November 1595, **Thomas Goldsmith** (i1709) was baptised.

In **Shipbourne**, on 25th May 1599, **Stephen** (\$453), the son of **Edward Goldsmith** (\$451) was baptised.

In **Shipbourne**, on 9th June 1617, **Thomas Goldsmith** (\$1200) married **Anne Black** (\$1202).

In **Shipbourne**, on 14th November 1631, **William Goldsmith** (\$1554) married **Mary Burgess** (\$1562).

179 # indicates a reference in the Seal database, "i" in the Ightham database and \$ in that for Shipbourne

In **Ightham**, on 7th February 1636, **Edward Goldsmith** (i2501) married **Elizabeth Gransden** (i2052) and their daughter, **Anne** (i2502) was baptised on 22nd October 1637. Unfortunately she died soon after, being buried on 5th November 1637. See the **Gransdens** (page 2.g.111)

In **Shipbourne**, on 8th May 1642, **Elizabeth Goldsmith** (\$1829) married **Myles Lusted** (\$1823).

Andrew Goldsmith of Bidborough

Andrew's will (PCC: Evelyn 154; Prob 11/187), written by Thomas Leddall in December 1641, has a very similar preamble to that of William Pilgrim (see [Pilgrim in Families & Transcripts](#)) which was also written by Leddall.

Andrew had three sons to each of whom he left two shillings. Were they "cut off" with twice the usual shilling or had they been preferred earlier so that it was thought reasonable for Andrew to make his bequests to his daughters? The first seems the more likelier reason since he made his son-in-law, George Piper, his executor.

Andrew refers to Sara as his "now wife" a term which is usually used to refer to a second wife. But Sara was the daughter of George Stubberfield of Penshurst whose will of 1605 has survived (see [Stubberfield in More Families & Transcripts](#)). He left Joseph Goldsmith, his godson, £1 with ten shillings to each of his other children. It thus seems that Sara had been his wife for about forty years when Andrew wrote his will - unless Sara Stubberfield had died and Andrew had remarried with his second wife having the same first name.

x1203 Andrew - Sara

Stubberfield x727/p727

will:

11 Dec 1641 |

x1420 | x1421 | x1425 x1422 |
x1423 x1426 x1424 |
Joseph Joane - Thomas Eldridge Andrew Elizabeth - George Piper Thomas

Will of Andrew Goldsmith of Bidborough

written 11th December 1641

transcript from probate copy

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The eleventh day of
- 2 December Anno dm 1641 in the seventeenth year of the reign of our
sovereign Lord king

3 Charles, I, Andrew Goldsmith of Bidborough¹⁸⁰ in the county of Kent,
4 **yeoman**, being at this
5 present not well in bodily health but of good and perfect memory (God be
6 praised) do make and
7 declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following:
8 **First:** yielding my soul
9 to Almighty God and Jesus Christ, my only saviour and redeemer, by
10 whose death and
11 passion I fully trust to have all my sins ??¹⁸¹ forgiven and to attain to the
joyful resurrection
of eternal life, committing my body to the earth from whence it was taken
in decent sort to be
buried in the church or churchyard of Penshurst or else in the church or
churchyard of Bidborough.
Item: I give to the poor people, of that parish where I shalbe buried in, five
shillings to be paid
by mine executor. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Joseph Goldsmith,**
Andrew Goldsmith and

180 "Bitborrow" throughout

181 "forely" - fully?

12 **Thomas Goldsmith, my sons**, to either of them two shillings a piece of
lawful money of
13 England to be paid unto either of them within one year next after my
decease by mine executor.

14 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Joane, my daughter, the now wife of**
Thomas Eldridge, ten shillings
15 of like lawful money of England to be paid unto her within one year next
after my decease by mine
16 executor. **Item:** my will and meaning is that **Sara, now my wife**, shall have
the use and benefit of
17 all my household stuff during the term of her natural life. And after the
decease of Sara, my
18 wife, I give and bequeath all my said household stuff whatsoever unto
Elizabeth, my daughter, the now
19 **wife of George Piper.** **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the said Elizabeth,
my daughter, a lease
20 which I now hold of certain land of the **right honourable, the Countess of**
Leicester th'elder,
21 for divers years yet to come. And twenty pounds of lawful money of
England now in the
22 hands of the aforesaid Joseph Goldsmith, my son. **Item:** I do make and
ordain my loving son-

23 in-law, George Piper, the full and sole executor of this my last will and
testament to whom
24 I give all my moveable goods whatsoever, my debts, funeral and legacies
discharged. This is the
25 last will and testament of me, the said Andrew Goldsmith, made and
declared the day and
26 year aforesaid concerning the disposing of all my messuage, orchard and
garden
27 situated, lying and being in Penshurst aforesaid. And the messuage or
tenement wherein I
28 now dwell situated, lying and being in Bidborough aforesaid with the barn,
orchard, gardens,
29 lands and appurtenances thereunto belonging and appertaining. **Item:** my
will and meaning is that
30 Sara, my said wife, shall have the rents, profits and use of all my said
messuages, tenements and
31 land for and during the whole term of her natural life. And after the
decease of the said
32 Sara, my wife, I give, devise and will all the aforesaid messuage or
tenement with the orchard,
33 gardens and appurtenances thereunto belonging, in Penshurst aforesaid
and the messuage

34 or tenement wherein I now dwell with the barn, buildings, orchard,
garden, land and
35 appurtenances thereunto belonging, situated, lying and being in
Bidborough aforesaid unto
36 Elizabeth, my daughter, the now wife of the aforesaid George Piper, her
heirs and assigns, to
37 have, hold and enjoy unto the said Elizabeth, my daughter, her heirs and
assigns forever. In
38 witness whereof to this my present testament an last will containing one
sheet of paper and
39 this part of sheet, revoking all former and other wills, I the said Andrew
Goldsmith have set
40 my hand and seal the day and year aforesaid. Andrew Goldsmith, his
mark. Read and
41 acknowledged to be the last will of the said Andrew Goldsmith in the
presence of **William**
42 **Thatcher**, his mark, **Thomas Leddall**

The Goldstones of Tudeley and Tonbridge

Two Goldstone wills have been transcribed:

John Goldstone	Tudeley	1631/1632	CKS: Drb/Pwr 26	page 2.g.66
Robert Goldstone	Tonbridge	10 Apr 1637	CKS: Drb/Pwr 29; Drb/Pw 22.248	page 2.g.73

The will of John Goldstone, a rich tanner, was written by John Hooper, parish clerk of Tonbridge, who wrote many wills between 1601 and 1641. John had six children including two sons, Robert and Roger. Although only the first and last pages of Robert's six page will have been transcribed, Robert was John's son since he mention Roger Goldstone and his mother Francis.

John's will was originally written on the fifteenth day of December 1631 but modified on ninth day of April 1632 although there are no changes to the will other than the date at the beginning and on lines 48 and 49 on the third page of the will.

John Hooper and his son George both witnessed the will of Robert Goldstone. Like his father, George wrote many wills, the first of those surviving being from the beginning of 1638. It is difficult to tell whether John or George wrote this will but John seems the most likely.

The Goldstone Family

	x1199	x1193		x1233	x1245 ¹⁸²			
		John - Frances Tompson			William - Elizabeth			
will:	1631/1632							
	x1200	x1235	x1234	x1236	x1172	x1237	x1238	x1252
	Jane - ??	Sara - ??	Robert	Frances -	George Dan	Roger	Elizabeth -	Willim Howe
will:			10 Apr 1637	Sep 1634	Aug 1633			
								William x1253

John refers to his executrix “[hereafter named](#)” on line 14 and “[before named](#)” on line 58. But no name is given in the will. His executrix was obviously his wife but what was her name? When the widow Jane Jeffrey, whose first husband was Roger Tompson, wrote her will in 1623, Francis, one of her daughters by her first marriage, was the wife of “John Gouldstone” and they had some children including a daughter Jane. Two of John’s daughters were named Jane and Frances and a son Roger so that it is probable that John’s wife was Frances Tompson, Jane Jeffrey’s daughter. See [Jeffreys in More Families & Transcripts](#)

When John wrote his will his daughters Jane and Sara had already been preferred and were, therefore, probably married. His daughter Frances had been promised

£100 as her marriage portion and was thus likely to be getting married in the early months of 1632. George Dan, another tanner, wrote his will in August 1633; his wife was Frances and he was hoping she was pregnant. George died sometime before September 1634 when the nuncupative will of Frances, a widow by then, was written. Frances made her brother Robert Goldstone her executor. Thus George Dan's wife looks to have been John Goldstone's daughter. See [More Families & Transcripts](#) for details of the Dans.

The Wealthy Tanner

Having already preferred two daughters and promised Frances £100 as her marriage portion, he left his youngest daughter (not yet eighteen) £100. His wife and then his sons were to pay his brother William a "yearly stipend" of £1.33.

He divided his land, etc. between his two sons with Robert receiving all his "houses, lands, tenements, woods and wood grounds" in Brenchley and Roger his land in Tudeley. The latter included "lands arable, meadow, pastures, woods and woodgrounds" and the house in which he dwelt with all its "barns, stables, buildings, closes, gardens, orchards, hempplot, tanyards and tanhouses". Most unusually (or at least not mentioned in other wills), the house had "curtains and rods fitted for the windows".

Roger was also to receive a considerable amount of furniture, etc. from the house including a table, with a carpet fitted to it, and forms and a settle from the hall; other rooms mentioned are the kitchen, bakehouse, a “[lodging chamber](#)” and a buttery. In addition to other tables, forms, joined stools, a cupboard, a bedstead, feather bed and bed linen and two chests in one of which lay his “[writings](#)”, there were a variety of items showing that John was an still an artisan even if a very successful one. These included two pairs of branding irons, “[fixed benches and fixed and loose shelves and boards](#)” and planks and a furnace, “[vats, cisterns, vessels, mill and implements belonging to the trade of a tanner](#)”.

John’s wealth did not come just from his trade as a tanner and the rents from his land. The land in Brenchley left to Robert included a “[shaw¹⁸³ of beechen wood](#)” (1 acre) and a coppice (3 acres) and John’s wife was to have, for the next five years, “[full power and free liberty to fell and convert into money for and towards the bringing up and maintenance of my children and the paying of my legacies](#)”. But this was to be done with care “[in good order and season](#)” with “[all the young oaks and steddles of oak in the coppice. And some of the fairest beeches](#)” in the shaw being preserved.

Oak bark was used in the tanning process. For more information on tanners see [Chapter 18 in the History of Sevenoaks](#).

1 In¹⁸⁴ the name of god Amen. the ninth day of April in the
2 year of our lord god one thousand, six hundred thirty and two¹⁸⁵. And in
3 the eighth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord Charles, by the grace of
God,
4 king of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc.
5 I, John Goldstone of Tudeley¹⁸⁶ in the county of Kent, **tanner**, being in
reasonable
6 good health of body and of sound and perfect memory (for which I praise
god) do ordain
7 and make this my testament and last will in manner and form following:
8 **First** therefore yielding my soul to Almighty god, my maker, with an
assured
9 hope of salvation through his mercy and the merits, death and passion of
his dear

184 slightly decorated "I"

185 the date was changed from 14th December 1631 in the seventh year - see end of will

186 "Tewdley"

10 son Jesus Christ. And my body to the earth in decent manner to be
buried. I
11 will and give to the poor people of Tudeley twenty shillings to be
distributed
12 in the day of my burial or within short time after. **Item:** I will that **William**
13 **Goldstone, my brother**, shalbe paid the yearly stipend of four nobles¹⁸⁷ of
14 of lawful english money during his natural life by my executrix hereafter
named,
15 quarterly by equal portions. And after the decease of my executrix to be
paid
16 him by my sons hereafter named out of the lands which I shall will and
give
17 them equally between them and their heirs during my said brother's life.
Item:
18 I will, give and devise to **Roger Goldstone, my youngest son**, to be and
remain to
19 him, his heirs and assigns, the table and forms in the hall of my now
20 dwelling house, the carpet fitted to the said table, the settle and iron plate

187 a gold coin worth 6s 8d (£0.33); a stipend is a payment made periodically not necessarily annually. It looks here as if William was to be paid one noble each quarter, four a year.

21 there. Also two pairs of brand irons, two ?? , the tables and forms and
dressing board¹⁸⁸ in the kitchen
22 all fixed benches and fixed and loose shelves and boards in my said house,
my
23 great ??¹⁸⁹ chair, the table with his? frame standing over the bakehouse
24 four joined stools, all my planks with pales, rails and latthes¹⁹⁰. And also
all my
25 vats, cisterns, vessels, mill and implements belonging to the trade of a
tanner,
26 my furnace and ??ing vessel, the table and form in the bakehouse,
27 the cupboard there, the great joined chest by my bedside, the joined
bedstead¹⁹¹
28 thereby in my lodging chamber, the joined bedstead over the buttery. And
29 the feather bed, two bolsters, two pillows, two blankets and one coverlet
and

188 "and dressing boorde" inserted

189 turned?

190 planks with palings, railings and lathes?

191 "bedsteddle" here and on the next line

30 the cisterns and cistern ?odds thereto belonging, two pairs of sheets, one
pair to
31 be of the best and the other of the middling sort, and two pillowcoats, one
plain chest
32 wherein my writings lie. And all the curtains and rods fitted for the
windows
33 in my dwelling house. Of all which goods and things to my said son
before
34 willed, I will notwithstanding that my wife shall have the use during
35 her widowhood after my decease. **Item:** I will and give to **Jane** and
36 **Sara, my daughters**, already preferred, for a token of my love, ten shillings a
piece
37 or each of them a ring of gold of that value. **Item:** I will that the portion
38 which I have and promised in marriage with **Frances, my daughter**, being a
hundred pounds
39 if I shall not pay it in my life time myself, shall be all, or so much as shalbe
40 unpaid by myself will and truly paid by my executrix according to my
promise
41 or bond made in that behalf.
42 **Item:** I will and give to **Elizabeth, my daughter**, the sum of fifty pounds
43 to be paid her at her age of eighteen years, if she live to that age. And
44 other fifty pounds to be paid to her at her age of twenty and two years

45 if she shall live to accomplish that age. And if the said Elizabeth shall
decease
46 without issue of her body, unmarried, I will that both the said sums be paid
47 equally to and amongst all my children that shall be then living.

page 3 (page 2 ended halfway down the page)

48 This is also the last will of me, the said John Goldstone, made and declared
49 the said ninth day of April¹⁹² in the said year of our lord
50 god, one thousand six hundred and thirty and two, touching the ordering
51 and disposing of all my lands and tenements. **Item:** I will, give and devise
52 to **Robert Goldstone, mine eldest son**, all my houses, lands, tenements
53 woods and wood grounds with their appurtenances, situated lying and
being in
54 the parish of **Brenchley** in the county of Kent, to have and to hold all the
55 said houses, lands, tenements, woods and wood grounds with their
hereditaments
56 and appurtenances unto the said Robert Goldstone, my son, his heirs and
57 assigns, to the only use and behoof of the said Robert, his heirs and assigns
58 forever. Provided always and my will and mind is that my executrix before

192 changed from "fifteenth day of December" and, on next line, year was changed from "thirty and one"

59 named¹⁹³ shall and may have full power and free liberty to fell and convert
60 into money for and towards the bringing up and maintenance of my
children
61 ?? and the paying of my legacies, one shaw of beechen wood by
estimation
62 one acre. And one other coppice by estimation three acres, parcel of my
grounds
63 called **Snarke** preserving all the young oaks and steddles of oak in the said
64 coppice. And some of the fairest beeches in the other plot which is parcel
of my lands
65 called **Hawl** in Brenchley aforesaid. And that she shall have liberty this to
do
66 at any time or times within five years next after my decease in good order
and season.
67 **Item:** I will, give and devise to Roger Goldstone, my son, all that messuage
or tenement
68 wherein I now dwell and all the barns, stables, buildings, closes, gardens,
orchards,
69 hemplot, tanyards, tanhouses, and all the lands arable, meadow,
pastures, woods and

193 "hereafter named" on line 14 but not named above

70 woodgrounds with their, and every of their, appurtenances, situated in
Tudeley aforesaid.

71 And also all other my lands, freehold in the said parish of Tudeley withall
my right

72 estate, remainder and demand of, in and to all the said messuages or
tenements, lands

73 and premises with their, and any of their, hereditaments and
appurtenances. To have and to hold

74 all the said messuage or tenement, lands and premises unto the said Roger
Goldstone, my

75 son, his heirs and assigns, to the only use and behoof of the said Roger, his
heirs

76 and assigns, forever. In witness whereof I have to this my testament and
last will set my

77 hand and seal the ninth day of April in the year of our lord god one
thousand, six

78 hundred, thirty and two, ?? Regni Regis Caroli Angli Octavo

Signed and published and declared the said ninth of
April 1632 and the words in the three first lines

stricken out ?? the same day before ??
in the presence of **John Hooper, notary publique**
John Allen and **Thomas Clerke**

John Goldstone¹⁹⁴

Will of Robert Goldstone of Tonbridge

written 10th April 1637

transcript from original

1 In¹⁹⁵ the name of god Amen. the tenth day of April
2 in the year of our Lord God one thousand, six hundred, thirty
3 and seven and in the thirteenth year of the reign of¹⁹⁶ our sovereign Lord
King
4 Charles of England, etc. I, Robert Goldstone of Tonbridge in
5 the county of Kent, being of reasonable good health of body and of sound
6 and perfect mind and memory (thanks therefore be given to Almighty

194 looks like a very shakily written signature

195 decorated I

196 "the reign of" inserted

7 god) do ordain and make this my testament and last will in manner and
form
8 following: **First** and principally recommending my soul to Almighty god,
9 my maker, with an assured hope of salvation through the merits, death and
passion
10 of his dear son Jesus Christ, my saviour. And my body to the earth in
decent
11 manner to be buried. **Item:** I give and bequeath to the poor of the parish of
12 Tonbridge aforesaid the sum of forty shillings to be divided amongst them
by
13 my executor hereafter named on the day of my burial. **Item:** I give to the
14 poor of the parishes of Tudeley¹⁹⁷ and Capel the like sum of forty shillings
15 to be distributed amongst them within one month next ensuing after my
decease.
16 I will and bequeath unto **Mr Geoff Callys** (my loving friend) twenty
17 shillings of lawful money of England to be paid him within three months
next
18 after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Elizabeth, the wife of**
William
19 **Howe**, twenty shillings or a ring of that value, for a testamony of my
thankfulness

20 for her great pains taken with me. **Item:** I give unto **William Diker** five
21 shillings. And to **Thomas and Francis, the sons**, and **Sara, the daughter** of
22 **Walter Tompson**, two shillings six pence a piece. And to **William Howe**
and
23 **Robert Roots**, the apprentices of **Thomas Diker**, two shillings six pence a
piece.
24 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Elizabeth Goldstone, the late wife of William**
25 **Goldstone of Brenchley**, deceased, the sum of twenty shillings of lawful
money

. . .
. . .
page 6:

- assigns, to hold to them, the said **Jane** and **Sara**, their heirs and assigns
- forever. **Provided** always and my will and meaning is that
- if the said **Roger Goldstone** shall happen to decease as aforesaid leaving
- no issue before the said five years shalbe fully ended as aforesaid
- then my will is that the said **Frances, my mother**, if she shalbe
- then living shall have the use and occupancy of that part of the land and
- premises before devised which is now in the occupancy of one **William**
- **Turner** containing by estimation fourteen acres more or less and
- receive and enjoy the rents, issues and profits thereof immediately from

- and after the sure decease of the said Roger for and by and during the whole
- term of the natural life of her the said Frances (anything herein before mentioned to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding).
- **In witness** whereof I, the said Robert Goldstone, to this my
- testament and last will contained in six sheets of paper have to every of
- the said sheets with mine own hand written my name and to the
- last of the said sheets have put to my seal the day and year first
- before mentioned.

Sealed, published and declared } Robert Goldstone
 by the said Robert Goldstone }
 to be his testament and last }

will in the presence of
Thomas Diker
George Hooper
John Hooper, notary pbq.

The Goodwyns of Ightham & Seal

There were a large number of Goodwyns in Shipbourne (see below). Here are given the few isolated events recorded for them in Ightham and Seal. None were recorded in Kemsing. In **Ightham**:

Margaret Goodwyn (i1176¹⁹⁸) buried on 4th July 1562.
John Goodwyn (i1177) buried on 24th November 1570.
Elizabeth Goodwyn (i1178) buried on 7th February 1571.
John Goodwyn (i1180) married **Anne Haynes** (i1181), in Ightham, on 24 Nov 1570.

Peter Goodwyn (i1182) had two children baptised in Ightham:

- Elizabeth (i1184) 5th February 1598
- William (i1185) 6th April 1600

A John Goodwyn was mentioned in the Court Records for 1553-74 and also for 1586-1618. These could have been i1177 and i1180.

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

A **Dorothy Goodwyn** was also mentioned in the period 1586-1618.

In **Seal, Johane Goodwyn, widow** (#1984) was buried on 16th January 1596.

On 7th March 1602, **John Godwyn** (#3812) married **Dorothy Shurlocke** (#3813).
Godwyn is a possible variation of Goodwyn and Dorothy could be the Dorothy Goodwyn mentioned in the Ightham Court Records.

The Goodwyns of Shipbourne

There were a large number of Goodwyns in Shipbourne and, partly because of the repetition of names such as John and Richard, it is difficult to assemble them into families. Thus the relationships given below are very tentative. There were no Goodwyns in Seal and, although two or three Goodwyns were mentioned in the Court Records for Ightham, no families were recorded.

On 29th January 1608, John Goodwyn of Kingsdown married Elizabeth Chaddy at Shipbourne, “being asked three several sabbaths at Kingsdown as by a testimonial appeareth”.

A number of their wills have survived:

Henry Goodwyn	1580	wheelwright	Drb/Pw 13; Drb/Pwr 16.128	see page 2.g.82
John Goodwyn	1581	wheelwright	Drb/Pw 13; Drb/Pwr 16.190	see page 2.g.90
Richard Goodwyn	1603	yeoman	Drb/Pw 19; Drb/Pwr 191.392	see page 2.g.95
James Goodwyn	1625	wheelwright	Drb/Pw 27; Drb/Pwr 21.133	
Richard Goodwyn	1636		PCC. 45 Lee	
Henry Goodwyn	1645	wheelwright	Drb/Pw 31; Drb/Pwr 23.5	

The wills of Henry (1580) and John were witnessed (and probably also written) by Nicholas Hooper. Richard's will, although twenty-two years later, was also

written by Nicholas Hooper who, in this case, states that he is the "[writer hereof](#)". Nicholas Hooper was curate of Shipbourne and wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618.

Only the first three wills have been transcribed. Richard's will is dated 15th April 1636 and was confirmed by sentence 18 April 1638.

Henry Goodwyn of Shipbourne (1580)

Two "originals" have survived of Henry Goodwyn's will. The first looks like one made on 16th December which was modified and rewritten on the twentieth. Henry Goodwyn, "wheelar" was buried, at Shipbourne, on 20th December; his wife, Johane was buried a week later which looks as if they died from an infectious disease.

	\$32		Henry - Johane	\$33						
<i>will:</i>	16th/20th Dec 1580									
<i>bur:</i>	20th Dec 1580		27th Dec 1580							

	\$131		\$34		\$46		\$61		\$62	
	Violet		Elizabeth		John		Alice		Johane	
<i>bap:</i>	15 Nov 1562		13 Sep 1563		25 Dec 1566		12 Mar 1571			

Except for Violet who was probably born before baptisms were recorded in the parish register, we know the baptism dates of the children Henry mentioned in his will.

A Henry Goodwyn married Elizabeth Collyns on 16th September 1604. Although both the Goodwyns and Collyns are large Shipbourne families, it is not possible to

identify Henry and Elizabeth who were probably born in the 1570s. For details of their family see page 2.g.101.

Will of Henry Goodwyn of Shipbourne

written 20th December 1580

transcript from original

Lines 1 to 21 are taken from the first version since the second will is split down the middle and the lines cannot be fully read.

1 In the name of god Amen. The twentieth¹⁹⁹ day of
2 December in the year of our lord god a thousand, five hundred
3 and fourscore and in the three and twenty year of the reign
4 of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God
5 Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of
6 the faith, I, Henry Goodwyn of Shipbourne,
7 in the diocese of Rochester and the County of Kent, **wheelwright**,
8 being sick and weak of body but yet of perfect mind and
9 Remembrance, thanked therefore be god almighty, Do ordain
10 and make this my present testament and last will in manner

199 sixteenth crossed out

11 and form following. And **first** and principally I give
12 and commend my soul to almighty god and only saviour
13 and redeemer, Jesus Christ, and my body to be buried
14 in the churchyard of Shipbourne aforesaid. **Item:** I

15 give and bequeath to the box or chest of the poor of
16 Shipbourne aforesaid 3s 4d. **Item:** I will to every of
17 **my daughters, Violet, Elizabeth, Alice and Johane Goodwyn,**
18 the sum of ten pounds lawful money apiece to be paid
19 to them, every of them, at their and every of their several ages
20 of 21 years or at the days of their and every of their several
21 marriages which shall first happen.

22 And if it fortune any of my said daughters to decease before their or
23 either of their
24 age or ages or the days of their marriage, as afore is said, Then I will her or
25 their part or parts so deceased shalbe
26 equally divided between them, the survivor or survivors, of them at such
time as the said survivor or survivors shalbe married or shall
attain to her or their said ages or age of 21 years. **Item:** I will and give to
my godson, Thomas Goodwyn, 6s 8d.
Item: I will to **William Fuller of Seal, my late trusty servant,** one load of
spokes (if he will have them). And I give to

27 **Henry Fuller, his son (my godson)**²⁰⁰, one twelve monthling heifer bullock
coloured brown with a white back. **Item:** I give to **John Goodwyn, my**
28 **brother,**
one load of spokes if he will have them. And to **John Goodwyn of**
29 **Weitherstreet, my kinsman,** 3s 4d. The residue
of all my goods and cattalls, as well moveable as unmoveable, my debts
30 and legacies being paid and discharged, I wholly, fully and
with good effect, intent and purpose give and bequeath to **Johane, my**
31 **wellbeloved wife** which Johane I make my whole and sole executrix
of this my testament and last will, to see the said proved and funeral
32 discharged. And I make **my very friend**
Richard Collyn²⁰¹, to be mine overseer and he to be allowed all his expenses
33 which he shall lay out about the execution of anything
contained in this my will.

34 This is the last will of me the said Henry Goodwyn made and declared the
day and year above written concerning the ordering and

200 Henry, son of William Fuller, was baptised in Seal on 9th February 1577; William subsequently had a daughter Dorothy and a son William

201 could be \$67 whose will of 1596 has survived or the Richard Collyn whom Margaret Hewitt had made her executor in November 1580 - see [Collyns and Hewittin More Families & Transcripts](#)

35 disposition of all my land and tenements set, lying and being in
Shipbourne aforesaid or elsewhere with in the County of Kent. **First** I
36 will and bequeath to the said Johane, my wife and executrix, All that my
messuage or tenement wherein I now dwell, one garden, one orchard
37 and one parcel of land called **Stallande** thereto belonging now in my tenure
and occupation and severally set, lying and being in Shipbourne aforesaid
38 To her and her heirs, the same with all and singular thappurtenances unto
her, the said Johane and her assigns, during her natural life, she making
and doing
39 no waste in and upon the same. And after her decease, I give and
bequeath all the same, with all and singular thappurtenances unto **my son,**
John Goodwyn, To
40 him and to his heirs, the same with thappurtenances unto the said John,
his heirs and assigns, forever. And whereas I gave by a writing, dated,
bearing
41 date the 20th day of August last past before the date hereof, given and
granted to **Thomas Cowper of Trottiscliffe** in the said County of Kent,
yeoman, All
42 that other messuage or tenement wherein **John Pickerell** now dwelleth in
Shipbourne aforesaid, one garden and one parcel of land thereto adjoining
with

43 thappurtenances together set, lying and being in Shipbourne aforesaid,
Under Condition that, if I, the said Henry Goodwyn, mine heirs, executors
or assigns
44 pay, or cause to be paid, to the said Thomas Cowper, his heirs, executors or
assigns, the sum of twenty pounds lawful money of England
45 at the feast of the holy apostle, St. Bartholomew, which shalbe in the year
of our lord god 1582 between the hours of one and four of the clock
46 in the afternoon of the said day, At the mansion house of the said Thomas
Cowper situated in Trottiscliffe²⁰² aforesaid, That then the said writing
47 Indented and the estate thereupon had and executed shalbe utterly void
and of none effect. And that then, and from thenceforth, it be lawful
48 unto me, the said Henry Goodwyn and myne heirs into the said message
or tenement, garden and parcel of land last mentioned with
th'appurtenances to reenter
49 and the said to have again, repossessed and enjoy as in my former and
pristine estate. And the said Thomas Cowper and his heirs wholly
50 from there to be put out and expelled as by the said writing indented it
may appear. My very will and mind is that the said John Goodwyn, my son
51 and his heirs, shall have all my right, title, use, condition and interest
which I now have, or hereafter by any means shall and may have of, in and

202 nearly two miles east of Wrotham, about seven miles from Shipbourne

52 to the said message or tenement, garden and parcel of land last
mentioned. So that he, the said John and his heirs, executors or assigns,
by paying the said £20 in manner
53 and form aforesaid is mentioned, shall have the said message or
tenement, garden and parcel of land with thappurtenances to him and to
his heirs for
54 ever. In witness whereof I, the said Henry Goodwyn, to this my present
testament and last will have set my hand and seal yeven²⁰³ the
55 day and year first above written in the presence of **Richard Collyn, John
Goodwyn, sen., Nicolas Hooper** and others, **Edmond Mylls**

John Goodwyn, wheelwright

John, wheelwright in his will of 1581, was described as a "wheelar" in the parish records when James was baptised and as a "wheelwright" when his son John was buried and when Johane was baptised. James and Johane were mentioned in his will and he had two older children: a daughter married to John Pockocke, with a son named after his father, and a son Thomas.

If it was John's son James who married Alice Mylls in 1583 “[betymes in the morning](#)” he was only twenty. There is nine years between their two children but, since his daughter was baptised Alice, it is probable that she was the daughter of Alice Mylls. The first wife of their son Richard gave birth to a child who died at birth and she died eight months later. No children were recorded for Richard's second marriage.

Johane married twice, her first husband dying less than a year after their marriage. Her second husband, John Pickerell belonged to another large Shipbourne family; he and Timothy Pickerell witnessed the will of Richard Goodwyn in 1603. In 1580, when Henry Goodwyn wrote his will, a John Pickerell lived in a “[message or tenement](#)” belonging to Henry; he was probably the father of Johane's husband. See [Pickerells in More Families & Transcripts](#).

			\$2224	John	-	Johane	\$2225								
<i>will:</i>				15 Aug 1581											
	\$189		\$188	\$2227		\$36		\$276	\$85		\$771	\$111		\$297	
	daughter	-	John Pococke	Thomas		James	-	Alice Mylls	John		Nicholas Hassell	-	Johane	-	John Pickerell
<i>bap:</i>						22 Jul 1563					24 Jun 1603		29 Sep 1574		12 Nov 1604
<i>mar:</i>						4 Aug 1583									
<i>will:</i>						1625									
<i>bur:</i>									28 Oct 1569		10 Apr 1604				
	\$2226		\$190		\$275		\$986	\$277		\$1085	\$603				
	John		James		Elizabeth		Joane Combes	-	Richard	-	Mercy Bassett		Alice		
<i>bap:</i>			11 Jul 1581		21 Jul 1583				15 May 1586				7 Jan 1595		
<i>mar:</i>							13 May 1610								
<i>bur:</i>							1 Nov 1611								

John's son-in-law, John Pococke, could have been the John Pococke who had two children born in the early 1580s with the son called James. If so, the baptism of their eldest son was not recorded in Shipbourne.

James Goodwyn, wheelwright, was buried on 17th December 1624 and he could be both John's son and the testator whose will was proved in 1625. A Richard Goodwyn was buried on 18th April 1636 and he could be James's son and the testator of the 1636 will.

John held a forty year lease from the Fanes for about an acre of land in Shipbourne which included the house in which he lived a “[barn, gardens, two closes and two hemplands](#)”. The terms of the lease made the Goodwyns, as tenants, responsible for “[keeping the reparations belonging to the houses, pales and fences . . . like and in good order](#)”.

1 In the name of god Amen. the 15 day
2 of August in the year of our lord 1581²⁰⁴ and the 23rd year
3 of the reign of our sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of god, Queen of
4 England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith. I, John Goodwyn,
5 of Shipbourne in the County of Kent, **wheelwright**, being sick and weak
6 of body but yet of good remembrance, thanked therefore be god almighty,
7 do ordain and make this my present testament and last will in manner and
8 form following: And **first** and principally I give, commend and bequeath my
soul
9 to almighty god, my maker, and to Jesus Christ, his only son, by whose
10 merit, precious death and passion I trust to be saved and my body to the
11 earth to be buried in the churchyard of Shipbourne aforesaid. **Item:** I
12 will that **Johane, my wife**, shall bestow at my burial among the poor
13 of Shipbourne at her discretion. **Item:** I will that Joane, my wife, shall
14 have during the term of forty years (if she so long live) my house
15 wherein I now dwell, barn, gardens, two closes, two hemplands, thereto

204 the year was spelt out in the original of Christopher Gurley's will written February 1581/2 but, whilst the original of Goodwyn's will has survived, the top of it has rotted away

- equally between them, pay or cause to be paid to **Johane Goodwyn, my daughter**, their
- sister, the sum of five pounds lawful money of England
- at her full age of 21 years or else at the day of her
- marriage, which shall first happen. **Item:** I will and bequeath
- to **John Pococke, son of John Pococke, my son-in-law**, the
- sum of forty shillings lawful money to be paid to the
- said John at the age of sixteen years.

- The residue of all my goods and Cattalle, as well moveable as
- unmoveable, my debts and legacies being paid, I wholly, fully,
- and with good effect, intent and purpose, give and bequeath
- to the said Johane, my wellbeloved wife, which Johane, I

probate copy:

- ordain and make my whole and sole executor
- of this my present testament and last will, to see the same proved
- and my debts and legacies paid and fulfilled. In witness whereof
- to this my present testament and last will I, the

original will:

- said John Goodwyn have set my hand and seal

- yeven²⁰⁵ the day and year first above written in the
- presence of **John Hayte, Richard Goodwyn** and
- **Nicolas Hooper** with others.

Note after end of original will:

17th July ?? ?? William Charlton, vicar
of Tonbridge ??

Was the will proved by the vicar of Tonbridge?

Richard Goodwyn of Shipbourne

Richard was a yeoman had married Johane in May 1583 but no children were recorded for them and Richard did not mention any in his will. He does mention four brothers and his heir was his nephew John, son of his brother Jeremy. His brother John could be the John who had two sons in the 1560s (\$16 - he would have been approaching seventy in 1603). But Richard's brother John had a son Richard and a daughter Ann - they could have been born before 1560.

The Henry who wrote his will in 1580 could have been another brother since his children were born in the 1560s.

	\$16	\$17		\$99	\$100		\$270	\$271	\$2228	
	John -	Elizabeth	brother	Jeremy -	Katherine Weight		Richard -	Johane	Nicholas -	
mar:				27 Oct 1572			16 May 1583			
will:							17 Aug 1603			

	\$2231	\$2232	\$18	\$642	\$101	\$129	\$846	\$130		\$2230
	Richard	Ann	Thomas	John -	Agnes	John -	Elizabeth Waters	Frauncis (girl)		Elizabeth
bap:			25 Dec 1560		16 Sep 1573	17 Jun 1576		20 Jun 1580		
mar:					2 Mar 1606			3(Jan 1595		

		\$421		\$717		\$847	\$846			
	child	John -	Elizabeth		Elizabeth	Thomas				
bap:		6 Aug 1598	31 Aug 1601		26 Oct 1605	23 Mar 1609				
bur:	15??					20 Sep 1609				

	\$1495	\$1496	\$1657	\$1658						
	John	Richard	Elizabeth	Mary						
bap:	12 Apr 1629	12 Oct 1630	30 Sep 1635	17 Dec 1637						

1 In the name of god Amen. The seventeenth day of August in the year of our
lord god one thousand six hundred
2 and three. And in the first year of the reign of our sovereign lord James,
the first, by the grace of
3 God, king of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, I,
Richard Goodwyn of
4 Shipbourne in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being very sick of body but yet
of perfect mind and . . .
5 thanks therefore be given to Almighty god, do ordain and make this my
present last will and testament in manner
6 and form following: And **First** and principally I give, commend and
bequeath my soul into the hands of
7 Almighty god who gave it, trusting, by an assured faith which I have in the
promises of my lord Jesus Christ
8 that the same shalbe presented without spot before the throne of his
majestie. And my body to the
9 earth to be buried in the churchyard of Shipbourne aforesaid in sure and
certain hope of a ??

10 resurrection. **Item:** I will to be distributed among poor people of
Shipbourne at the discretion of my
11 executrix hereafter named 3s 4d. **Item:** I give and bequeath to every of my
godchildren coming and asking
12 demanding the same of mine executrix 6d a piece. **Item:** I give and
bequeath to **my brother**
13 **Goodwyn** the sum of 6s 8d lawful money to be paid in this manner
following, viz: one quarter of a year
14 next after my decease, during the term of one whole year next after my
decease, 3s 4d . . .
15 mine executrix hereafter named. **Item:** I will that my said wife and
executrix shall honestly and ? ?
16 keep my kinswoman, **Elizabeth Goodwyn, daughter of my brother Nicholas,**
during the ?? lives of the
17 said Elizabeth and my said wife. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **John**
Goodwyn, my brother, 6s 8d to be paid
18 within one whole year next after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath to
Richard Goodwyn, my godson,
19 one ewe tegg and her lamb. And to **Ann Baker, wife of Andrew Baker,** a
like ewe tegg and her lamb.
20 And to **Andrew Baker, her son, my godson,** 3s 4d.

21 The residue of all my goods and cattells, debts and chattels, I wholly, fully
and with good effect, intent
22 and purpose, give and bequeath to **Johane Goodwyn, my loving wife,**
which Johane, my wife, I make and ordain
23 my whole and sole executrix, to see my debts paid and legacies herein
above willed likewise paid and discharged²⁰⁶, this
24 my will proved and my body honestly and decently buried.

25 This is the last will of me the said Richard Goodwyn, made and declared
the day and year first above
26 written concerning the order and disposition of my tenements and land in
Shipbourne aforesaid.
27 **Item:** I will and bequeath to Johane Goodwyn, my said loving wife and
executrix, all that my messuage or tenement
28 wherein I now dwell with the barns and edifices thereto belonging with the
closes, gardens, orchards and four
29 parcels of land and meadow thereto adjoining, containing in the whole, by
estimation, five acres, more or less, together
30 situated, lying and being at **Lower Street in Shipbourne** aforesaid. To have
and to hold the same, withall and singular

206 no "d" in discharged

31 thappurtenances, unto the said Johane, my wife, during her natural life,
doing no waste in or upon the same other
32 than in necessity, hedgeboot and fireboot and timber for reparations if it be
there to be had. And after her
33 decease, I will and give all and every my said messuage, land and
premises, withall and singular thappurtenances
34 unto **John Goodwyn, son of Jeremy Goodwyn** and to his heirs and assigns
forever. Provided
35 always, and my very will and mind is that the said John Goodwyn, his
heirs and assigns, shall pay out of
36 my land and tenements to him willed, to **Ann Goodwyn, daughter of my
brother John Goodwyn**, the sum of Ten pounds
37 lawful money, to be paid to her within two years next after the decease of
the said Johane, my wife. And also shall pay
38 out of the same to **Richard Goodwyn, her brother**, another ten pounds of
like money to be paid in this manner
39 following, viz: every year during three years next after the time that the
said Anne Goodwyn (receive her £10?)
40 the sum of £3 6s 8d like lawful money. And if the above named Elizabeth
Goodwyn²⁰⁷ the sum of ten

207 shall still be living?

41 shillings like lawful money to be paid to her every quarter next after my
42 wife's decease during her natural life, viz: 2s 6d every quarter of a year
43 during the term aforesaid. And I will that for lack of payment of any of the
44 said sum and sums of ten
45 pounds to the said Anne Goodwyn willed or the said £20 in manner
46 aforesaid given to the said Richard Goodwyn or
47 the said ten shillings in manner aforesaid yearly to be paid to the said
48 Elizabeth Goodwyn or any one or
49 or any person of them, that they, the said Anne, Richard and Elizabeth and
50 every or any of them may so
51 enter in and upon all my said tenements, land and premises and the same
withall and singular thappurtenances
hold to them and every of them, so unpaid, until they shall have of the
issues and profits thereof
. . . or money worth as shall satisfy and pay them, and every of them, their
said several sums of money
. . . to them given according to the true meaning of this my will. In
witness whereof, to this my present
will and testament, I, the said Richard Goodwyn, have set my hand and
seal yeven²⁰⁸ the day
herein first above written, in the presence of

John Pickerell, Timothy Pickerell
Richard Bodwyn, John Goodwyn and
Nicolas Hooper, writer hereof

above names taken from copy since this part of the original will is not legible

The Family of Henry Goodwyn and Elizabeth Collyns

Henry's wife, Elizabeth Collyns could have been either \$107, the daughter of Henry (\$501) born in 1576 or \$146, the daughter of John (\$143) born in 1580 - see **Collyns in More Families & Transcripts**

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
\$815	<u>GOODWYN, Henry</u> -----		16 Sep 1604	Elizabeth Collyns \$816	1	6	
• \$817	<u>Goodwyn, Elizabeth</u>	15 Apr 1605	(7 months after marriage)		0	0	
• \$1160	<u>Goodwyn, Jeane</u>	10 Dec 1615			0	0	
• \$1295	<u>Goodwyn, Joane</u>	1 Jan 1619	7 May 1645	Edward Loofe \$2024	1	0	
• \$1300	<u>Goodwyn, Dorothy</u>	27 Jan 1621			0	0	
• \$1301	<u>GOODWYN, John</u>	23 Jun 1622			2	4	
	<i>Marriage 1</i>		30 Oct 1644	Elizabeth Tanner \$1977	1	0	
	<i>Marriage 2</i>		3 Jun 1645	Elizabeth Hartridge \$2025	1	4	
• • \$2043	<u>GOODWYN, Thomas</u>	8 Mar 1646			0	0	
• • \$2097	<u>GOODWYN, John</u>	28 Jul 1647			0	0	
• • \$2026	<u>GOODWYN, Henry</u>	17 Jul 1649	twins		0	0	28 Jul 1649
• • \$2027	<u>GOODWYN, George</u>	17 Jul 1649			0	0	28 Jul 1649
• \$1302	<u>Goodwyn, Agnes</u>	5 Jun 1626			0	0	10 Dec 1626

Other Goodwyns

On 15th October 1560, **Elizabeth Goodwyn** (\$223), widow, was buried.

On 8th April 1573, **William** (\$106), son of Henry Goodwyn of Roughey, was baptised.

On 2nd July 1578, **William Goodwyn** (\$138), labourer, was buried.

On 29th January 1608, **John Goodwyn of Kingsdown** (\$897) married **Elizabeth Chaddy** (\$899) “being asked three several sabbaths at Kingsdown as by a testimonial appeareth”. Perhaps Elizabeth was living in Shipbourne prior to her marriage but no other Chaddys were recorded there.

On 5th May 1612, **Katherine Goodwyn** (\$1069) was buried. No more details given.

On 9th March 1627, **James Goodwyn** (\$1423) was buried.

On 8th October 1632 **Elizabeth Goodwyn** (\$1585) married **William Whiffen** (\$1586). No children were recorded in Shipbourne. Elizabeth could have been \$847 or \$717 (see page 2.g.94) or \$817 (see page 2.g.101)

On 27th March 1650, **Elizabeth Goodwyn** (\$2189), widow, was buried.

John Goodwyn of Capel

The will of John Goodwyn, the elder, of Capel (CKS: Drb/Pw 32; Drb/Pwr 23.129) was written on 3rd March 1646/7 by George Hooper, grandson of the Nicholas Hooper who wrote the wills of three of the Shipbourne Goodwyns. Like his father and grandfather, George wrote a large number of wills for people living in this area. Capell is a small parish adjacent to Hadlow to the south.

His eldest son was to be his executor and the will was proved by him in May 1650. Since John, when writing his will, says he is of reasonable health, it is likely that he lives for about another three years. It is not possible to tell whether or not this John Goodwyn was related to those in Shipbourne.

John Goodwyn had two married daughters, Dorothy and Francis and another son, William, and an unmarried daughter, Mary. It was Mary who was to receive her father's bedstead and the "appurtenances" that went with it.

In the will the date of writing (which was the beginning of March) was given "[according to the computation of the Church of England](#)" as 1646 since, under this authority the new year began at the end of March whilst, in present terminology, this was 1647. Whilst here the method of calculating the date is given, in most cases the beginning of the new year on 27th March was taken as standard (as it

was) so that the year did not change until the end of March. That is, the inclusion of the phrase “[according to the computation of the Church of England](#)” to explain the calculation is what is unusual rather than the actual calculation itself.

Most executors, and John Goodwyn, junior, was no exception, were trusted with paying all the testator’s outstanding debts but here again the will expands the usual simple phrase regarding to debts owed, here, John’s testator was to “[pay all the debts which I truly owe and in justice ought to pay](#)”. Were there others which “[in justice](#)” he did not need to pay?

1 In²⁰⁹ the name of god Amen. the third day of March in the year of our Lord
2 Christ, according to the computation of the Church of England, one
thousand, six hundred
3 forty and six, I, John Goodwyn, the elder of Capel in the county of Kent,
4 **yeoman**, being at this present in reasonable good health of body and of
sound and perfect
5 mind and memory, for which I praise God, yet aged and thereby put in
mind of my dissolution and
6 departure out of this life, for the settling of my house in order and the
disposition of that temporal
7 estate which God hath blessed me with here on earth, do make and ordain
this to be²¹⁰ my testament
8 and last will in manner and form following, that is to say, **First** and
principally I recommend

209 decorated "I"

210 "bee" throughout by "me" and "being" with only one "e"

9 my soul to the gracious acceptance of Almighty god, my maker, hoping
and assuredly
10 trusting to have the pardon and remission of all my sins and eternal
salvation by the alone
11 merits, death and passion of his dearly beloved son Jesus Christ. And my
body to the earth
12 in decent manner to be buried at the discretion of my executor hereafter
named. **I will**
13 and give to **John and Anne, the two children of Thomas Byrth by Dorothy,**
my daughter, five shillings
14 a piece of lawful money of England to be paid unto the said Thomas Byrth
to and for the use of
15 his two said children within one year next after my decease by my
executor. **Item:** I will and give to
16 **Frances, my daughter, wife of Richard Sande,** in full of the portion I mean
and am to give unto
17 her the sum of five pounds of lawful money of England to be paid unto her
within one year next
18 after my decease by mine executor. **Item:** I will and give to **William**
Goodwyn, my son, in full of the
19 portion I intend unto him, the like sum of five pounds of like lawful money
of England to be

20 paid unto him within one year next after my decease by mine executor.

Item: I will and give to

21 **Mary, my daughter,** the bedsteddle, one feather bed and the bolster, one
22 coverlet and two blankets with the

other appurtenances now standing and being in the parlour of my now
dwelling house. And also I will and give

23 to the said Mary, my daughter, the sum of ten pounds of lawful money of
England to be paid unto her

24 within one year next after my decease by mine executor.

25 **The residue** and all other my goods, cattle, household stuff and chattles of
what name.

26 nature or kind soever, I wholly give and leave to **John Goodwyn, my eldest
son,** in consideration and

27 upon condition he truly pay all my legacies before bequeathed and shall
pay all the debts which I truly

28 owe and in justice ought to pay and shall see my body decently buried.

And I d make and ordain the said

29 John, my son, to be the sole executor of this my testament and last will, to
see the same proved.

30 **In witness** whereof I, the said John Goodwyn, the elder, revoking all former
wills by me made, to this

31 my testament and last will have set my hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Read, sealed, published and declared by the said John Goodwyn, the elder, to be his testament and last will in the presence of:

John Goodwyn²¹¹

sign. **William W Willard**

William Kipping²¹²

Geo: Hooper

²¹¹ could be a signature

²¹² signature, William Willard, s mark - a "W" with a horizontal line above it

The Goslings of Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i2057 ²¹³	<u>GOSLING, John</u> -----				1	7	
		mentioned in the Court Records		1586-1618			
• i2059	<u>Gosling, Jane</u>	09 Oct 1608				0	0
• i2060	<u>GOSLING, John</u>	24 Nov 1611				0	0
• i2061	<u>Gosling, Katherine</u>	13 Feb 1615	twin			0	0
• i2062	<u>Gosling, Joane</u>	13 Feb 1615	twin			0	0
• i2063	<u>Gosling, Joane</u>	29 Apr 1616				0	0
• i2065	<u>Gosling, Marie</u>		16 Jul 1640	William COOKE	1	0	
				i2066			
• i2064	<u>GOSLING, William</u>	29 Aug 1619			0	0	4 Mar 1620
	"Am son of John Gosling" at baptism; "William son of John Gosling"at burial						

Marie is known only from her marriage but she could have been the daughter of i2057 born either in 1613 or 1618; at least Joane of the twins probably died very soon after birth and most likely both of them given the short time before the birth of i2063

213 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

James Gosse of Hadlow

In his will of 1493 (**CKS: Drb/Pwr 5.228**), James Gosse left “to the amending of a window in the north side of the said church 13s 4d. To the buying of a cross of silver in the honour of God’s divine service to be done in the said church of Hadlow 20s”²¹⁴.

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

The Gransdens of Ightham

Robert Gransden (i2050²¹⁵), ale taster, was mentioned in the Court Records 1586-1618. He had a daughter, Elizabeth (i2052), baptised on 19th April 1636. When she was twenty-five she married **Edward Goldsmith** (i2501) - see page 2.g.54.

On 3rd July 1620, **Margaret, daughter of Jane Gransden** (i2189), “*populi ex matre*” was baptised. Margaret’s mother could have been the Jane Gransden who married John Alchine a year later:

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i2196	<u>ALCHINE, John</u> -----		18 Jun 1627	Jane Gransden i2189	1	1	
• i2197	<u>ALCHINE, Nicholas</u>	7 Sep 1628				0	0

Earlier, on 7th March 1612, a **Nicholas Gransden** (i2193) had been buried. Perhaps Jane named her son after her grandfather.

215 “i” indicates a reference in the Ightham database

Edward Bowra²¹⁶ relates the part played in 1643 by “[a local demagogue, one Gransden](#)” who managed to obtain the release of five men taken captive by an angry crowd of local Royalists. Parliament had directed that an oath of allegiance be read in all churches and sworn to by the clergy and their congregations. John Gryme, the rector of Ightham, refused to obey. “[A party of horse was sent to arrest him and, in the scuffle in which the parishioners attempted his rescue, one of them was killed. This was the signal for the discontent throughout the countryside to break out into open rebellion. An excited crowd of perhaps four thousand gathered on the common at the Vine, at Sevenoaks, motley, ill-armed and undisciplined but in an angry mood](#)”.

Parliament ordered Sir Henry Vane, the elder, of Fairlawn to summon local members of the Kent Parliamentary Committee; these included William James and John Sedley from Ightham, who tried to “[parley with the leaders](#)” of the rebellion. Those gathered at the Vine refused, however, “[to lay down their arms without the redress of their grievances and, amidst the altercation, the Committee men found themselves held captive and in danger of their lives](#)” It was at this point that Gransden came to their rescue, persuading the rebels to release their captives.²¹⁷

216 Bowra, p. 67-68

217 see [Vane in More Families & Transcripts](#) for Sir Henry's family and [Chapter 23 of the History of Sevenoaks](#) for more details of the Civil War.

The Family of John Gransden of Kemsing

John Gransden (or Gransier) was included in the Assessment for a subsidy to Charles I made in 1628; he was assessed for 30s with regard to land and 8s for goods - for details of the assessment see [Z2 in More Families & Transcripts](#)

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
k634	<u>GRANSDEN, John</u> -----				1	6	
• k636	<u>GRANSDEN, John</u>	10 Feb 1611				0	0
• k637	<u>Gransden, Elizabeth</u>	3 Jan 1613				0	0
• k638	<u>Gransden, Etheldred</u>	19 Mar 1622				0	0
• k639	<u>Gransden, Susanna</u>	2 Jun 1623				0	0
• k640	<u>GRANSDEN, George</u>	6 Jan 1626				0	0
• k641	<u>Gransden, Ann</u>	2 Sep 1630				0	0

John could have married twice with John and Elizabeth children of first wife and the other four by a second wife; there could have been another baptism at the beginning of 1619 but the register is not clear.

The Family of Robert Gransden of Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#3787 ²¹⁸	<u>GRANSDEN, Robert</u> -----			Susanna Gransden(m) #3800	1	3	
• #3801	<u>GRANSDEN, John</u>	24 Aug 1639				0	0 25 Aug 1639
• #3802	<u>Gransden, Elizabeth</u>	8 Nov 1640				0	0
• #3940	<u>Gransden, Anna</u>	23 Oct 1644(K)		baptised in Kemsing		0	0
• #3803	<u>GRANSDEN, Robert</u>	13 Nov 1642				0	0

With the unusual name of Gransden, it is likely that the Gransdens from Ightham, Kemsing and Seal were related but there is no obvious connection.

²¹⁸ # indicates a reference in the Seal database

The Greentrees of Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i1659 ²¹⁹	<u>GREENTREE, Francis</u> -----		17 Jun 1593	Alice Cooper i1660	1	10	22 Dec 1635
i1660	<u>Cooper, Alice</u> -----				1	10	9 Aug 1617
		Alice could have died as a result of yet another pregnancy					
• i1661	<u>GREENTREE, George</u>	7 Oct 1593					0 0
• i1662	<u>Greentree, Elizabeth</u>	25 Jan 1596					0 0
• i1663	<u>Greentree, Margaret</u>	7 May 1598					0 0
• i1664	<u>GREENTREE, Francis</u>	13 May 1600	son				0 0
• i1665	<u>GREENTREE, William</u>	13 Feb 1603					0 0
• i1666	<u>Greentree, Mildred</u>	5 May 1605					0 0
• i1667	<u>Greentree, Esther</u>	4 Oct 1607					0 0
• i1668	<u>Greentree, Jane</u>	26 Aug 1610					0 0
• i1669	<u>Greentree, Jane</u>	14 Jun 1612					0 0
• i1670	<u>Greentree, Dorothy</u>	29 May 1615					0 0

219 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

No burials were recorded for any of these children although two consecutive daughters were called Jane. The time interval between the births of these two was only 1 year and 10 months compared with over 2 years (average 2 years and 5 months) for all the others. With the mother breast feeding her children, the interval between births was usually well over 2 years but this was much reduced if the baby died soon after birth. It looks as if the Greentrees were a very successful family with at least nine of their children surviving infancy.

On 20th October 1592, at Ightham, **Francis Greentree and Thomas Peres** assaulted each other, drawing blood, for which they were each fined 3s 4d at the Court held on 26th April 1593. (CRI 1938, p.5) This was before Greentree married.

On 20th October 1601, Francis Greentree, **farmer**, was presented to the Court for receiving a stranger - **George Bedell** - and was to be fined 10s if he was not removed or sureties found. (CRI 1938, p.58, p.18)

Two daughters of "-- Bedell" were baptised in Ightham, **Margaret** (i1783) on 21st January 1599 and **Elizabeth** (i1898) on 21st February 1602. Much later, on 17th June 1633, **John Bedell** married the widow **Agnes Wharten** (i2433). Margaret, Elizabeth and John could all have been the children of the stranger, George Bedell (i1781).

Francis Greentree was the warrener of **William James, gent**, (i1920) lord of Ightham manor. On the night of 12th June 1609 **George Wood, labourer**, and **Edward Smyth, yeoman**, both from Seal broke into James's warren in Ightham to hunt rabbits. Francis was there and tried to protect his master's rabbits but the intruders assaulted him, stealing from him hay worth ten shillings. Wood and Smyth were indicted for poaching and assault at the July 1609 Assizes but the entry in the Calendar of Assize Records says that the verdict was unknown.²²⁰

A **Robert Greentree** was also mentioned in the Court Records for 1586-1618.

The Gregorys of Ightham

Joane (i1175²²¹), wife of **Richard Gregory** (i1174), was buried on 25th October 1570.

George Gregory (i1280) had two children:

- **Richard** i1282 19 Jul 1586
- **Margaret** i1283 27 Jul 1589 just "[daughter of Gregorie](#)"

Joane and Richard could have been George's parents, particularly since his son was called Richard.

George Gregory was mentioned in the Court Records 1586-1618.

A "[Richard Chowning, alias Gregorie](#)" was a "[common alehouse keeper](#)" in 1604 (see [Chownings in More Families & Transcripts](#)) but 1604 is too late for it to be i1174 and not late enough for it to be i1282.

221 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

John Gryme, rector of Ightham

John Gryme (i2138²²²) was rector of Ightham from 1616 until his death at the beginning of 1645. His will (**PCC: Rivers 56**) was written in 1643; it has not been investigated.

His wife, **Elizabeth** (i2139) was buried on 22nd July 1633. They had a daughter, **Jane** (i2140) who was baptised on 28th October 1617 and buried on 9th September 1640.

A **Sarah Gryme** (\$1705) married **Ralph Dawling** (\$1701) on 17th January 1637 in **Shipbourne**.

See also Gransden, page 2.g.112

222 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database and \$ one in that for Shipbourne

The Gunnings of Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i1197 ²²³	<u>GUNNING, Thomas</u> -----			Anne Gunning(m) i1198	1	8	12 Mar 1632
i1198	<u>Gunning(m), Anne</u> -----			"Anne, wife of Thomas Gunning, senior" when she was buried	1	8	18 Apr 1625
•	i1199 <u>Gunning, Mabelle</u>	16 Dec 1582			0	0	8 Jun 1585
•	i1200 <u>GUNNING, Peter</u>	28 Aug 1585			0	0	
•	• \$1090 <u>Gunning, Francis</u>	17 Dec 1612		baptised & buried in Shipbourne "son of Mr. Peter Gunning"	0	0	23 Dec 1612
•	i1201 <u>Gunning, Elizabeth</u>	8 Dec 1588			0	0	
•	i1202 <u>Gunning, Anne</u>	5 Sep 1591			0	0	
•	i1203 <u>Gunning, Mabelle</u>	27 Jan 1594			0	0	
•	i1204 <u>GUNNING, Thomas</u>	15 Aug 1596		"Junior" in 1624 and 1628	1	2	
•	• i1210 <u>GUNNING, Thomas</u>	21 Feb 1623		died at 21 months	0	0	23 Nov 1624
•	• i1209 <u>Gunning, Anne</u>	16 Mar 1628			0	0	
•	i1205 <u>Gunning, Margaret</u>	19 Aug 1599			0	0	
•	i1206 <u>GUNNING, Robert</u> 	16 Jun 1605	27 Sep 1629	Anne Lawrence married at 24 i1207	1	0	
•	i1207 <u>Lawrence, Anne</u>				1	0	23 Aug 1630
	died 11 months after marriage, perhaps due to problems in pregnancy						

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

Thomas Gunning, "[borsholder and ale taster](#)" was referred to a number of times in the Court Records. He was also churchwarden from 1603 to 1605,

- In 1593, he was on the receiving end of a "[common breaker of hedges](#)" - see [Hammonds in More Families & Transcripts](#)
- On 8th May 1598 it was found that Thomas Gunning had allowed his foot-bridge at Ightham to **Borough Green** to "[be in decay. Given till 4 June to repair it, under penalty £5.](#)" (CRI 1937, p.193) It looks from this as if Gunning was responsible for the upkeep of this bridge which was used by the inhabitants of the village. **Valentine Skynner and Robert Wybourne** had the responsibility for another, similar, bridge - see [Skinner in Families & Transcripts](#)
- Also in May 1598 he was presented for receiving a stranger, **Edward West**. If West stayed without sureties being found, Gunning was to be fined 40s. (CRI 1938, p.18)
- In 1602, he occupied some land belonging to Henry Seyliard - see [Seyliard in Families & Transcripts](#)

The Gurrells of Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#113 ²²⁴	<u>GURRELL, Robert</u> -----				2	3	
	<i>Marriage 1</i>			Margaret Stone	1	3	
#267	<u>Stone, Margaret</u> -----		12 May 1566		1	3	12 Jun 1576
• #392	<u>Gurrell, Margery</u>	24 May 1567			0	0	27 May 1567
• #431	<u>GURRELL, Robert</u>	2 Jan 1569			0	0	17 Apr 1583
• #538	<u>Gurrell, Elizabeth</u>	21 Oct 1572			0	0	
	<i>Marriage 2</i>			Johane Porter(m)	1	0	
#1004	<u>Porter(m), Johane</u> -----		30 May 1579		1	0	6 Sep 1580

Johane was widow when she married Robert but the only known wife of a Porter called Johane died in 1574; there is no recorded burial of a married Porter in the 1570s so it is not possible to decide who was Johane's first husband.

224 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 The 28th day of October Anno dm. 1588. I,
3 Elizabeth Gylbert of the parish of Speldhurst in
4 the county of Kent, **widow**, sick in body but of
5 perfect remembrance did make and ordain this,
6 her last will and testament nuncupative, in
7 in manner and form following: That is to say
8 **First:** she willed and bequeathed unto **Margaret**
9 **Farrant als. Gylbert** and **Faith Wylcox, als. Gylbert,**
10 **her two daughters** each of them £6 13s 4d
11 apiece. **Item:** she willed, gave and bequeathed unto
12 **Elinor Farrant, daughter unto Margaret**
13 **Farrant** aforesaid, And to **John Campuett**, her
14 servant, either of them a weyncling bullock. And
15 to **Agnes, her maid**, 10s. **Item:** to **Mary Farrant**
16 she gave a lamb. All the rest of her goods
17 whatsoever, her debts paid, her legacies
18 and funeral discharged, she willed equally
19 to be divided amongst the rest of her
20 children. Witnesses hereunto **John Burr,**
21 **John Gylbert** and others.

The Gyles of Seal & Shipbourne

The following are all isolated events.

In **Seal**, on 16th March 1583, **Alice** (#1188²²⁵), daughter of **Edward Giles** (#1186) was baptised.

In **Shipbourne**:

On 10th April 1605, **Abraham Gyles** (\$709) was buried.

On 26th September 1642, **William Gyles** (\$1838) married **Elizabeth Smith** (\$1847)

On 19th September 1647, **Thomas Gyles** (\$2105) married **Dorothy Brissenden** (\$2104).

On 2nd November 1647, **Mary** (\$2116), daughter of **John Gyles** (\$2113), was baptised.

225 # indicates a reference in the Seal database