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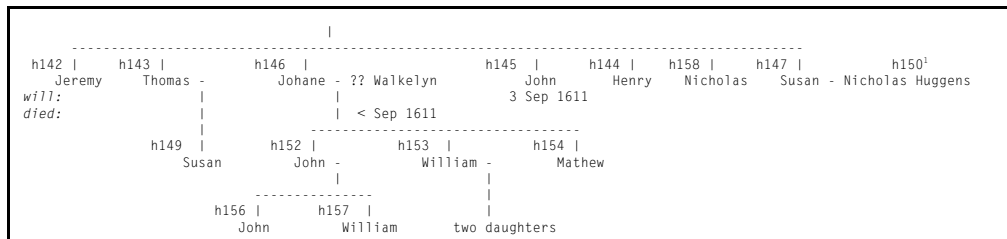
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John Salmon, yeoman, of Hadlow

In his will John mentions neither wife nor children but he had three brothers and two married sisters:



His nephews John and William Walkelyn, sons of his sister Johane, were to be his executor and overseer respectively with John's son, John the younger, being his main heir. Whilst his brother Jeremy and sister Susan were each to receive ten shillings and the daughter of his brother Thomas, who was his servant, £10, his two other brothers, Henry and Nicholas, were each left just twelve pence each - enough to show they had been remembered and therefore could not contest the will.

1 "h" indicates a reference in the Hadlow database

This will was written by Nicholas Hooper who was the curate of Shipbourne but also a professional scriptor. As with a number of the testators for whom Nicholas Hooper wrote their wills, John Salmon, although “aged” was “[at the time of making hereof in good and perfect health as well of body as of mind and memory](#)”. This is borne out by the complexities of the will which does not appear to be the will of someone on his deathbed. It is interesting to consider the instructions given to Hooper by John Salmon and how much of at least the latter half of the will was the work of Hooper himself as he thought of more and more possible train of events. Did the testator himself (not only here but in many other wills written by professional scriptors) mention items such as the possibility of a person holding land which was eventually to go another felling timber and carrying out strip and waste?

Between 1611 and 1640, George Salmon was the scriptor of at least nine wills, six of which were for people from Brenchley.

Will of John Salmon of Hadlow

written 3rd September 1611

transcript from probate copy; PCC: Fenner 5

1 In the name of god Amen. The third day of September in the

2 year of our lord god one thousand, six hundred and eleven. And in the
ninth year of the reign
3 of our sovereign lord James, by the grace of god king of England, France
and Ireland, defender of
4 the faith, etc. And of Scotland the five and fortieth, I John Salmon of
Hadlow in the county
5 of Kent, **yeoman**, being² at the time of making hereof in good and perfect
health as well of body
6 as of mind and memory, thanks therefore be given to Almighty god,
notwithstanding aged and
7 thereby as well as by many other examples daily falling out put in mind of
the uncertainty of the
8 time of death, And willing to set in order those small and transitory
possessions which god hath
9 made me steward of in this world, that no contention fall out about the
same after my decease. Therefore
10 I do ordain and make this my present last will and testament in manner
and form following, And
11 **First** and principally I give, commend and bequeath my soul into the hands
of Almighty god, assuring

2 "beeing" characteristic of Hoopers but probate copy

12 myself by a true and firm faith which I have in the merit, precious death
and blud shedding of
13 his dear and only son, Jesus Christ, my alone saviour and redeemer, that
the same shalbe presented,
14 pure and without spot, before³ the throne of his majesty. And my body to
the earth to be buried in
15 the churchyard of Hadlow aforesaid in sure and certain hope of a joyful
resurrection to life
16 immortal. **Item:** I will there shalbe bestowed at my burial among the poor
people thither resorting
17 ten shillings. **Item:** I will and give to **Jeremy Salmon, my brother,** ten
shillings. **Item:** I give to **Susan**
18 **now wife to Nicholas Huggens, my sister,** ten shillings. **Item:** I give and
bequeath to **Susan Salmon**
19 **my brother Thomas Salmon's daughter,** now my servant, the sum of ten
pounds of lawful money to
20 be paid to her presently after my decease. And for the payment of her said
£10 I give unto her the

21 said Susan a bond of £20 which I have of **George Pattenden**⁴ and the
forfeiture thereof. And mine
22 executor not to be charged therewith but only to be a help or means to her
that she may have the said
23 ten pounds to her truly paid according to the true meaning of this my will.
Item: I give and bequeath
24 to **Henry Salmon, my brother**, 12d. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Nicholas
Salmon, my brother**, 12d.
25 **Item:** I give and bequeath to my **only**⁵ **sister, Johane Walkelyn, widow**, ten
pounds of lawful money
26 to be paid to her presently after my decease out of a bond which I have of
Thomas Newman, the younger.
27 **Item:** I give to **Mathew Walkelyn, her son**, ten pounds to be paid likewise.
Item: whereas I have
28 a bond of £40 from **William Walkelyn, my kinsman**, for £20 to be paid at a
day yet to come, I will that
29 he shall have his said bond delivered unto him presently after my decease.
But I will that he shall

4 There were Pattendens in Hadlow at this time including a Jeremy Pattenden who wrote his will in 1616 - see [More Families & Transcripts](#) - but no mention of George Pattenden; nor do the Pattendens mention the name Salmon

5 should this be "other" or "only other" since he has already mentioned his sister Susan

30 pay to his two daughters now living the said sum of £20 equally between
them at their several
31 full age of sixteen years or if either of them decease before then to the
overliver of them all the
32 whole sum at the same age. And whereas I have of **Thomas Allen, my
kinsman**, a bond for the payment
33 of sixteen pounds to be paid at a day yet to come, I will his bond shalbe
likewise delivered to
34 him presently after my decease. But yet I will that he shall pay the said
sixteen pounds to
35 his two children viz. **Mathew, his son**, six pounds parcel thereof and to
Johane, his daughter, my
36 goddaughter, ten pounds the residue thereof at their several full age of
sixteen years or if
37 one decease before then the whole £16 to the overliver at the same age.
Item: I give and bequeath
38 to the **children of Thomas Hawkes of Brenchley** the sum of twenty pounds
equally be
39 tween them, to be paid to them within one half year next after my decease
which twenty pounds
40 shalbe paid out of a bond which I have from **John and Thomas Mitchell of
Hunton** and mine

41 executor not to be charges with the payment thereof but only to be a
42 means for the recovery thereof. The residue of all my goods and cattells, debts, credits and
43 chattells and all other my goods and moveable whatsoever, except the one half of my timber and
44 b...ds⁶. I wholly, fully and with good intent and purpose, give and bequeath to **John Walkelyn, my
45 sister's son**, which John Walklyn I make and ordain my whole and sole executor of this my will to
46 see that my will (be) proved so soon as may be after my decease, my debts and legacies paid which, on his behalf, are
47 to be paid and discharged and my body honestly and decently buried. And I make and ordain
48 **William Walkelyn, his brother**, likewise my sister's son, overseer of this my will. To whom I give the one
49 half of all my timber and bonds beside his expenses to be laid out in any lawful business about
50 this my will. This is the last will of me, the said John Salmon, made and declared the
day and year first

51 above written concerning the order and disposition of all my little
tenement and landes called **Pipers**
52 situated near **Deecing?** bridge in Hadlow aforesaid. **Item:** I give and
bequeath to John Walkelyn,

page 2:

53 the younger, son of the said John Walkelyn, my executor above named, all
my said messuage called Pipers
54 with the edifice, close, gardens and orchards and all the lands and
appurtenances whatsoever to the same belon
55 ging, containing by estimation, four acres and a half whether more or less,
severally situated, lying
57 and being in Hadlow aforesaid. To have and to hold the same and every of
the same with all and singular
58 th'appurtenances unto the said John Walkelyn, the younger, presently after
he shall attain and come to
59 his full age of twenty years, to the only use and behoof of the said John, the
younger, his heirs and
60 assigns, for ever. Notwithstanding my full intent and meaning is that the
said John Walklyn, the
61 younger, his heirs or assigns, shall pay, or cause to be paid, to William
Walkelyn, his brother, out of

62 my said tenement and lands, the sum of twenty pounds within two years
next after the said

63 John, the younger, shall attain his said age of twenty years if the said
William shalbe then living.

64 And I will that for lack of payment of the said £20 at the time aforesaid, it
shalbe lawful for the said

65 William Walkelyn, his brother, to enter in and upon all my said tenement
and lands. And the same,

66 with all and singular th'appurtenances, shall hold, occupy and enjoy (and
dispossess the said John and his

67 heirs) until he shall have extracted? of the issues and profits thereof the
said full sum of twenty

68 pounds. Provided always that, if the said John Walkelyn, the younger,
shall happen to decease without

69 issue of his body lawfully begotten, then I will and bequeath (or I will that
all the said message

70 or tenement and all other the premises with all and singular
th'appurtenances shall remain) to the said

71 William Walkelyn, his brother, after his full age of twenty years, his heirs
and assigns, forever.

72 Provided also that if the said William Walkelyn happen to decease without
issue of his body lawfully

73 begotten then I will and give (or I will that all the said messuage or
tenement and all other the premises
74 with all and singular th'appurtenances shall remain) to the two daughters
now living of William
75 Walklyn, my said overseer, their heirs and assigns, forever. **Item:** I will that
(in the mean season
76 and until that the said John Walkelyn, the younger, shall attain to his age
of twenty years aforesaid,
77 or if he happen to decease before until the said William, his brother, shall
attain his full age of twenty
78 years) he, the said John Walkelyn, mine executor above named, his heirs,
executors or assigns, shall
79 hold and occupy or let or demise the said messuage or tenement, and all
other my said lands with th'appurtenances,
80 and shall take up the rents of the same, keeping the same well repaired
and doing no manner of strip
81 or waste in or upon the same other than for needful timber to be spent only
in the needful reparations
82 of the said tenement and edifice. And I will that the said John Walkelyn,
my said executor, his heirs,
83 executors or assigns, shall pay out of my said tenement and premises,
yearly, every year until

84 the time aforesaid, the sum of twenty shillings of lawful money equally
between the said two
85 daughters now living of the said William Walkelyn, my said overseer, or if
one happen to ?? ??
86 before then the whole 20s every year after until the time aforesaid to the
other. And I further will
87 and my true and full meaning is that if the said John Walkelyn, mine
executor, his heirs, executors
88 or assigns, shall at any time until the said age of twenty years of the said
John or William, fell,
89 cut down or spoil any tree or trees in or upon the premises or any part
thereof or shall commit
90 or do any other strip or waste upon the same then for needful reparations
aforesaid or for hedgeboot
91 to be taken of underwood, or shall not yearly, every year, until the time
aforesaid pay the said 20s
92 to the said daughters of the said William Walkelyn, or one of them,
according to the true meaning of this
93 my will, then I give full authority by virtue of this my will, unto the said
William Walkelyn, my said
94 overseer, his heirs, executors and assigns, to enter in and upon my said
land and premises and

95 occupy and hold the same and to pay the said 20s yearly as aforesaid to the
said two daughters
96 and to do and perform all such things as the said John should do by virtue
of this my will without
97 all fraud and guile anything herein before mentioned to the contrary in any
wise notwithstanding. In witness whereof I, the said John Salmon, to this my present
98 last will being
99 five sheets of paper to every sheet have set my mark and to this fifth and
last sheet have set my
100 hand and seal yeven the day and year first above written, The mark of John
Salmon, Read,
101 sealed and acknowledged as the last will of the said John Salmon in the
presence of me **Nicholas**
102 **Hooper, sen. writer hereof** and of **John Redding**.

Paul Salmon, yeoman, of East Peckham

Paul's will was written by Robert Hooper. There are a number of places where a phrase was entered and then crossed out which seems to show that the will that was proved was written by Richard Hooper as Paul dictated it as distinct from Hooper making notes and the writing the will to be brought back for the testator's signature. In that case, changes require the amending version to be "interlined".

There is also an addition at the end regarding a bond. This was not written by Robert Hooper.

Paul "bestowed upon a dinner" for those who accompanied his "body to the burial" forty shillings (£2). This was twice what he left to a nephew and two nieces.

The crossing out of a bequest to a son of his wife Julian on line 20 implies that Julian had at least one child from a previous marriage. Paul's executor was his son William who was probably a son of Paul's first marriage. He left a legacy of £5 to his nephew Francis and the arrangements for this seem very complicated.

1 In the name of god Amen. The five and twentieth day of December
2 in the first year of the reign of our sovereign Lord Charles by the grace of
god king of
3 England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. 1625, I
Paul Salmon
4 of East Peckham in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being at the time of
making hereof sick
5 and ?? in body but yet of sound and perfect memory (praised be god),
and knowing
6 assuredly that, as all flesh is subject unto death and mortality, so I myself
shall
7 change this my life, and the time hereof being altogether uncertain, do
therefore,
8 to avoid trouble after death, make and declare this my present testament
and last will
9 in manner and form following, that is to say, **First** and principally I give,
commend and
10 bequeath my soul unto god, my most merciful creator, steadfastly trusting
by an

11 assured and lively faith which I have in the precious death and passion of
his dear and
12 only son Christ Jesus, my only saviour and redeemer, to have free pardon
and remission
13 of all my sins. And my body to the earth to be buried in the churchyard of
14 East Peckham aforesaid, in sure and certain hope of a joyful resurrection
unto life eternal.
15 **Item:** I will there shall be bestowed upon a dinner unto those which shall
accompany my
16 body to the burial forty shillings. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Julian, my
wife,**
17 the joined bedstead with the feather bed whereon I used to lie and all the
bedding thereto
18 belonging, one pillow, two pillow coats, three pairs of sheets, two
tablecloths,
19 two hand towels, two table napkins, two brass kettles, a brass stupnet, one
iron pot
20 and all the pewter she brought with her or that came by her. ⁷
21 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **John Salmon, my godson, the son of**
22 **my brother, Alexander Salmon,** twenty shillings to be paid him within
twelve months

23 next after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **William Salmon,**
24 **son of my brother**
25 **William Salmon, deceased,**⁸ only twelve pence
26 of silver. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Frances Salmon, the other son of**
27 **the said William**
28 my brother, five pounds to be paid unto him at his age of one and twenty
29 years if he
30 shall be then living. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Judith Salmon and**
31 **Hannah**
32 **Salmon, daughters** of my said brother William, to each of them twenty
33 shillings
34 to be paid unto them within twelve months next after my decease.

35 The residue and all other my⁹ goods and moveables whatsoever
36 unbequeathed, I fully and wholly give unto **William Salmon, my son,** whom
37 I make and ordain my whole and sole executor of this my will and he to pay
38 all
39 my debts and legacies, to approve this will and to see my body decently
40 buried and

8 "ten pounds to be paid unto him at ???" originally written here but crossed out

9 "moveables" originally here but crossed out

34 to see and execute all other things herein contained according to the true
meaning of this
35 my will. **Item:** I make and ordain my loving neighbours **John Kealle** and
William Raines

page 2:

36 of East Peckham aforesaid, overseers of this my will, heartily entreating
them so far as
37 in them lieth, to see the same fulfilled according to my will and meaning.
And lastly my
38 will and meaning is that the said sum of five pounds by me herein given
unto the said Frances
39 Salmon shall remain in the hands of my said overseers, or one of them,
until the time
40 of payment thereof aforesaid. And they, or one of them, to pay yearly for
the profits thereof
41 unto my said son William, after eighteen pence the pound. And also the
sum of twenty
42 pounds more parcel of stock and estate, given to my said son William, for
the term of five?
43 whole years next after my decease, they paying ?? for the same unto my
said son

44 William after the ?? aforesaid (any thing herein mentioned to the contrary
notwithstanding)
45 In witness whereof I have hereunto put my hand and seal the day and year
before declared
46 acknowledging this same to be my very true and last will

Sealed and delivered to be the last will
and testament of the said Paul Salmon
in the presence of
Mr Robert Hooper

Paul Salmon

Item: it is agreed and confy..red since? I made this last
will of a bond of forty pounds which my father was bound
which my father was bound if that lone¹⁰ ?? at my death which
money I know? not where or if therefore it is my money now
that my wife Julian Salmon shall have none of ?? goods
in the house nor be much at her apparel? that she wears but
to be praised to the full of the worth of it if she ?? to that bond.

Stephen Butler

John Hine?

The Sanders of Ightham & Shipbourne

Saunders is an alternative spelling

The main Ightham family is that of William Sanders (i2001¹¹) whose children were born between 1607 and 1622 (see next page). A William Sanders was a **borsholder** and **ale taster** sometime between 1586 and 1618; if he was the father of this family it would have been towards the end of the period

A **John Sanders** (i2208) was buried in Ightham on 22nd April 1617.

John (i2577), son of **John Saunders** (i2575), was buried in Ightham on 12 July 1636.

In Shipbourne, there was the family of **Peter Saunders** (\$1635), born between 1635 and 1645.

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

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i2001	<u>SANDERS, William</u> -----				1	8	
• i2003	<u>SANDERS, Thomas</u>	18 Jan 1607			0	0	
• i2004	<u>Sanders, Elizabeth</u>	18 Feb 1610			0	0	15 Jun 1612
• i2005	<u>SANDERS, Edward</u>	6 Jan 1613	twin		0	0	
• i2006	<u>SANDERS, William</u>	6 Jan 1613	twin		0	0	
	William probably died very soon after baptism; the next child, born only 18 months later, was also called William						
• i2007	<u>SANDERS, William</u>	3 Jul 1614			0	0	
• i2008	<u>SANDERS, George</u>	21 Feb 1617		Elizabeth Sanders(m)	1	1	
					i2679		
• • i2680	<u>Sanders, Margery</u>						0 0 28 Sep 1651
				died 27 September, buried the day after			
• i2009	<u>SANDERS, Arthur</u>	5 Dec 1619			0	0	
• i2010	<u>SANDERS, John</u>	9 Jun 1622			0	0	

A William Sanders was buried on 9th May 1648; this could have been either i2001 or i2007.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
\$1635	<u>SAUNDERS, Peter</u> ----- 				1	5	
\$1636	<u>Saunders(m), Agnes</u> -----				1	5	
● \$1637	<u>SAUNDERS, infant son</u>				0	0	2 Mar 1635
● \$1686	<u>SAUNDERS, Henry</u>	10 Jul 1636			0	0	
● \$1638	<u>SAUNDERS, infant son</u>				0	0	27 Nov 1639
● \$1639	<u>Saunders, Mary</u>	10 Jun 1641			0	0	
● \$1640	<u>SAUNDERS, Leyston</u>	4 Mar 1645	son	00			

Henry was described as the son of “Peter and Anne Saunders”.

First and principally I give and bequeath my soul to Almighty god, my maker and redeemer, and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Speldhurst.

witnesses: **Richard Apsac**, his mark, and **Richard Eldridge**¹²

12 Richard Eldridge also witnessed the will of Johan Simons, page g.81

The Sawyers of Ightham & Shipbourne

George Sawyer, of Tonbridge, married Alice Millis in **Shipbourne** on 1st September 1611 “[by a certificate from Tonbridge that they were there three times lawfully asked](#)”.

There were Mills/Milles/Millis families in both Shipbourne and Ightham but the only Alice who could have married in 1611 was the daughter of **William Millis** (i1100) born in 1593 - see [Millis in More Families & Transcripts](#). Why they chose to marry in Shipbourne is not known but their first child, Mary, was baptised in Shipbourne in September 1613. They had three more children baptised in Ightham but Alice died six months after the birth of the last of these..

George's second wife can also be identified - Marie, the daughter of Thomas Stretfield of Ightham (i1513) - see page 2.s.192. A George Sawyer was mentioned in the Court Records for 1586-1618; was it this George Sawyer or one from an earlier generation?

Thomas Sawyer (\$1924) married **Alice Massocke** (\$1939) on 5th April 1644..
Joan Sawyer was buried on 15th January 1623 but her connection (if any) with the above Sawyers is not known.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i1536 ¹³	<u>SAWYER, George</u> -----				2	9	
	<i>Marriage 1</i>		1 Sep 1611	Alice Millis i1537	1	4	
i1537	<u>Millis, Alice</u> -----	19 Aug 1593		married at 18	1	4	9 Jul 1623
•	\$1119 <u>Sawyer, Mary</u>	28 Nov 1613			0	0	
•	i2149 <u>Sawyer, Joane</u>	17 May 1618			0	0	27 Feb 1625
•	i2148 <u>SAWYER, William</u>	27 Aug 1620			0	0	11 Jul 1625
•	i1538 <u>SAWYER, George</u>	12 Jan 1623			0	0	11 Sep 1629
	<i>Marriage 2</i>		1 Sep 1623	Marie Stretfield i1519	1	5	
i1519	<u>Stretfield, Marie</u> -----	26 Jun 1598		married at 25	1	5	
•	i1539 <u>SAWYER, Edward</u>	5 Sep 1624			0	0	6 Jul 1626
•	i1540 <u>Sawyer, Joan</u>	5 Feb 1626			0	0	14 Jul 1639
•	i1541 <u>Sawyer, Anne</u>	6 Apr 1629			0	0	
•	i2150 <u>Sawyer, Clemence</u>	5 May 1633			0	0	
•	i2151 <u>SAWYER, George</u>	28 Dec 1635			0	0	
				"son of George Sawyer and Maria"			

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

The Scamells of Shipbourne

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
\$1795 ¹⁴	<u>SCAMELL, John</u> -----		26 Dec 1640	Alice Hooper \$1054	1	6	
\$1054	<u>Hooper, Alice</u> -----	26 Oct 1614		married aged 23	1	6	
• \$1847	<u>Scamell, Elizabeth</u>	7 Jul 1641			0	0	
• \$1796	<u>SCAMELL, John</u>	14 Aug 1642			0	0	
• \$1797	<u>SCAMELL, William</u>	8 Sep 1644			0	0	
• \$2061	<u>SCAMELL, Nicholas</u>	13 Sep 1646			0	0	
• \$2173	<u>Scamell, infant</u>			“an infant of John Scamell”	0	0	26 Mar 1649
• \$2196	<u>Scmell, Alice</u>	7 Jul 1650			0	0	

14 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

Thomas Sawyer and Alice

On 8th April 1644, in Shipbourne, **Thomas Sawyer** (\$1924) married **Alice Massocke** (\$1939).

The Ightham register records that Thomas (i2147), son of Thomas Sawyer, was “**born 3rd January 1644 but not baptised until 30 Mar 1644 or later**”. It would appear that Thomas and Alice married after their son was born but did not have him baptised until afterwards.

They had a second son William (i2152) baptised on 31st March 1648 and recorded as the “**son of Thomas Sawyer and Alice**”.

Thomas Scrawn of Seal

Thomas Scrawn (#3852¹⁵) was listed as of Chart in the Knole Manuscript of 1648 - see [Section Z in Families & Transcripts](#).

He and his wife **Anne** (#3853) had two children baptised in Seal:

- | | | | |
|---|----------------|-------|-------------|
| - | Peter | #3854 | 9 Jul 1643 |
| - | Dorothy | #3855 | 28 Mar 1647 |

15 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

Thomas Scull of Seal - Indictment for Grand Larceny

Thomas Scull (#4261¹⁶), labourer of Seal was associated with two labourers of Shoreham in one of a number of thefts from **John Polhill** with a yeoman, **Thomas Danyell** of Shoreham being indicted as an accessory.

At the Assizes of February 1591, **Richard Grave** and **Gregory Beverly** were indicted for grand larceny. It was alleged that, on 20th June 1590 at Shoreham, they stole 8 bushels of malt worth 16s (£0.80). On the 10th August two quarters of malt worth 32s (£1.60) and, at some time between these two dates, assisted by Scull, they stole 12 bushels of malt worth 24s (£1.20). A bushel is a capacity measure equal to 8 gallons with 1 bushel of malt being valued at two shillings.

Grave, Beverley and Scull were found guilty but allowed benefit of clergy; Danyell was found not guilty¹⁷. To claim such benefit the accused had to show he could read but to do this he was asked to read a verse from the bible, nearly always a particular verse from Psalm 51 which could have been memorised by an illiterate person before he stood trial

¹⁶ # indicates a reference in the Seal database

¹⁷ Cockburn (Eliz.I); 1898

Sir John Sedley of Ightham

Sir **John Sedley** (i2284¹⁸), was the baronet of **St. Clere** which he bought from **Robert Multon** (i1586) about 1630. Eight years earlier, in 1622, he witnessed the will of Elizabeth Peckham. He had three children baptised in Ightham:

- John i2286 8 Nov 1627
- Dorothy i2287 8 Jan 1629
- Katherine i2489 15 Jul 1636

The name of his **wife, Elizabeth** (i2285) was given at the baptism of Katherine which was seven years after the previously recorded baptism.

18 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

I will

- and bequeath unto **Thomas Seering, my son** £5 of good and lawful money of England to be paid unto him by my **wife Johane** or her assigns, within 3 years next after my decease. **Item:** I give unto **my daughter, Susan Seering**, £5 of good and lawful money of England to be paid unto him by my **wife Johane** or her assigns, within 3 years next after my decease.
- **Item:** I give unto **Elizabeth Broker**, my servant, a brown heifer of a year old, a pair of sheets, a kettle and a little brass pot, 2 pieces of pewter. **Item:** I give unto **William Rowse** a red heifer of a year old. **Item:** I give unto Thomas, my son. a flock bed, a pair of sheets and a blanket and a chest with a lock and

- key. **Item:** I give unto Susan, my daughter,
- a flock bed, 2 pairs of sheets, an iron
- pot, a great cauldron, a chafer, 2 pewter
- dishes, a black heifer of a year old and
- Thomas, my son, a red heifer of a year
- old. **Item:** I give unto **Mary Munsley,**
- **my wife's daughter,** a weaning calf.
- All the rest of my goods not bequeathed I
- give unto Johane, my wife, whom I do
- make my true and faithful executrix,
- to pay my debts and legacies and to
- see this, my last will, performed in all things
- these being witness **Richard Root, William**
- **Day, James Lovens** and others

- This is the last will and testament
- of me the said Robert Seering dated the
- day and year above written
- I will my house with all the lands
- thereto belonging, as well my own land
- as my farm land, unto Johane, my wife,
- during the term of 3 years next after
- my decease and after the end of the 3

- years I will my said tenement with
- the appurtenances unto my son Thomas
- and my daughter equally to be
- divided between them. And if either of
- them die without heirs of their bodies
- lawfully begotten, then I will my said
- tenement with the unto
- the longer liver of my 2 children and
- to their heirs. **Item:** I will that if
- Johane, my wife, live a widow after
- the end of 3 years before mentioned,
- that then she to have a chamber in
- the west end of my house during her
- widowhood with a cow in my barn
- to lay in her corner with free liberty to
- the fire and flete for her necessary uses
- during the said time of her widowhood

witnesses as above written

The will of Susan Seering was proved in 1576 (CKS: Drb/Pw 12, Drb/Pwr 14.314; this could be the will of Robert's daughter.

The Seldons of Shipbourne

Although a number of Seldons were mentioned in the parish registers there is no obvious connection between them.

Mildred Seldon (\$193 ¹⁹)	buried	9 Mar 1582	
Tobias Seldon (\$309)	married	7 Feb 1585	Agnes Guilder \$191 ²⁰
Richard Seldon (\$377)	buried	3 Mar 1587	
		ten days after his wife:	
Margaret Seldon(m) (\$378)	buried	22 Feb 1587	
Alice Seldon (\$417), widow	buried	23 Jul 1598	
Anne Seldon , (\$1133)	“baseborn”	buried	27 Mar 1614
		no parent given	

¹⁹ \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

²⁰ see [JohnHowell of Shipbourne in Section Z of More Families & Transcripts](#)

Samuel Seldon

\$723

married twice:

Margaret Rice, widow \$725 18 Apr 1602

Jean Brown \$1125 22 Feb 1614

no children were recorded for either marriage

Samuel was buried

21 Sep 1644

There was also a **John Selden, labourer**, who was indicted for grand larceny at the March 1582 Assizes - see [John Howell of Shipbourne in More Families & Transcripts](#)

Samuel Selwood, gent.

Samuel Selwood (#3848) and his wife **Anne** (#3849) had two children baptised in Seal:

- **Humphrey** #3850 24 Oct 1641
- **Susan** #3851 8 Nov 1642

On 11th August 1645, **Samuel Selwood**, creditor of Richard Smyth, was appointed his administrator, "**Susan, his relict, renouncing**"²¹. See page 2.s.127 for details of Richard Smyth.

21 Duncan, 1893; p.36

The Setons of Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#1422 ²²	<u>SETON, Abraham</u> -----				1	5	
• #1424	<u>Seton, Elizabeth</u>	26 Mar 1587			0	0	28 Mar 1587
• #1514	<u>Seton, Sylvester</u>	25 Aug 1588			0	0	23 Oct 1588
• #1586	<u>SETON, Abraham</u>	21 Dec 1589			0	0	14 Aug 1591
• #1968	<u>SETON, John</u>				0	0	18 Apr 1594
• #1917	<u>SETON, Abraham</u>	4 Feb 1599	7 Oct 1622	Katheryn Cooper married at 23	1	2	
• • #3379	<u>SETON, Thomas</u>	30 Mar 1623					0 0
• • #3380	<u>SETON, Richard</u>	30 Mar 1624					0 0

Emily Horton, a child nursed at Setons, was buried on 28th October 1590.

²² # indicates a reference in the Seal database and "i" in that for Ightham

From the above family, Abraham was the only child out of five to have survived infancy. In Ightham:

- **William** (i2268), son of **Abraham Seaton** (i2266) was baptised on 1st April 1627
- **Abraham Seaton** was buried on 16th May 1628.

No other Setons/Seatons are recorded but it is feasible that the Abraham from Seal who survived was the father of i2266 and the man buried in 1628. This suggestion is made more likely in that Abraham is not a very common name.

“**First** I bequeath my soul to Almighty god and to Jesus Christ his only son by whose death and passion I trust to be saved, committing my body to the earth and to be buried in the churchyard of Penshurst”.

witnesses: Henry Sidney, parson of Penshurst
Thomas Leddall, scr.

This preamble is very similar to others written by Leddall.

The Seyliards or Selyardes

The Seyliards (or as it was often written Selyarde) were a large family from the Brasted, Sundridge, Edenbridge and Hever area. Transcripts of the wills of William Seyliard of Sevenoaks and Nicholas Seyliard of Ightham, both of 1632, are give in [HOS, section 2](#), and [Families & Transcripts](#) respectively). A few details taken from some of the other wills are given here. Some deeds, etc.have also survived; although these have not been investigated, references are given below.

Nicholas Selyarde, gent. of Brasted and Edenbridge

Nicholas wrote his will (**PCC: Rowe 46**) on 6th October 1580. The witnesses were **William Seyliard** and **John Seyliard**.

Richard Suliarde of Tonbridge

This name is an obvious variation of Seyliard. Richard's widow, Bridget, was appointed his administrator on 29th November 1594²³.

William Seyliard of Edenbridge & Chiddingstone

William's will (PCC: Drake 31,32), written on 20th March 1595, is very long and it has not been investigated. The witnesses were:

Lawrence Scrisse, parson of Brasted, who probably wrote the will
Thomas Seyliard and **John Browne** who made his mark

23 Duncan, 1889

Will of Thomas Seyliard of Sundridge

The will of Thomas Seyliard, gent., (PCC: Cope 127) was written on 31st October 1615 and proved in 1616. There is no introduction regarding his soul or body, the will being concerned with the disposition of his lands, etc.

The witnesses were:

- **John Barkham** who could have written the will
- **Mrs. Alice Seyliard** wife of the said Mr. Thomas Seyliard
- **Margaret Mashe** who made her mark.

Seyliard Deeds, 1589, 1598, 1608

At least three writings concerning the Seyliards have survived (CKS: U/1000/T3) but none have been investigated:

- 1589 decorated but not in the Hooper style, written, at least partly, in Latin
- 1598 deed concerning the Seyliard properties; written in Latin; decorated initial "I" but not in the Hooper style; "E" of Elizabeth is decorated with a crown and the phrase "honi soit que noly pense".
- 1608 also decorated but, again, not in the Hooper style

- **First** I commend my soul into
- the hands of Almighty god, my maker, assuredly trusting through the merits and passion
- of Jesus Christ, my only saviour and redeemer, to have remission of all my sins and to
- inherit internal life. And for my body I commit it unto the earth from whence it came, to
- decent burial in the parish of Brasted aforesaid.

witnesses: **Robert Roger, Giles Amherst**, mark of **William Holmden**

The Shawes of Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i165 ²⁴	<u>SHAWE, Barnaby</u> -----				1	8	
		mentioned in the Court records 1553-74 and 1586-1618					
• i167	<u>SHAWE, John</u>		9 Mar 1561				0 0
• i505	<u>SHAWE, Richard</u>		5 Mar 1564				0 0
• i574	<u>SHAWE, Walter</u>		6 Oct 1566				0 0
• i599	<u>SHAWE, Nicholas</u>		4 Sep 1569				0 0
• i600	<u>SHAWE, George</u>		23 Mar 1572				1 3 30 Jun 1632
	see the next page for his children; this assumes it was Barnaby's son who was the "George Shawe" who had children 1609-1612						
• i601	<u>SHAWE, Arthur</u>		11 Jan 1575				0 0
• i902	<u>SHAWE, Christopher</u>		22 Dec 1577				0 0
• i962	<u>Shawe, Bridget</u>		28 Jan 1582				0 0

24 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
i600	<u>SHAWE, George</u> ----- 	23 Mar 1572		Margaret Shawe(m) 12031	1 3	30 Jun 1632 aged 60
i2031	<u>Shawe(m), Margaret</u> -----				1 3	16 Apr 1636
	the "Margaret Shawe, widow" who died in 1636 could have been George's widow but no mother's name is given at the baptisms of the children					
• i2032	<u>Shawe, Anne</u>		23 Apr 1609		0 0	21 May 1609
• i2070	<u>SHAWE, George</u>		13 Jan 1611		0 0	3 Feb 1611
• i2033	<u>SHAWE, Steven</u>		22 Nov 1612		0 0	

A **James Shawe** (i1393) was buried in the spring of 1585 but nothing other than his name was recorded.

George Shawe alias Stephenson

George Shaw, alias **Stephenson** was mentioned in the Court Rolls between 1586 and 1618. **George Stevenson** was the father of **Marie** and **Alice** baptised, in Ightham, on 3rd May 1601 and 3rd April 1603 respectively. Were these two elder daughters of i600?

The baptism of **Katherine Shawe** "dau. of -- Shawe" (i1719) was recorded for 18th January 1596. It is unlikely that Katherine was Barnaby's daughter but his son, George, could have married in 1594 or 1595. William, son of George Shaw, was baptised in Seal on 15th October 1598 and he could also have been the son of i600.

The Richard Shawe mentioned in the Court Rolls between 1586 and 1618 was also "[alias Stephenson](#)". He could have been Barnaby's second son.

Margaret(i2464), daughter of **William Stevenson** (i2462), was baptised on 15th December 1633.

The Ightham Court Rolls

A **William Shaw** was mentioned in the Court Records for 1553-74.

On 28th October 1608, **Richard Austen** was presented to the Court for having received a "[stranger](#)" - **George Stephenson** - and was to be fined 20s if Stephenson stayed without sureties being found for him. (CRI 1938, p.18) It is unlikely that this was the father of the children baptised in the 1600s.

On 16th October 1616 a number of people, including **George Shawe, alias Simpson**, were found to "have often and separately trespassed on the lord of this manor by beating down mast of trees growing on the common of the lord, they not being tenants of the manor. Fined 5s each." (CRI 1937, p.209).

Was this George Shawe i600? If so he must have moved out of Ightham by 1616 since, when charged, he was not a tenant of the manor.

The Shawes of Shipbourne

Grace Shawe	\$567 ²⁵	married	Henry Smyth (\$566)
		on 3rd September 1592	
Mary Shawe	\$1249	married	Anthony Penny (\$1244)
		on 11th April 1618	“ by a licence from Rochester ”
Robert Shawe	\$2081	must have married twice	
		his first wife was buried on 26th March 1647	
		he had a daughter, Mary (\$2186)	baptised on 2nd October 1649

25 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

The Shepleys & Shepes of Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i629 ²⁶	<u>SHEPLEY, William</u> -----				2	2	
	<i>Marriage 1</i>		20 Apr 1629	Joan Stoner i2352	1	0	
i2352	<u>Stoner, Joan</u> -----				1	0	2 Mar 1635
	died practically six years after her marriage; no children were recorded						
	<i>Marriage 2</i>		30 Jun 1636	Marie Taylor i620	1	2	
i620	<u>Taylor, Marie</u> -----	26 Sep 1613					
			married at 32	see Taylor in More Families & Transcripts			
• i2511	<u>SHEPLEY, John</u>		25 Aug 1639				0 0
• i2512	<u>SHEPLEY, William</u>		1 Jan 1644				0 0
	William was not baptised until after 30 Mar 1644 but his birth date of 1 Jan is also given; (Thomas Sawyer, born 3 Jan was also not baptised until after March)						

James (i588), the son of **John Shepe** (i586) was baptised on 13th March 1569.

Nicholas (#531), the son of **John Shepe** (#529 was baptised, in **Seal**, on 25th April 1572; Nicholas and James could have been brothers.

The Sherewoods of Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
#344 ²⁷	<u>SHEREWOOD, William</u> ----- 		11 Jun 1570	Alice Allingham	1 3	
#345	<u>Allingham, Alice</u> -----				1 3	2 Mar 1633
	if the Alice Allingham who married in 1570 was the Alice Sherewood, widow, who died 1633, she was in her 80s					
• #767	<u>SHEREWOOD, William</u>	18 Apr 1574			0 0	
• #872	<u>Sherewood, Margaret</u>	11 May 1578			0 0	
• #1290	<u>Sherewood, Jane</u>	24 Jan 1585			0 0	
#1683	<u>SHEREWOOD, John</u> -----		22 Jun 1595	Rebecca Stace #1684	1 3	
• #1869	<u>Sherewood, Margaret</u>	12 Sep 1596			0 0	
• #1918	<u>SHEREWOOD, William</u>	26 Feb 1599	twin		0 0	4 Aug 1599
• #1919	<u>Sherewood, Alice</u>	26 Feb 1599	twin		0 0	
	Was John an elder son of William, not baptised in Seal?					

²⁷ # indicates a reference in the Seal database

A Joan Sherwood occupied a house in Seal owned by the Tebolds; in 1545, John(2) Tebold willed that she should be allowed to live there for the rest of her life rent free and she was still living there in 1550 when Thomas Tebold died. Since it looks, from John(2)'s will, that she was already a widow (or unmarried) in 1545, William (#344), assuming he was descended from her is more likely to be her grandson than her son.

Although there were Staces in Seal, her marriage to John Sherewood is the only mention of Rebecca.

The Shermans of Seal

In **Ightham**, on 31st August 1567 **Walter Sherman** married **Agnes Pronge** and, over the next twenty-two years they had ten children baptised in Seal (see the next page). There was, however, a long interval between William's daughter born in December 1572 and the birth of the twins. William's first wife may have died and the children from the twins onwards could be by a second wife; alternatively Agnes could have had one or more miscarriages between 1573 and 1578.

The baptism of **Johane** (#620²⁸), the daughter of **John Sherman** (#618) on 13th December 1568 was one week after the baptism of Walter's first child but there is no further mention of either John or Johane.

William Sherman (i2245) married **Elizabeth Eglefield** (i2246), in Ightham, on 19th June 1620. This is the only mention of Sherman in Ightham other than William's marriage. i2245 could have been #426's son but, if so, he was thirty-two when he married.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#426	<u>SHERMAN, William</u> -----		31 Aug 1567(I)	Agnes Pronge married at Ightham		1 10 13	Jan 1594
				#427			
• #428	<u>Sherman, Joan</u>	5 Dec 1568				0 0	
		probably died before December 1572 when #544 was baptised					
• #482	<u>Sherman, Clemence</u>	15 May 1570				0 0	
• #544	<u>Sherman, Joan</u>	17 Dec 1572				0 0	
• #915	<u>SHERMAN, William</u>	17 May 1579	twin			0 0	
		probably died before May 1588 when #1511 was baptised					
• #916	<u>Sherman, Jane</u>	17 May 1579	twin			0 0	13 Jun 1579
• #1108	<u>Sherman, Ann</u>	15 Jan 1581				0 0	
• #1185	<u>Sherman, Elizabeth</u>	3 Mar 1583				0 0	
• #1316	<u>Sherman, Mary</u>	29 Aug 1585				0 0	
• #1511	<u>SHERMAN, William</u>	19 May 1588				0 0	
• #1609	<u>Sherman, Bennett</u>	27 Sep 1590				0 1	
• • #3388	<u>SHERMAN, Robert</u>	5 Mar 1615				0 0	
		"base" son born when his mother was 24					

Indicted for Infanticide

At the June 1611 Assises, **Benedicta Sherman, spinster**, was indicted for infanticide. By an inquisition held at Seal on 10th March 1611, an inquest was held on the body of a male child before George Pattenden, the coroner. The jury found that at Seal, on 7th March, “*she gave birth to a child which she killed by squashing its head and then concealed the body in a hole*”. She was found not guilty.²⁹ Benedicta was presumably Bennet, the youngest daughter, of William Sherman above. Four years later she had another “base” son.

The members of the jury were given and most of them can be identified:

- Henry Swayle, Robert Browne (#2720), William Porter (#832),
- William Ryce - could have been William Rise #1065 in his 50s or #1321 aged 26
- William Roberts #1175 (aged 29) or his father (#773 in his sixties)
- John Chettenden (John Chittenden.#3668), John Seale,
- Henry Hewett (Hewit #3713), Robert Wacombe, John Holloway (#355)
- Samuel Harman (#1183),
- George Wood - possibly #4298, the labourer who was indicted for poaching and assault in 1609
- Robert Wrayte, Christopher . . . -

The Shoebridges of Ightham

“Richard Shoebridge” occurs a number of times in the records between 1591 and 1611; these are all taken as referring to the same Richard (i1542³⁰).

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
i1542	<u>SHOEBRIDGE, Richard</u> ----- <i>Marriage 1</i>				2 3	21 Aug 1611
				Thomasina Shoebridge(m) i1543	1 2	
i1543	<u>his wife, Thomasina</u> -----				1 2	22 Apr 1606
• i1544	<u>SHOEBRIDGE, Richard</u>	10 Jun 1591			0 0	29 Nov 1591
• i1545	<u>SHOEBRIDGE, Henry</u>	7 Nov 1594			1 5	
				see page 2.p.64 for his children		
	<i>Marriage 2</i>		4 Apr 1608	Alice Crudd i1554	1 1	
i1554	<u>Crudd, Alice</u> -----	5 Jun 1575			1 1	7 Feb 1635
				married at 33; aged 59 when she died		
• i1555	<u>SHOEBRIDGE, Richard</u>			1635	1 ?	

30 “i” indicates a reference in the Ightham database

Thus it has been assumed that the father of Richard and Henry, was the husband of Thomasina, "[wife of Richard Shoebridge](#)", who died in April 1606. He is also taken as the Richard Shoebridge who married Alice Crudd in 1608. **Richard Crudd**'s daughter, Alice, was baptised on 5th June 1575 and she could have been i1542's second wife - see [Crudd in More Families & Transcripts](#). i1542 is also the most likely Richard to have died in 1611 (unless there was an older Richard, not otherwise mentioned) and to have been the one who held the office of **borsholder** sometime between 1586 and 1618 (or 1611).

On 16th April 1601, **Richard Shoebridge** (also presumably i1542) was fined 6d for having cut a bundle of firewood in the lord's wood at Ightham Common without licence (CRI 1937, p.208).

There were two Richards who married in 1635; one could have been the son of i1542 and Alice Crudd. One married **Dorothy Chownings (i1556)** on 20th April; nothing more was recorded for him. The other married **Jane Stone (i1019)** on 25th June. The children shown on page 2.p.65 were all recorded as the children "[of Richard Shoebridge and Jane](#)" and there were further children after 1650 but there is a long gap between Anne and Elizabeth. Jane's mother was Rebecca Chownings but no Dorothy was recorded in her family - see [Stone in Chownings in More Families & Transcripts](#) for details of Jane's family.

Henry Shoebridge

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
i1545	<u>SHOEBRIDGE, Henry</u> -----	7 Nov 1594			1 5	
				mentioned in the Court records 1586-1618		
•	i1547 <u>Shoebridge, Joane</u>	17 Oct 1619			0 1	
•	• i1552 <u>SHOEBRIDRE, Steven</u>	2 Oct 1634		"populli ex matre Joane Shoebridge"	0 0	
				if Steven's mother was Henry's daughter, Joane, she was a fortnight short of her 15th birthday when he was baptised		
•	i1548 <u>SHOEBRIDGE, Richard</u>	15 Apr 1621			0 0	
•	i1549 <u>SHOEBRIDGE, Henry</u>	26 Sep 1624			0 0	30 Nov 1627
•	i1550 <u>SHOEBRIDGE, William</u>	27 Mar 1627			0 0	
•	i1551 <u>SHOEBRIDGE, John</u>	7 Mar 1630			0 0	

Richard Shoebridge, junior

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i1555	<u>SHOEBRIDGE, Richard</u> -----		25 Jun 1635	Jane Stone i1019	1	5	
i1019	<u>Stone, Jane</u> -----	9 Aug 1613		married at 21	1	5	
•	i1557 <u>Shoebridge, Alice</u>	18 Apr 1636					0 0
•	i1558 <u>Shoebridge, Marie</u>	21 Jan 1638					0 0
•	i1559 <u>Shoebridge, Anne</u>	23 Jun 1639					0 0
•	i1560 <u>Shoebridge, Elizabeth</u>	31 Oct 1647					0 0
•	i1561 <u>Shoebridge, Rebecca</u>	21 Apr 1650					0 0

The Sigas Families of Ightham

William Sigas

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i999 ³¹	<u>SIGAS, William</u> ----- 			Elizabeth Sigas(m) i1000	1	3	
i1000	his wife, Elizabeth -----				1	3	18 Feb 1586
				buried 2 days after her son who was 10 months old when he died			
•	i1001 <u>Sigas, The</u>	24 Feb 1578			0	0	
•	i1002 <u>Sigas, Alice</u>	24 Apr 1580			0	0	
•	i1003 <u>SIGAS, William</u>	5 Apr 1585			0	0	16 Feb 1586

On 4th October 1586, **William Chownings** (i1300) was found to have come "[within the precincts of this View of Frank-pledge](#)" by permission of **William Siggis**, presumably i999. Chownings was eventually received into the precincts (CRI 1938, p.14); see [Chownings in More Families & Transcripts](#) for details

31 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

William Siggisse, together with William Petley and his servant "broke the peace of our Lady the Queen near an enclosure, at a holly tree" and, on 27th April 1587, they were each fined 6d. (CRI 1938, p.3) See [Petley in More Families & Transcripts](#)

Nicholas Sigas

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i1004	<u>SIGAS, Nicholas</u> -----			Alice Sigas(m) i1005	1	3	2 Apr 1625
i1005	<u>his wife, Alice</u> -----				1	3	16 Aug 1618
• i1006	<u>Sigas, Mabel</u>	18 Nov 1582					0 0
• i1007	<u>SIGAS, Thomas</u>	9 Oct 1586					0 0
• i1008	<u>SIGAS, William</u>	16 Jan 1592	28 Jan 1616 married at 24	Joane Olyver i1009/#1865	1	0	

Nicholas was a **borsholder** and **ale taster** sometime between 1586 and 1618

Joane, i1008's wife, could have been the daughter of Thomas Olyver of Seal (#1865) who was baptised 1st June 1596; if so, she was 19 when she married.

The Silcockes of Penshurst and Speldhurst.

Penshurst and Speldhurst are adjoining parishes and the testator of the earliest will (William Silcocke, 1548) gives both of them. Five more have survived from Speldhurst:

	written	
Johane Silcocke	1555	CKS: Drb/Pwr 12.138
John Silcocke	1 Jul 1611	CKS: Drb/Pwr 20.323, 551; Drb/Pw 21 page 2.s.69
John Silcocke, the elder	1614	PCC: Lawe 121
John Silcocke, the younger	1614	PCC: Lawe 120
Henry Silcocke	29 Dec 1635	PCC: Pile 4

A brief extract is given from the 1611 will. The witnesses to the will of John Silcocke the elder were John Silcocke, Richard Eldridge and James. Beecher Henry's will was probably written by Thomas Leddall; it was proved by his wife Bridget and he had a son John.

The two wills from Penshurst have been transcribed:

	written	proved	
Anne Silcocke	1 Dec 1628	11 May 1629	CKS: Prs/w/12/248 page 2.s.72
John Silcocke	3 Oct 1648		PCC: Essex 182 page 2.s.76

The original of John's will, written by George Hooper, has survived (PCC: Prob 10/700) and it is from that that the transcript is taken. The Hoopers were a family who wrote a large number of wills for people in the Tonbridge area. Anne's will was written by Samuel Halfhide who, in 1617, had witnessed the will of Thomas Fry which was written by Thomas Leddall, another scriptor of wills.

Will of John Silcocke of Speldhurst

written 1st July 1611

extract from probate copy; PCC: Lowe 121

John Silcocke, yeoman:

- **First** I give and bequeath my soul to Almighty god, my maker and Redeemer
- and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Speldhurst aforesaid.
- .
- .

John Silcocke his mark

witnesses: Richard Eldridge, James Beecher

And I do appoint **Thomas Jeffrey, James Beecher and Richard Eldridge** to be overseers . . .

About 1611, a James Beecher, who in that year was twenty-seven, married Elizabeth Silcocke, daughter of Anne Silcocke, the widow of John Silcocke. In December 1612 James and Elizabeth had twin children so they could have been married before John died. Thus Elizabeth's husband could have been John's overseer and it is possible that this John was Anne's husband.

Anne Silcocke of Penshurst

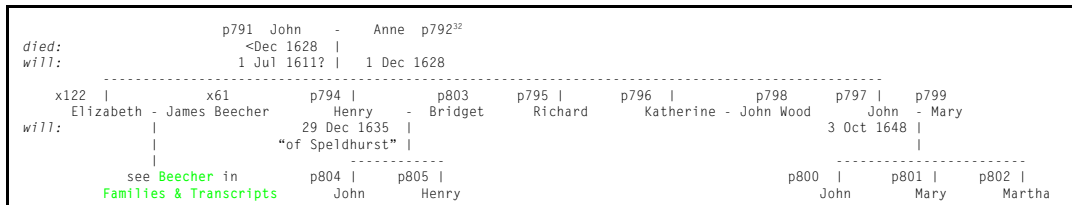
Anne's will is of particular interest for the animals she left to her children:

- to Elizabeth's husband, James Beecher, one red cow with a b...che by her side
- to Henry, one black heifer
- to Richard, two little runts
- to Katherine's husband John Wood, one brown white backed steer.

Her “wearing apparel” was to be equally divided between Elizabeth and Katherine. Elizabeth’s husband was probably the James Beecher (x61) whose will of 1643 has survived.

Her youngest son, John, who was to be her executor, was to receive all the rest of her “moveable goods and cattle and chattles unbequeathed”.

John, the testator of 1648, could have been Anne’s son, particularly since two witnesses to his will were Richard and Henry Silcock. But Anne’s son Henry could have been the testator of 1635 which precludes him being a witness to John’s will. Henry and Bridget could, however, have had a son Henry old enough to have witnessed his father’s will. On this basis, the following tree can be assembled (a son John is mentioned in Henry’s will).



32 “p” indicates a reference in the Penshurst database, “x” a reference in the database covering a number of parishes including Speldurst

1 In the name of god Amen. The first day of December in the year of ??
2 six hundred twenty and eight. I, Anne Silcocke, late wife of John Silcocke
??
3 the parish of Penshurst in the county of Kent, **widow**, being sick and weak
of body ??
4 in perfect remembrance, thanks be given to Almighty god, do make, ordain
and appoint that my
5 last will and testament in manner and form following: **First** and principally
I give and bequeath
6 my soul into the hands of Almighty god and unto Jesus Christ, my only
saviour and redeemer,
7 by whose merits, death and passion I hope to be saved and my body to be
buried ??
8 church yard of Speldhurst at the discretion of mine executor. **Imprimis** I
give and be

9 queath unto **James Beecher, my son-in-law**, one red cow with a b...che by
her side
10 immediately after my decease. **Item:** I give unto **Henry Silcocke, my son**,
one
11 black heifer after my decease. **Item:** I give unto **Richard Silcocke, my**
second son,
12 two little runts immediately after my decease. **Item:** I give unto **John**
Wood, my
13 **son-in-law**, one brown, white backed steer immediately after my decease.
Item: my
14 will is that my wearing apparel shalbe equally divided between my **two**
daughters,
15 **Elizabeth Beecher** and **Katherine Wood**. The rest of my moveable goods
and cattle and
16 chattles unbequeathed, my debts and funeral expenses discharged, I give
and bequeath
17 unto **John Silcocke, my youngest son**, and to his heirs forever whom I
constitute
18 and appoint to be my full and whole executor of this my last will and
testament. In wit
19 ness whereof I have put to my hand and seal the day and year first above
written.

witnesses hereunto

Edward Fry and
Samuel Halfhide
scriptor

John Silcock, yeoman of Penshurst

The beginning of John's will is strange in that the dating with regard to the reign of Charles I is given in Latin; this must have been the way rather George Hooper, the scribe, chose to write it, not the testator.

It is also unusual because of its reference to an indenture written over five years earlier whose connection to the will is not clear. In 1643, John and his wife Mary, of the first part and Bridget Silcock, widow, then of Speldhurst and John Scotson, “[then of Mawling in the county of Sussex, gent. of the other part](#)”. The wife of the Henry Silcock whose will was written in December 1635 was called Bridget and she could thus have been this widow but, if she were, the Henry Silcock who witnessed his will could not have been his brother..

What was the connection with John Scotson? Possibly the father or brother of John's wife Mary. In this case the indenture could have been part of the marriage contract. Certainly her jointure³³ seems to have consisted of all the land John owned which included property in both Speldhurst as well as the messuage in Penshurst in which he lived and the land attached to it.

Why did John “covenant and promise” Bridget and John Scotson that, “amongst others things”, if he died leaving more than one daughter by his wife Mary he would by his “last will and testament assure to any such daughter” £200? When, five years later, he wrote his will he had two daughters who, on his wife's death, were to divide between them a messuage and tenement in Speldhurst with barns, closes, gardens, orchards and other parcels of land. Why was this bequest “in performance and satisfaction of my said covenant and promise”? Was it instead of the promised £200 which was not mentioned again?

Whilst his two daughters were to share John's land, etc, in Speldhurst, his son (another John), was to have Hickmans in Penshurst, the messuage in which the family lived with its twenty-five acres.

33 property settled on a woman at marriage to be enjoyed after her husband's death for life or during her widowhood

1 In³⁴ the name of god Amen. the third day of October in the year
2 of our Lord Christ one thousand six hundred forty and eight ?? requi ??
?? Caroli Regis
3 Anglia ?? vic?? quarto³⁵: I, John Silcock of Penshurst in the county of Kent,
yeoman,
4 being at this present sick and weak in body but of sound and perfect mind
and memory, (thanks therefore be³⁶
5 given to Almighty god to whose gracious acceptance I recommend my soul
in the assured hope of obtaining
6 the free pardon and remission of all my sins and eternal salvation by
th'only merits, death and passion
7 of his dearly beloved son Jesus Christ) for the ordering and disposing of
that temporal estate

34 slightly decorated "I"

35 twenty-fourth

36 "bee" throughout but "me" not "mee"

8 which God hath lent me here on earth do make and ordain this to be my
testament and last will
9 in manner and form following: I freely leave all my goods, household stuff,
cattle and chattels, of
10 what nature or kind soever, to **Mary, my dear and loving wife**, and I make
and ordain her, the said
11 Mary, my wife, to be the sole executrix of this my testament and last will,
to see the same proved, my debts
12 paid and my body decently to be brought to the earth and buried.

13 This is the last will of me the said John Silcock touching the ordering and
disposing of all
14 singular my lands and tenements whatsoever with their hereditaments and
appurtenances whereas
15 by indenture, bearing date the fourteenth day of July in the nineteenth
year³⁷ of our said
16 sovereign Lord king Charles, made between me, the said John Silcocke,
and the said Mary my wife of th'one
17 part and **Bridget Silcock** then of **Speldhurst** in the said county, widow, and
John Scotson, then of

17 **Mawling in the county of Sussex, gent.** of th'other part, amongst others
18 things I did covenant and promise that if
19 at the time of my death I should have living more than one daughter by the
20 said Mary, my wife, that then I should and
21 would by my last will and testament assure to any such daughter the sum
22 of two hundred pounds of lawful
23 money of England. **Now** in performance and satisfaction of my said
24 covenant and promise from and after the
25 death of the said Mary, my wife, I will, devise and give to **Mary and
Martha, my two daughters**, equally to be
divided between them, and to their heirs and assigns forever, all that
messuage and tenement, barns, closes, gardens, orchards and all those
two pieces or parcels of land commonly
called **the Dean and Newberry** containing by estimation seventeen acres,
lying and being in Speldhurst
aforesaid, at or near to a place there called **Rusthall**³⁸ now in the tenure or
occupation of **Robert Hollomby**. And also
one messuage and garden and one acre of land adjoining in Speldhurst
aforesaid and now in the occupation of **Widow**

38 Rusthall is about 1½ miles SSW of the centre of Speldhurst on what is now the A264 running west from Tunbridge Wells; with Russhall House and Farm to the south of the road

26 **Chambers.** And also two other pieces or parcels of land called **the Strakes**
containing by estimation five acres in
27 Speldhurst aforesaid and now also in the tenure or occupation of the said
Robert Hollamby with th'appurtenances (All which said
28 lands and premises, with divers others the said Mary, my wife, by virtue of
the said indenture is to hold during her natural life
29 for her jointure) to have and to hold the moiety of the said lands and
tenements unto the said Mary, my daughter, her heirs
30 and assigns, forever. And the other moiety of the same lands and
tenements unto the said Martha, my daughter, her
31 heirs and assigns, forever. And my will is and I do hereby will and devise
that if the said Mary or Martha, my daughters,
32 shall happen to decease before their age of one and twenty years, leaving
no issue of her body lawfully to be begotten
33 that the survivor of them, her heirs and assigns, shall have, hold and enjoy
the moiety and part of such so deceasing in and to the
34 the said tenements, lands and premises forever. **Item:** from and after the
decease of the said Mary, my wife, I will, devise
35 and give to **John, my son,** and his heirs, all that messuage or tenement
wherein I now dwell called **Hickmans** and the
36 barn, edifices and buildings, yards, gardens, orchards and nine pieces or
parcels of land and wood thereunto adjoining and

37 belonging containing by estimation five and twenty acres. And also one
parcel of meadow called **Heppenden mead**
38 containing by estimation two acres and a half acre situated, lying and
being in Penshurst aforesaid and now in mine own occupation.
39 (The which said premises the said Mary, my wife, by virtue of the before
mentioned indenture, is to hold during her natural life for
40 her jointure also) To have and to hold the same messuage, tenements,
lands and premises with th'appurtenances unto the said John, my
41 son, his heirs and assigns, forever. In witness whereof I, the said John
Silcock, have hereunto set my hand and seal the day
42 and year first above written.

Read. sealed, published and
declared by the said John Silcock
as his testament and last will

John Silcock³⁹

in the presence of (those words that messuage and tenement,
barns, closes, gardens, orchards and all first being interlined⁴⁰)

Richard Silcock, Henry Silcock and Geo: Hooper.

39 could be a signature

40 line 22

First and principally I give and bequeath my soul to Almighty god, my maker and redeemer, and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Speldhurst.

witnesses: **John Campbell** and **Richard Eldridge**, his mark

The preambles to the wills of Thomas Savage (1617) and Johan Simons (1614) are identical. Richard Eldridge was a witness to both wills but put his mark to the will of Johan Simons. If he wrote his name, he could have been the scriptor of the two wills. Both wills were proved at the PCC and it is not known if the originals have survived.

The Family of Robert Symons of Kemsing

alternative spellings: Simon and Symon. There were also Simons/Symons in Seal and Ightham.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
k57 ⁴¹	<u>SYMONS, Robert</u> ----- 		27 Sep 1588	Anne Chownings k53	1 6	12 Apr 1629
k53	<u>Chownings, Anne</u> -----	30 Apr 1567		married at 21	1 6	28 Jul 1611
• k401	<u>SYMONS, Robert</u>	21 Mar 1592			0 0	19 Apr 1593
• k402	<u>SYMONS, James</u>	28 Jul 1593			0 0	
• k403	<u>Symons, Dorothy</u>	29 Jan 1597(S)			0 0	
				baptised in Seal; only 10 months to baptism of next child		
• k404	<u>Symons, Joane</u>	25 Nov 1597			0 1	
• • k408	<u>Symons, Dorothy</u>	31 May 1629				0 0
				"a base", born when her mother was 31		
• k405	<u>SYMONS, George</u>	25 Jan 1607			0 0	
• k406	<u>Symons, Anna</u>				0 0	28 Jul 1611

⁴¹ "k" indicates a reference in the Kemsing database

No baptism was recorded for the youngest child, Anna, who was buried with her mother - "[Anna, the wife of Robert Symons](#)" - on 28th July 1611. With the large gap between the children Joane and George, it is possible that Anne Chownings died at the end of the 16th century and Robert married again, his second wife having the name "Anna", so similar to that of his first wife.

Robert Symons, the Victim of Theft

At the February 1596 Assizes, Anthony Nicolls, of Kemsing, tanner, was indicted for grand larceny. On 20th October 1591, at Kemsing, he stole 5 sheets (10s), several pieces of linen (20s), a cloak (5s) and a petticoat (2s) from Robert Symons. The original is [*badly damaged*] but Cockburn records that Nicolls was probably found guilty since he was allowed benefit of clergy.⁴² The Robert Symons from whom these items was stolen was most probably k57, the father of the above children.

42 Cockburn (Eliz.); 2337

The Simons/Symons from Seal

alternative spellings: Simon and Symon. There were also Simons/Symons in Kemsing and Ightham. There were two large Symons families in Seal:

- John, who may have married four times page 2.s.85
- Lawrence who married twice and had six children page 2.s.87

and the smaller family of William Symons page 2.s.88

John (#3932⁴³), the son of **Edmond Symons**, (#1982) was baptised, in **Kemsing**, on 26th June 1592. His wife, **Dorothy** (#1983), was buried, in Seal, on 23rd January 1596.

43 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

John Symons of Seal

There were three women recorded as "[wife of John Symons](#)" when they were buried and two marriages. The dates are such that one John could have married four times with his first wife dying in 1565 and his fourth in 1588. If he was born about 1538, he would have been about fifty in 1588 so that it is feasible that there was only one John Symons. If so, his second wife Isabell (whose third child was born in 1572) died before 1584 since his third wife, Johane, died in January 1584. See the next page for details.

Obviously there could have been a number of John Symons

Sometime before 1595 **John Olyver** (#70) bought a house, orchard and garden adjoining the tenement of John Symons. This he left to his son Richard.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#129	<u>SYMONS, John</u> -----				4	5	
	<i>Marriage 1</i>			Rose Symons(m)	1	1	
#582	<u>his wife, Rose</u> -----				1	1	30 Jul 1565
• #153	<u>SYMONS, Jeremy</u>	1 Nov 1564			0	0	
	<i>Marriage 2</i>		12 May 1566	Isabell Chaddy	1	3	
#130	<u>Chaddy, Isabell</u> ----- of Croydon				1	3	<1584
• #393	<u>Symons, Ann</u>	25 May 1567			0	0	
• #466	<u>Symons, Katherine</u>	7 Oct 1569			0	0	15 Oct 1569
• #533	<u>SYMONS, John</u>	4 May 1572			0	0	
	<i>Marriage 3</i>		<1584	Johane Symons(m)	1	0	
#1474	<u>his wife, Johane</u> -----				1	0	15 Jan 1584
	<i>Marriage 4</i>			Maryan Plectowe	1	1	
#1739	<u>Plectowe, Maryan</u> -----		6 Dec 1585		1	1	8 May 1588
• #1343	<u>Symons, Margaret</u>	26 Jun 1586			0	0	

Lawrence Symons of Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#1301	<u>SYMONS, Lawrence</u> -----				2	6	
	<i>Marriage 1</i>			Johane Symons(m)	1	4	
#1955	<u>his wife, Johane</u> -----				1	4	30 Apr 1592
• #1303	<u>SYMONS, William</u>	23 May 1585			0	0	
• #1420	<u>Symons, Margaret</u>	5 Mar 1587			0	0	
• #1567	<u>SYMONS, Gilbert</u>	23 Feb 1589			0	0	
• #1610	<u>Symons, Elizabeth</u>	25 Oct 1590			0	0	
	<i>Marriage 2</i>				1	2	
• #1810	<u>SYMONS, Lawrence</u>	21 Oct 1593			0	0	
• #1929	<u>SYMONS, Richard</u>	3 Jun 1599			0	0	

Mary (#1879), the widow of **Gilbert Symons**, was buried on 17th July 1647, a Gilbert Symons, who could have been her husband, having been buried on 19th September 1646. Gilbert could have been Lawrence's son.

William Symons of Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#3445	<u>SYMONS, William</u> -----			Anne Symons(m) #3446	1	3	
• #3447	<u>SYMONS, William</u>	20 Oct 1639			0	0	25 Oct 1639
• #3448	<u>Symons, Margaret</u>	6 Feb 1642			0	0	
• #3449	<u>SYMONS, William</u>	14 Jun 1647			0	0	

A William Symons was buried on 22nd June 1647, a week after #3445's youngest son was baptised. The man buried could have been #3445. Alternatively he could have been an older man, perhaps #1303, Lawrence's son who would have been sixty-two in 1647 and could have been the father of #3445.

The Simons/Symons of Ightham

alternative spellings: Simon and Symon. There were also Simons/Symons in Seal, and Kemsing.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i1752 ⁴⁴	<u>SIMONS, John</u> ----- <i>Marriage 1</i>				2	5	2 Dec 1636
				Winifred Simons(m) i1771	1	1	
i1771	<u>Simons(m), Winifred</u> -----				1	1	26 Aug 1623
• i1755	<u>SIMONS, Henry</u> <i>Marriage 2</i>	30 Aug 1618			0	0	31 Aug 1618
• i1758	<u>Simons, Anne</u>	10 Oct 1624			1	4	
• i1759	<u>Simons, Marie</u>	21 Jan 1627			0	0	
• i1760	<u>Simons, Alice</u>	6 Dec 1629			0	0	
• i1761	<u>SIMONS, Henry</u>	25 Nov 1632			0	0	

44 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

Gilbert Simons (i1753) was mentioned in the Court Records 1586-1618; his son **Lawrence** (i1757) was baptised on 4th December 1619 and buried on 21st May 1621.

See [Walter Gardner in More Families & Transcripts](#) for **Jeremy Simons**, a possible “stranger”.

Thomas Simons (i1750) married **Katherine West** (i1762) on 16th June 1626. **John** (i1772), the “[son of Thomas Simons and Katherine](#)”, was buried in March 1647, eleven years after they were married.

William Simons (i1751) married **Anne Burnet** (i1768) on 16th August 1638.

Elizabeth (i1770), the “[daughter of Thomas Simons \(i1773\) and Elizabeth](#)” (i1769) was baptised on 28th April 1639.

The Simpsons of Ightham

Edward Simpson (i1318⁴⁵) was mentioned in the Court Records 1586-1618. He had a son, **John** (i1320) baptised on 12th March 1587.

David (#1278), son of **Edward Simpson**, was baptised in Seal on 11th October 1584. David could have been an elder son of i1318 whose wife may have come from Seal.

George Shawe (i600) was described as “alias Simpson” in the Court Records - see Shawe (page 2.s.54)

The Skevingtons of Tonbridge

In the area covered by the database of West Kent wills only two have survived for Skevington, both from Tonbridge:

John Skevington	23 Oct 1638	CKS: Drb/Pw 30; Drb/Pwr 22.298	page 2.s.94
Anne Skevington	11 Dec 1647	CKS: Drb/Pw 32; Drb/Pwr 23.90	page 2.s.98

John's will which has survived has a note at the bottom, signed by John Hooper, saying that it was in "concordance with the original". One of the witnesses to the will was George Hooper and the writing of this copy looks very like George Hopper's. John Skevington's name is written very clearly with the initial "J" superimposed on the "S" of Skevington. Perhaps this copy was made whilst John was still alive so that he could sign it. Or the copyist made an attempt to copy the signature.

Throughout the will "bee", "shalbee" and even "wilbee" (not met with before) are used and this is very typical of the Hoopers who wrote many wills in the locality from 1560 up to 1650 when this study ends. These spellings are met with occasionally in non-Hooper wills so that John Skevington could have used them himself, or did George (if he were the copyist) impose his own spelling?

Anne's will was written by George Hooper.

John Skevington, Esquire

John Skevington was a wealthy member of the gentry, the grandson of Sir William Skevington who had left some heirlooms which, unfortunately for us, were detailed in a separate note. John himself owned an heirloom - a basin and ewer of silver weighing 67 ounces. John's houses and lands were also described in other Deeds of Indenture so that his will gives very few details - not even the name of his wife.

He left each of his three daughters £200 but, if they did not marry earlier, they were to receive their legacies only when they reached the late age of thirty years. For the fourteen years following his death, his wife was to receive the rents and profits from his houses and land and these were "to be employed towards the raising of my daughters' persons⁴⁶, nor doubting but my wife will be careful to increase the same according to the motherly love which she beareth to her daughters". During this fourteen years she was also to pay £10 to his son Francis, the money also coming from the rents and profits.

46 or was this word pensions? - not a word otherwise used but could make more sense here.

When his mother died, William, probably the eldest son, was to allow Francis and their three sisters “convenient lodgings in the house wherein I now dwell until he, or they, be otherwise provided for”. There was a third son, John, mentioned only at the end of the will.

Will of John Skevington of Tonbridge

written 23rd October 1638

transcript from surviving original which is a copy

1 In the name of god Amen. the three and twentieth day of October in
2 the year of our Lord God one thousand six hundred thirty and
3 eight, I, John Skevington of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, Esquire,
4 the humble servant of Almighty god do make and ordain my last will
5 in manner and form following: **First** I commend my soul ito the hands of
6 Almighty god, the gracious Creator and Redeemer thereof. And my
7 body to be buried as my executrix and surviving friends shall think
8 fit with as little ?ame funeral pomp as may be. **Item:** I make my
9 **wellbeloved wife** my sole executrix and give unto her all my goods
10 and chattells towards the payment of my debts and legacies. **Item:**
11 I give unto **my daughter, Mary**, two hundred pounds. And to my
12 **daughter Susan** two hundred pounds. And to my **daughter Anne**
13 two hundred pounds to be paid unto them at their several

14 ages of thirty years or at the days of their marriages. **Item:**
15 whereas I have heretofore assured and settled my purchased lands
16 upon my wife and children by deed of indenture bearing date the
17 third day of July in the fourteenth year of the reign of our sovereign
18 lord king Charles that now is. And by virtue thereof have power
19 to dispose of my house called **Mountaines** and the lands thereunto
belonging
20 and also of my other house and the lands thereunto belonging late in the
tenure of
21 **James Browne** unto my executors for years. Now, therefore my will is that
my
22 executrix shall have the said houses and lands and receive the rents
thereof
23 for and during the term of fourteen years next ensuing my decease. And
24 the rents and profits thereof to be employed towards the raising of my
daughters'
25 persons, nor doubting but my wife will be⁴⁷ careful to increase the same
according
26 to the motherly love which she beareth to her daughters. **Item:** my will is
that
27 my executrix, and her executors if she die, shall pay to **my son Francis** ten

47

"wilbee", a similar contraction to "shalbee" used practically always by the Hoopers

28 pounds yearly during the said fourteen years which shalbe
29 deducted out of the profits of the said houses and lands. **Item:** my will is
that
30 **my son William** shall, after his mother's decease, assign and allow unto my
son
31 Francis and my three daughters convenient lodgings in the house wherein
I now dwell
32 until he, or they, be otherwise provided for. **Item:** my will is that certain
heirlooms
33 which were my grandfather Sir William Skevington, together with one
basin and
34 ewer of silver of my own, weighing 67 ounces, shall remain still to
heirlooms
35 to the heirs male of my body. And that after the decease of my executrix,
my son
36 **John** shall have the use of them so long as he hath heirs male of his body.
And if
37 he die without heirs male of his body, my will is that my son Francis shall
have the
38 use of them so long as aforesaid. And of these heirlooms I have left a note
subscribed with
39 execution of my intention both concerning those last mentioned heirlooms
and

40 also all other things comprised in this my last will which I have subscribed
with my own
41 hand and signed with my seal.

JSkevington

Sealed, subscribed, published and declared
in the presence of **William Oliver**
George Children, Thomas Web and
George Hooper.

Anne Skevington, widow

Anne could have been John's widow but since John did not give his wife's name and Anne mentions only one daughter, Anne, this is just a conjecture. Another point in its favour is that Anne describes her daughter as "at yet unpreferred" which implies that there were other children who had been preferred. Since John specified the late age of thirty for his daughters to inherit if they had not married before, Anne, as the youngest of John's daughters, could still have been waiting for her inheritance.

Anne has an unusual phrase in her religious preamble: she wills and resigns her “soul to the gracious acceptance of Almighty”, “resigns” being the unusual word here.

Will of Anne Skevington widow of Tonbridge

written 11th December 1647

transcript from original

1 In the name of god Amen. the eleventh day of
2 December, Anno Dm. 1647 and in the three and twentieth
3 year of the reign of our sovereign Lord Charles, by the grace
4 of god, king of England, Scotland France and Ireland,
5 defender of the faith, etc. I, Anne Skevingon of Tonbridge
6 in the county of Kent, widow, being at this present sick and
7 and weak in body but of sound and perfect mind and memory (for
8 which I praise God) do make and ordain this to be my testament
9 and last will in manner and form following: **First** and principally
10 I will and resign my soul to the gracious acceptance of Almighty
11 god, hoping and assuredly trusting to have the pardon and
12 remission of all my sins and eternal salvation by the only
13 merits, death and passion of his dearly beloved son Jesus

14 Christ and my body to the earth in decent manner to be
15 buried. I will, give and leave all my goods, cattle,
16 household stuff and chattles of what nature or kind soever
17 to **Anne Skevington, my daughter** (as yet unpreferred) and
18 I make and ordain the said Anne to be the sole executrix
19 of this my testament and last will to see the same proved, my
20 debts paid and my body decently committed to the earth.

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

Seal, published and declared by
the said Anne Skevington to be
her testament and last will in the presence
of

Peter Tomyle and Geo. Hooper

Anne
sign **A** Skevington

The Skinners of Penshurst

Three wills have survived for Skinners of Penshurst:

	dated	buried	proved		
Robert Skinner	1 Mar 1616/7	23 Oct 1618	10 Nov 1618	CKS: Prs/w/14/219	page 2.s.103
Zacheus Skinner	15 Jun 1628	17 Jun 1628	18 Jul 1628	CKS: Prs/w/14/242	page 2.s.108
Zacheus Skinner	7 Jan 1635/6	8 Feb 1635/6	26 Feb 1635/6	CKS: Prs/w/14/274	page 2.s.115

These were all written by Thomas Leddall who wrote wills over a long period of time; wills have survived from 1615 until 1643 mainly from Penshurst and Chiddingstone.

Although for wills proved at the Deanery of Shoreham (as these were) it was the original that has survived, the will proved for Robert Skinner looks like a copy since his mark is not shown, the will is not sealed and there are no marks or signed names for the witnesses. The writing looks similar to the two later wills written by Thomas Leddall but without the same care being taken and at least twice as many words to the page. This difference could, however, be accounted for by the interval of eleven years between the writing of the first and second wills.

The will of 1636 has decayed at the end so that Thomas Leddall's signature cannot be seen but the writing of the two Zacheus wills is so similar that both must have been written by the same man. In addition, some of the phrases are identical. In many wills the description of the sovereign, if included, ends with "etc." but it is most unusual to find it as abbreviated as it is here: "of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Charles, etc. I, Zacheus Skyunner . . . being sick and not well in body . . ."

"Sick and not well" is also most unusual. The committal of the soul differs but not greatly although the 1636 Zacheus's "I bequeath and rest my soul into the merciful hands of Almighty God" is unique (as far as is known) for its use of the word "rest". Perhaps this was a word introduced by the testator. It is not only the introductions and religious preambles that are very similar; the descriptions of what can be done with the "distress or distresses" lawfully taken if the yearly rents were not paid look like standardised phrases.

The Family of Robert Skinner, the elder

The parish register for Penshurst records many of the Skinner baptisms and burials. Robert Skinner, the elder, died in 1605, having been a widower for ten years. He was probably the father of Robert whose will has survived.

From his will, this Robert Skinner had seven sons and two daughters, six of whom were under twenty-four when the will was written. Elizabeth is the only child for whom a baptism was not recorded. Since Robert specified she was to receive her legacy when she married or reached the age of twenty-four she cannot have been born before 1593. The intervals between all the baptised younger children were all under three years and Dorcas, born in 1604, was his youngest daughter. Elizabeth is shown between Golding and John which is the longest interval.

p683 Robert Skinner the elder - Jane, wife of Robert Skinner, senior p684 ⁴⁸									
11 Feb 1605 4 Nov 1595									

p685		p688		p686		p699		p687	
Robert		- Elizabeth		Zacheus -		Anne		Susanna	
bap:				20 Sep 1563				20 Jan 1566	
will:		1 Mar 1617		15 Jun 1628					
buried:		23 Oct 1618		17 Jun 1628					
proved:		10 Nov 1618		18 Jul 1628					

p689		p691		p693		p695		p697	
Jane		Robert		Zacheus		Elizabeth		Dorcas	
bap: 31 May 1584		30 May 1591		26 Sep 1596				11 Nov 1604	
will:									
bur:		23 May 1622							
proved:									
p700		p701		p702		p703		p704	
Andrew		Zacheus		- Abigail		Robert			
bap: 11 Nov 1604		13 Jul 1606		7 Jan 1636		8 Feb 1636		26 Feb 1636	
will:									
bur:		2 Nov 1633							
proved:									

p690		p692		p694		p696		p698	
Richard ⁴⁹		Thomas		Golding		John		Henry	
bap: 24 Jul 1586		28 Apr 1594		8 Apr 1599		7 Feb 1602		6 Dec 1606	

48 p indicates a reference in the Penshurst database

49 The Robert, son of Richard, baptised 26th September 1624 and buried 15th March 1631, could have been the son of this Richard

"Jane, daughter of Robert Skinner, junior" was baptised on 31st May 1584 so that she was thirty-two when her father, who does not mention her, wrote his will. Although her burial was not recorded, she could have died before 1617 but she might have married and received her inheritance at that time.

The Zacheus who died in 1628 could be Robert's brother but, in this case, he was forty-one when his eldest son, Andrew, was born. He could not, however, have been Robert's son who would have been only eight when Andrew was born. The Zacheus who died in 1636 was only thirty and had no children (although his wife could have been pregnant) and he made his surviving brother, Robert, his heir.

Will of Robert Skinner of Penshurst

written 1st March 1617

transcript from surviving original which looks to be a copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The first day of March in the year of our lord god
2 one thousand, six hundred and sixteen, I, Robert Skinner of the parish of
Penshurst
3 in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being aged and weak of body but whole of
mind and
4 of good and perfect remembrance, thanks be given to Almighty God, do
ordain and

5 make this my last will and testament in manner and form following: **First**
and principally
6 I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my maker, and to Jesus Christ, my
redeemer by whose
7 death and passion I trust to be saved, committing my body to the earth and
to be buried
8 in the churchyard of Penshurst aforesaid. **Item:** I give to the poor of the
said parish
9 3s 4d to be distributed to them by mine executrix hereunder named on the
day of
10 my burial. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my youngest daughter, Dorcas**
Skinner,
11 the best joined chest and my best iron pot after the decease of **Elizabeth,**
my wife.
12 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Henry Skinner, my youngest son,** one good
joined chest.
13 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Elizabeth Skinner, my daughter,** one joined
chest after the
14 decease of Elizabeth, my wife. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Golding**
Skinner, my son,
15 one joined chest after the decease of my said wife. **Item:** I give and
bequeath unto

16 Elizabeth, my said daughter, five pounds of lawful money to be paid unto
her, or her
17 assigns, on the day of her marriage by my executrix hereunder named,
otherwise at the
18 years of four and twenty. **Item:** I give and bequeath to Dorcas, my said
daughter,
19 five pounds of lawful money to be paid unto her, or her assigns, at the full
age of four
20 and twenty or otherwise on the day of her marriage which shall first
happen by my
21 said executrix. The residue of all my moveable goods unbequeathed, my
debts and
22 funeral discharged, I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth, my wife, whom I
do make
23 my full and sole executrix of this my last will and testament and I do make
my
24 **brother-in-law, Thomas Roberts of Penshurst** abovesaid overseer of the
same.
25 As concerning the order and disposing of my lands lying within the
parishes of
26 **Rotherfield in Sussex** and Penshurst in Kent: **Item:** I give and bequeath
unto **Richard, my**

27 **eldest son**, and to his heirs for ever all those my said lands lying in
Rotherfield aforesaid
28 upon that condition that he shall pay or cause to be paid unto Golding
Skinner and
29 **John Skinner**, my two sons, each of them twenty pounds at their several
ages of four
30 and twenty years. Also my will and meaning is that if Richard, my son,
31 refuse to pay unto Golding and John or their assigns, the said twenty
pounds in ??
32 and lawful money at their several ages as before said, then I will that
Golding and John,
33 my said two sons, shall enter in and upon the said lands lying in
Rotherfield before willed
34 to Richard, my son, and the same to have, hold and enjoy to the said
Golding and John,
35 and their heirs for ever. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Robert Skinner** and
Zache Skinner,
36 **my sons**, all my lands being in Penshurst called **Hylandes** with one barn
standing
37 thereupon on that condition that they shall pay or cause to be paid unto
Thomas
38 **Skinner** and Henry, my said sons, or to their assigns, £20 a piece lawful
money at their several

39 ages, viz. when they shall accomplish their full age of four and twenty
years,

page 2:

40 And if Robert and Zache, my said sons, refuse to pay the said twenty
pounds
41 a piece before willed to Thomas and Henry at their several ages beforesaid,
then my will
42 and meaning is that Thomas and Henry, my said two sons, shall enter in
and upon the said
43 lands called Hylandes before willed to Robert and Zache and the same to
have, hold and enjoy
44 to them and to their heirs for ever. This is the last will and testament of
me, the said
45 Robert Skinner made and declared the day and year first above written in
the presence of
46 **John Luck, Thomas Rivers, Thomas Leddall, scr.** The mark of Robert
Skinner. Witnesses at the ensealing John
47 Luck, Thomas Rivers, Thomas Leddall, scr.

1 In the name of god Amen. The 15th day of June Ao dm 1628 and in the
fourth year of
2 the reign of our Sovereign⁵⁰ Lord King Charles, etc. I, Zacheus Skynner of
Penshurst
3 in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick and not well in body but of a
good and
4 perfect mind and remembrance, thanks be⁵¹ to Almighty God, do make and
ordain
5 this my last will and testament in manner and form following: **First:** and
principally
6 I bequeath my soul to Almighty God my maker, and to Jesus Christ his
7 only son, my saviour and redeemer by whose death and passion I full trust
with
8 an assured hope to attain to the joyful resurrection of eternal life,
committing

50 capital letters as in original

51 "bee", "mee", "hee", "shee" throughout but not "beehind" as sometimes used by the Hooper family of scriptors; also "doo" on this line

9 my body to the earth and to be buried in the Churchyard of Penshurst
10 aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the poor people of the said
parish
11 Thirty shillings to be distributed to them by mine executor hereafter
named.
12 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Andrew Skynner, my son**, one plain boarded
bedstead with a
13 featherbed, bolster, blankets⁵², covering, sheets and all belonging to it.
Item: I give and
14 bequeath unto **Zacheus Skynner, my son**, one joined bedstead standing in
the parlour of
15 my now dwelling house with the featherbed, bolster⁵³, blankets, covering,
sheets and all belonging to it. **Item:** I
16 give and bequeath unto **Robert Skynner, my son**, one plain bedstead with
the
17 featherbed, bolster, blankets, sheets and covering and all belonging to it.
The Residue of all my moveable

52 "blanquetts" here and on lines 15 and 17

53 "featherbed, bolster" inserted here and on line 17

18 goods, chattels and cattells whatsoever, my debts discharged⁵⁴, I give and
bequeath unto **Anne, my wife**,
19 whom I do make my full and sole executor of this my last will and
testament, And
20 I do make **my loving brother-in-law Steven Copping** and **John Budgen**
supervisors
21 hereof to whom I give to either of them two shillings a piece over and
above their
22 pains taken here. This is the last will and testament of me Zacheus
Skynner made and declared
23 the day and year first above written.
24 Touching and concerning the Tenements, lands and hereditaments and
disposing of
25 them which I have, now situated, lying and being in Penshurst abovesaid
and
26 **Chiddingstone**. Also my will and meaning is that Anne, my wife, shall
have the benefit
27 and profit of them during the time of her natural life upon condition that
the said Anne, my wife, shall keep my
28 said house and buildings repaired as often as need shall require. And also
yielding and paying

54 "dischargded"

29 yearly and in every year during the term of her natural life unto Zacheus
30 Skynner, my son aforesaid, the yearly rent of Six pounds of good and
31 lawful English money at the Feasts of St. Michael Th'archangel and

page 2:

32 Th'annunciation of the blessed virgin Mary, the first payment to begin at
the
33 first of the said feasts which shall next ensue or be after my decease. And
also
34 upon that condition that she shall suffer and give free leave and consent
that
35 Zacheus Skynner, my said son, his heirs or assigns, shall or may enter in
36 and upon my said lands at any time or times after my decease and fell all
37 and every such woods, timber and trees as he or they shall think good
38 for to make payment of a sum of money hereafter mentioned. **Item:** I give
and
39 bequeath all my said Messuage, Tenement, lands and hereditaments
aforesaid lying and being in
40 Penshurst and Chiddingstone aforesaid, withall and singular
Th'appurtenances, unto Zacheus
41 Skynner, my said son, his heirs and assigns, To have, hold and enjoy to the
said

42 Zacheus Skynner, my son, his heirs and assigns, forever after the death and
decease of the said Anne, my wife, upon that condition
43 that the said Zacheus, my son, his heirs and assigns, shall pay or cause to
be paid
44 to Robert Skynner, my son, his heirs and assigns, the sum of one hundred
pounds of lawful
45 english money when he, the said Robert, shall attain to the age of
46 twenty and one years. And also upon condition that he, the said Zacheus,
his brother ?? shall yearly
47 and in every year after the decease of Anne, my wife, yield and pay or
cause to be satisfied or paid unto
48 Andrew Skynner, my son, his s and assigns forever: the yearly rent
49 of five pounds of lawful english money at the Feasts of St. Michael
50 Th'archangel and Th'annunciation of the blessed virgin Mary, by equal
portions
51 and the first payment to begin next feast or tem that shall happen after the
decease
52 of the said Anne my wife. Also my will and meaning is that if Zacheus, my
said
53 son, his heirs and assigns, shall refuse to pay the said sum of one hundred
pounds
54 to the said Robert, my son, his heirs or assigns, at the rime as aforesaid,
That

55 then it shall or may be lawful to and for the said Robert, my son, his heirs
and assigns,
56 to have, hold and enjoy all the right profit and estate in my said lands
before bequeathed unto
57 the said Zacheus until the said sum of one hundred pounds be fully
satisfied
58 and paid with all arrearages of the same if any be. And further, my will
and
59 meaning is that if Zacheus, my son, his heirs and assigns, shall refuse to
60 pay the said yearly rent of five pounds to Andrew, my son, his heirs or
61 assigns or if the said yearly rent shall happen to be behind unpaid in part
or
62 in all after either of the said feasts in which, as aforesaid, the same ought
63 to be paid by the space of Ten Days, That then it shall and may

page 3:

64 be lawful to and for the said Andrew, my son, his heirs and assigns, enter
in
65 and upon the said message, lands and premises before given to Zacheus,
my
66 son and to distrain and the distress or distresses so found and taken
67 lawfully from there to lead, drive, bear and carry away and the same
68 to withhold, impound, detain and keep until the said yearly rent
69 of five pounds, and every part thereof, be fully satisfied and paid

70 with all arrearages of the same, if any be. In witness whereof to
71 this my present testament and last will containing two sheets and a half
72 of paper, I, the said Zacheus Skynner, have set my hand and seal
73 yeven the day and year first above written.

Read, published and acknowledged
in the presence of

Anthony Combridge⁵⁵
Nathan Symons

the mark of
X

E
his mark
Thomas Leddall, scr.

Zacheus Skynner

55 looks like a signature

1 In the name of god Amen. The seventh day of January Ao Dm 1635
2 in the Eleventh⁵⁶ year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King Charles,
3 etc. I, Zacheus Skyner of the parish of Penshurst in the county of Kent,
4 **yeoman**, being sick and not well of body but sound of mind and perfect
memory,
5 God be praised, do⁵⁷ ordain and make this my last will and testament
6 in manner and form following: **First:** I bequeath and rest my soul
7 into the merciful hands of Almighty God and to Jesus Christ, my
8 alone Saviour and redeemer, by whose death, passion and bloodshedding, I
9 fully trust with an assured hope to attain to the joyful resurrection of
10 eternal life and committing my body to the earth and to be buried in the
11 Churchyard of Penshurst aforesaid. **Item:** I give to the poor people
12 of Penshurst Thirty shillings to be paid unto them within one half year
13 next after my decease by my executor. **Item:** I give and bequeath
14 unto **Abigail, my wife**, one joined bedstead with featherbed and bolster,

56 capital letters as in original

57 "doo"

15 blankets⁵⁸, covering and all belonging to it being in the parlour with the
feather
16 pillows, one new Iron kettle and one Iron pot. The residue of all my
movables,
17 goods, cattell and chattels whatsoever, my debts, legacies and funeral
18 discharged, I give and bequeath unto **my loving brother Robert Skyner**
19 whom I do make the full and sole executor of this my last Will and
Testament.
20 And I do make **my loving friends Nathan Symons⁵⁹ and Joseph Jessop** both
21 of Penshurst, supervisors thereof to whom I give two shillings a piece
22 over and above their charges for their pains taken herein to see this my will
23 performed. This is the last Will and Testament of
24 me the said Zacheus Skyner made and declared
25 the day and year first above written.

page 2:

26 Touching and concerning the disposing of All my Messuage, Tenement,
27 hereditaments and lands situated, lying and being in the parishes of
28 **Chiddingstone** and Penshurst aforesaid. **Item:** I give, devise and Will

58 "blanquets"

59 A Nathan Symons was a witness to the will of the Zacheus Skinner who died in 1628.

29 unto Robert Skinner, my brother, his heirs and assigns, All the aforesaid
30 Messuage, Tenement and Lands with Th'appurtenances To have and to
31 hold unto the said Robert Skyner, his heirs and assigns, for ever.
32 Except Abigale, my wife, be⁶⁰ now with child⁶¹. And also upon
33 the condition that he, the said Robert Skyner, his heirs or assigns, shall
34 well and truly pay unto Abigale, my loving wife, or her assigns, out of the
said tenement
35 and lands, the sum of six pounds of lawful english money yearly
36 and every year during the term of her natural life to be paid at the
37 four usual terms or feasts in the year, viz. at Th'annunciation of the blessed
38 Virgin Mary, the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, St. Michael Th'archangel
39 and Nativity of our Lord God, by equal portions. And the first
40 payment thereof to begin at the next feast day of the feasts aforesaid that
shall
41 happen to be next after my decease. And if it shall happen the said yearly
42 rent or sum of six pounds to be behind, unpaid in part or in all
43 after either or any of the said feast days in which as aforesaid the same
44 it ought to be paid by the space of ten days, That then it shall and

60 "bee" from here to the end but "be" up to here

61 no more detail given as to what was to happen if she was with child

45 may be lawful at any time after to enter in and upon the said Tenement
and
46 lands, or any part thereof, for the said Abigale or her assigns to distrain
47 and the distress or distresses there so found or taken from there lawfully
48 to lead, drive, bear and carry away and the same to withhold, impound,
49 detain and keep until the said yearly sum of six pounds be fully
50 satisfied and paid withall arrearages, if any be. In witness whereof to
51 this my present Testament and last Will containing two sheets of paper,
52 I, the said Zacheus Skyner, have set my hand and seal the day and year
53 first above written.

Read, sealed and acknowledged
in the presence of Joseph Jessop
Nathan Symons⁶³

Zacheus Skyner⁶²

X

Thomas Leddall⁶⁴

62 could be a signature

63 this is not the same mark as for the Nathan Symons who witnessed the will of the Zacheus Skinner who died in 1628; perhaps, like the testators, the two Nathans were father and son.

64 the bottom of the will has decayed so that the name of Thomas Leddall who, from the handwriting obviously wrote this will, cannot be seen.

Other Skinners

Other Skinners, not mentioned in the wills, were recorded in the registers:

Two children were recorded for **Thomas Skinner** (p707):

- **Elizabeth** (p709), baptised on 30th June 1588 and buried on 29th July 1588
- **Thomas** (p710) baptised on 7th March 1590

James Skinner had six children between 1615 and 1627:

p706 James -						
	p713	p714	p715	p716	p717	
	anonymous	Marie	Mabell	William	James	John
<i>bap:</i>	8 Dec 1616	16 May 1619	23 Jun 1622	6 Feb 1625	16 Dec 1627	
<i>bur:</i>	24 May 1615	2 Aug 1626	9 Mar 1634	9 Mar 1627	5 Feb 1632	

The first child was either stillborn or died at birth. He/she was buried without being baptised and was recorded as “anonymous”. James subsequently had five more children but all died as children except for his namesake. His family was unusual in that, if a child died, it was generally in its first year or two. Here Marie was nine and William and John just under five. Mabell was only fourteen and

when she was buried she was described as the “daughter of widow Skinner” implying that James, the father, died before 1634.

Later there was a Thomas Skinner (p718) who had a son, Richard (p720) baptised on 4th June 1635 but his wife, Margery, was buried two days later, 6th June.

Thomas Skull of Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#906 ⁶⁵	<u>SKULL, Thomas</u> ----- 				1	3	>Nov 1595
#907	<u>his wife, Agnes</u> -----				1	3	17 Nov 1595
• #1437	<u>Skull, Mary</u>	16 Jul 1587			0	0	
• #1595	<u>SKULL, William</u>	12 Apr 1590			0	0	
• #1822	<u>Skull, Elizabeth</u>	21 May 1594			0	0	

Thomas Scull, of Seal, labourer was one of a gang who stole malt from **John Polhill at Shoreham**. This could very well have been Thomas Skull.

At Sevenoaks Assizes on 25 February 1591, **Richard Grave** and **Gregory Beverley**, labourers of Shoreham, were indicted for grand larceny. On 20 June 1590 at Shoreham they stole 8 bushels of malt (16s) from John Polhill. **Thomas Danyell**

65 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

(Daniel?) of Shoreham, yeoman, was indicted as an accessory. On the same day, Thomas Scull stole 12 bushels of malt (24s) from John Polhill.

On 10 August 1590, at Shoreham, Grave and Beverley stole two quarters of malt (32s) from John Polhill. Grave, Beverley and Scull were found guilty but allowed clergy; Danyell was found not guilty. (Cockburn (Eliz. I); 1898)

The Smiths of Seal and Kemsing

There were also Smiths in Ightham. Many of the entries are individual items which cannot be assembled into families.

In Kemsing, on 13th December 1626, **Susanna** (k675⁶⁶), daughter of **William Smith** (k671) was baptised. The father was probably the William Smith of Kemsing who, on 13th September 1628, was assessed for 30s in land and 6s in goods towards a subsidy granted to Charles I.

Also in Kemsing, **Thomas** (k677), the son of **Thomas Smith** (k673) and **Mary** (k674), was baptised on 1st December 1649.

Over fifty years earlier, in Seal,

- on 20th March 1580, old William Smith of Chart was buried

The next "event" was the burial of **Margaret Smith** (#1994) on 2nd May 1598.

There were a number of separate families whose inter-relationship is not known.

John & Edmond Smith

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#539	<u>SMITH, John</u> -----				1	3	2 Mar 1591
• #541	<u>Smith, Johane</u>	12 Oct 1572			0	0	
• #921	<u>SMITH, William</u>	9 Aug 1579			0	0	
• #1176	<u>Smith, Elizabeth</u>	23 Dec 1582			0	0	
#3207	<u>SMITH, Edmund</u> -----		8 Nov 1590	Elizabeth Stevens #1541	1	0	
• #2964	<u>SMITH, Edmund</u> of Chart				1	1	19 Oct 1623
• #2965	<u>wife of Edmund Smith</u>				1	1	8 Jan 1626
• • #2966	<u>SMITH, William</u>	2 May 1619			0	0	

There is no evidence other than the same name that #2964 is the son of #3207.

The two Edward Smiths

An **Edward Smythe of Seal, labourer**, was fined on 11th April 1597 for cutting wood on Ightham Common - see [Excerpts from Ightham Court Rolls in Section Z of Families & Transcripts](#)

On the night of 12th June 1609 **Edward Smyth**, yeoman, and **George Wood** (#4298), **labourer**, and both from Seal broke into the warren of William James in Ightham and hunted rabbits there - see [Greentree in More Families & Transcripts](#)

There must have been at least two Edward Smiths since Edward (#2960) and Mildred (#2961) are too close together to have the same mother, unless Edward was at least six months old when he was baptised.. The following is just one possible way of allocating the recorded children.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#3869	<u>SMITH, Edward</u> -----				1	4	
• #3872	<u>Smith, Jone</u>				0	0	8 Apr 1606
• #2961	<u>Smith, Mildred</u>	22 Apr 1606			0	0	10 May 1606
• #2962	<u>Smith, Agnes</u>	24 Apr 1608			0	0	
• #2963	<u>Smith, Ellen</u>	4 Mar 1610			0	0	

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#1540	<u>SMITH, Edward</u> -----				2	6	
	<i>Marriage 1</i>			Johana Smith(m)	1	5	
#2956	<u>his wife, Johana</u> -----				1	5	3 Feb 1604
• #1849	<u>Smith, Margery</u>	16 Nov 1595			0	0	17 May 1598
• #2958	<u>Smith, Margaret</u>				0	0	4 May 1602
• #1921	<u>Smith, Margery</u>	4 Mar 1599			0	0	
• #2954	<u>Smith, Elizabeth</u>	3 May 1601			0	0	28 Dec 1601
• #2957	<u>Smith, Grace</u>	3 Feb 1604			0	0	
	<i>Marriage 2</i>		1604/5		1	1	
• #2960	<u>SMITH, Edward</u>	20 Dec 1605	13 Sep 1629	Ann Wale married at 23			1 0 #3208

Edward's first wife, Johane, was buried the day their daughter Grace was baptised.

Richard Smith

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#2973	<u>SMITH, Richard</u> -----				1	3	
• #2975	<u>Smith, Anna</u>	2 Nov 1604			0	0	11 Nov 1604
• #2976	<u>SMITH, Edward</u>	18 May 1606			0	0	
• #2977	<u>Smith, Richard</u>	<1611	8 Sep 1631(K)	Susan Baker #2125	1	5	
• • #2979	<u>Smith, Ann</u>	23 Aug 1632					0 0
• • #2980	<u>Smith, Elizabeth</u>	22 Apr 1635					0 0
• • #2981	<u>Smith, Sarah</u>	19 Sep 1637					0 0
• • #2982	<u>Smith, Mary</u>	20 Feb 1640					0 0
• • #2983	<u>SMITH, Richard</u>	2 Jan 1644					0 0

In 1619, the widow of Richard Smith shared the occupation of Henry Swaynsland's messuage with Henry himself, William Corke and William Porter. The burial of #2973 was not recorded but she could have been his widow - see [Henry's will in Families & Transcripts](#)

The Richard who married in 1631 has been taken as #2973's son because of his name. He and Susan were married by a licence from Rochester. He was described as "gent." when his children were born. Although no burial for him

was recorded, on 11th August 1645, **Samuel Selwood**, creditor of Richard Smyth, was appointed his administrator, "[Susan, his relict, renouncing](#)"⁶⁷ - see page 2.s.43 for details of Samuel Selwood.

Thomas Smith

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#2967	<u>SMITH, Thomas</u>		24 Sep 1626	Jane Smale #2968	1	4	
• #2969	<u>SMITH, John</u>	8 Jul 1627					0 0
• #2970	<u>SMITH, Thomas</u>	19 Apr 1630					0 0
• #2971	<u>Smith, Jane</u>	11 Mar 1632					0 0
• #3209	<u>Smith, Mary</u>						0 0 8 Feb 1647
• #2972	<u>SMITH, John</u>	7 Sep 1640					0 0

Thomas was listed, for Stone Street and Bitchet, in the Knole MS of 1648 - see [Section Z in Families & Transcripts](#)

⁶⁷ Duncan, 1893; p.36

Mary, when she was buried, and John, when he was baptised, were both recorded as the children of "Thomas and Jane Smith"; only Thomas was given for the first three children but, since Jane married Thomas in 1626, she was presumably the mother of all the children.

James Smith

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#3870	<u>SMITH, James</u> -----				2	3	
	<i>Marriage 1</i>			Rachel Smith(m)	1	1	
#3873	<u>his wife, Rachel</u> -----				1	1	1 Jul 1649
• #3874	<u>Smith, Elizabeth</u>	13 Feb 1648				0	0
	<i>Marriage 2</i>				1	2	
• #3876	<u>Smith, Ann</u>	14 Jan 1651				1	0
• #3877	<u>Smith, Sarah</u>	11 Jan 1655				1	0

James was listed, for Fuller Street and Chart, in the Knoles MS of 1648 - see [Section Z in Families & Transcripts](#)

The Smiths of Ightham

The will of William Smith of Ightham, written in 1615, is given in [Families & Transcripts](#). There is no obvious connection between his family and those of the other Smiths of Ightham. He could have been the son of the William Smith who married Anne Pelsett but, in that case, his father was a gentleman whilst he was a husbandman.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i1925 ⁶⁸	<u>SMYTH, William</u> ----- gent		12 Jan 1568	Anne Pelsett #926	1	2	12 May 1609
• i1195	<u>Smyth, Dorothy</u> "dau. of William Smyth, gent"				0	0	20 May 1572
• i1369	<u>Smyth, --</u> just recorded as "dau. of William Smyth"				0	0	16 Nov 1575

68 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

A **John Smythe** (i1165) was mentioned in the Court Records for 1586-1618. If he was mentioned early in this period, he could have been the father of the two Johns who died, probably very young:

- John i1168 buried 29 Dec 1568
- John i1187 25 Apr 1571.

Joane (i1166), the wife of **William Smyth** (i1164), was buried on 11th November 1568. Joane's husband could not have been the William Smyth who married Anne Pelsett in January 1568 since Joane was not buried until November 1568.

There were two other Smyth/Smith marriages in Ightham:

- **Andrew Smith** (i458) married **Alice Hawke** (i399) on 2nd August 1573
- **Richard Smith** (i2608) married **Mary Matthews** (i2609) on 31st January 1648

George (i1276), the son of **Roger Smythe** (i1274), was baptised on 5th September 1585 but was buried three days later (8th September 1585).

The Smiths of Shipbourne

William Smith (\$571⁶⁹) had two children baptised in Shipbourne

- **Elizabeth** \$573 18 Oct 1592 buried 28 Oct 1592
- **William** \$618 22 Oct 1595

There were a number of marriages with nothing else known about either partner:

Richard Smith	\$1332	25 Apr 1622	Sarah Gybson	\$1333
Dorothy Smith	\$1835	27 Aug 1642	Thomas Methurst	\$1827
Richard Smith	\$1934	20 Aug 1644	Elizabeth Walcutt	\$1952
Ann Smith	\$2058	26 Jun 1646	John Luxford	\$2050
Elizabeth Smith	\$2153	19 Sep 1648	John Cumber	\$2120

of Mereworth

⁶⁹ \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

Peter Smyth, butcher of Penshurst

Peter Smyth, butcher of Penshurst, was indicted for three separate offences at the March 1601 Assizes. He and **Richard Reade** of **Chiddingstone**, labourer, were indicted for grand larceny. On 3rd December 1600, at Chiddingstone, they stole 2 oxen (£16) from **Henry Burgys**. Smyth confessed and was sentenced to hang; Reade was found guilty but allowed benefit of clergy.

Secondly, Peter Smyth was indicted for grand larceny. On 1st Sep 1600, at Penshurst, he stole a brown gelding (£2) from **Elizabeth Perkyn** alias Arkenhall. Again he was found guilty and sentenced to hang.

Thirdly, **Thomas Jordan** of Sundridge, gent., **Peter Smyth**, of Penshurst, butcher, and **Adam Alchyn** of Rochester, sailor, were indicted for riotous assembly and poaching. On the night of 6th May 1599 they, and others unknown, assembled in a warlike manner in a park at Penshurst called Northlands, belonging to Sir Robert Sydney, and hunted a doe with greyhounds. The verdict for this case is not known.⁷⁰

Thomas Jorden, yeoman of Penshurst, was charged with a number of offences between 1591 and 1600, being recorded as being “at large” or, alternatively, found “not guilty and bailed” in February 1600. The riotous assembly and poaching for which a Thomas Jorden was one of those charged occurred in the spring of 1599. See [Thomas Jorden in More Families & Transcripts](#) for more details of Jorden.

John Snosmer of Seal

John Snosmer's will dated 3 January 1487 has survived (CKS: Drb/Pwr 5.142). The following extract from it are taken, with some modernisation of the spelling, from "Incumbents of Kemsing with Seal", A.C. Vol. 20, p.265.

"Also I bequeath to the Church of Seal a torch. Also to the light of Saint John Baptist in Seal 2 quarters of barley for the sustenance and keeping of a taper of wax to burn before the said Saint . . . Also I bequeath to the buying of a bell to the paish of Seal 3s 4d". He also left a contingent remainder of £8 to the church.

The Soanes of Seal

Edward Soane (#1469⁷¹) was buried on 16th May 1583

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#3397	<u>SOANE, John</u> -----				1	3	
• #3399	<u>Soane, Elisabeth</u>	22 Jan 1615				0	0
• #3400	<u>SOANE, John</u>	15 Sep 1616				0	0
• #3401	<u>Soane, Joan</u>	23 Nov 1623				0	0

The register gives neither father nor mother for Elisabeth but John and Joan are described as the son and daughter of John Soane.

A John Soane, senior and a John Soane, junior were both listed in the **Knole MS of 1648** for Godden and Fawke; these could be #3397 and #3400.

⁷¹ # indicates a reference in the Seal database

Most unusually Elizabeth Soane, widow, seems to have owned property in her own right since she left her son William the message in which she lived "[with the buildings, shop, cellars, warehouses, backsides and gardens](#)". Generally a husband left his property to his wife for her natural life or until she remarried with it going to his son on her death.

1 In the name of god Amen. The fourteenth day of December
2 Anno Dm 1639 and in the fifteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord
3 Charles, by the grace of god of England, Scotland, France and Ireland
king,
4 defender of the faith, etc. I, Elizabeth Soane of the parish of St. Nicholas
5 in the City of Rochester in the county of Kent, **widow**, being sick and
6 weak in my body but of good, sound and perfect memory (thanks be⁷²
7 given to god therefore) do make and ordain this my present last
6 will and testament in manner and form following: **Imprimis**: I
7 bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my creator,

72 "bee", "mee" throughout but not "beeing"

8 hoping to be saved and to obtain remission and pardon of all my
9 sins by and through the only merits, death and passion of Jesus
10 Christ, my saviour and redeemer. And my body I commit to the
11 earth from whence it came to be decently and orderly interred and
12 buried by the discretion of my executor hereafter in this my will
13 nominated and appointed. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my grandchild**
14 **William Webb** (to be delivered and paid unto him by my said executor)
15 one of my best feather beds, one feather bolster, one down
16 pillow, one green rug, one pair of white blankets, one pair
17 of my best sheets, one pair of my ordinary sheets, one pair of
18 flaxen pillowberes, one flaxen tablecloth, one dozen of flaxen
19 napkins, six pewter dishes great and small (that is to say) of every
20 sort one dish, and twenty shillings of lawful money of England to
21 buy him a ring of gold. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **William Soane,**
22 **my son** and his heirs all that my messuage or tenement wherein I now
23 dwell with the buildings, shop, cellars, cellars⁷³, warehouses, backsides
24 and gardens with
25 th'appurtenances whatsoever thereunto belonging, situated, lying and
being in the said parish of
St. Nicholas in the said city of Rochester aforesaid and adjoining unto the
Inn

73 "cellars" repeated

26 called the **Kings Head** there. To have and to hold the said messuage or
tenement
27 and premises with the appurtenances unto him, the said William Soane,
his heirs and
28 assigns forever. All the rest and residue of my goods, chattels, plate,
29 household stuff and ready monies whatsoever not before bequeathed,
30 my debts, legacies and funeral expenses being first paid and satisfied, I
31 fully and wholly give and bequeath unto the said William Soane, my son,
whom I do
32 ordain, nominate, appoint and make my full and whole executor of this my
last will
33 and testament. Hereby also renouncing all former wills whatsoever by me
formerly
34 made. And in witness hereof I, the said Elizabeth Soane have hereunto
set my
35 hand and seal and published and declared this to be my only last will and
testament
36 the day and year first above written.

Read, sealed, subscribed, published, declared
said

the mark of the

established? by the said Elizabeth Soane to
be her last will and testament in the presence
of **John Goldwelly**

Elizabeth Soane

Heather Cerkrist
her mark

John IW Wertelie his mark

Elizabeth EW Wertelie her mark

John Werties his mark

The Sommers of Hadlow

A large number of wills have survived for Sommers (or Somers) of Hadlow, all proved at Rochester:

	dated	proved	CKS: Drb/Pw	Drb/Pwr	
John Sommer (senior)	1491-2			5.187	
John Sommer	1529	1529		8.1	
Thomas Sommer	1541			9.377	
Richard Sommer (senior)		1557		12.105(1)	yeoman
Nicholas Sommer		1558		12.210	
John Sommer	1559		6	12.277(2)	
Richard Sommer	13 Mar 1590/1		17	18.344	page 2.s.142 first 30 lines only
Isaac Sommer		1612	22	20.499	
Alice Sommer	23 Oct 1615	19 Feb 1615/6	23	20.580	page 2.s.144
Thomas Sommer	24 Aug 1621	19 Apr 1626	26	21.194	page 2.s.145
Joan Sommer		1642/3	30	22.508	

Only three of these have been investigated. In 1529, John Sommer (Somer) bequeathed “a canopy of the value of 13s 4d for the high altar of Hadlow”.⁷⁴

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

The nuncupative will of Alice Sommer and that of Thomas Sommer (1621) were written by Robert Hooper, one of the family of Hoopers who wrote wills from about 1560 until at least the 1650s when thus study ends.

Will of Richard Sommer of Hadlow

written 13th March 1590/1
transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 The thirteenth day of March in the 33rd
3 year of the reign of our sovereign lady
4 Elizabeth, by the grace of god, of England, France
5 and Ireland, queen, defender of the faith, etc. I,
6 Richard Sommer of Hadlow in the county of
7 Kent, **yeoman**, being of perfect mind and good
8 remembrance, (?? to god) do make this my
9 present testament and last will in manner and
10 form following: **First:** I bequeath my soul to
11 Almighty god, my only saviour and redeemer,
12 whom I desire for the merit's of Christ's

13 passion that I may be the child of salvation
14 and my body to be buried in Christian burial.
15 **Item:** I will and give to the poor men's box
16 of Hadlow, aforesaid, 12d. **Item:** I will and
17 give to be distributed among poor people at my
18 burial twenty shillings. **Item:** I will my
19 moveable goods, cattells and chattels unto
20 **Thomas Sommer, my son**, whom I make my
21 only and sole executor to see my ?? ??
22 and my will performed in all things. I ??
23 and constitute **Lewes Wells** of Hadlow, aforesaid,
24 yeoman, to be my overseer of this my last will
25 and testament.
26 This is the last will of me, the said Richard
27 Sommer made the day and year above written
28 concerning the disposition of all my lands, tenements
29 and hereditaments withall and singular the
30 appurtenances. **First:** I will and give ?? ??
31 cottage and orchard lying at L--- in
32 the tenure of **John Makyn** who
33

October 23th 1615

1 **Memorandum** that Alice Sommer, singlewoman,
2 late of Hadlow in the county of Kent, deceased, the day and
3 year above dated, being⁷⁵ then of very perfect
4 remembrance spoke and uttered these words
5 following (or the very like in effect) as her last will
6 and testament: **First:** she willed unto **Thomas**
7 **Sommer, son of Stephen Sommer,**
8 **her kinsman,** the sum of four pounds to be
9 employed and put out by the said Stephen to
10 the use of his said son.
11 **Item:** she willed more unto the said Thomas
12 her bed and bedding, one brass pot, one brass
13 stupnet, one candlestick and two chests.
14 **Item:** she gave unto the said Stephen Sommer
15 all her wearing apparel and all other her moveable

75 "beeing", "shee" throughout

16 goods unwilling and made him her executor willing him to bestow about
her
17 burial twenty shillings. These words, or the
18 very like in effect, were voluntarily uttered by the
19 said Alice Sommer in the presence of us
20 **Wyat Fathman** and **Robert Hooper**.

Will of Thomas Sommer, yeoman, of Hadlow

written 24th August 1621 but not proved until 19th April 1626

transcript from original

1 In the name of god Amen. The four and twentieth day of August in the
nineteenth year of the reign of our sovereign
2 Lord James, by the grace of God, king of England, France and Ireland,
defender of the faith, etc. and
3 of Scotland the five and fiftieth, 1621, I, Thomas Sommer of Hadlow in the
county of Kent,
4 **yeoman**, ?? at the time of the making hereof in perfect health and memory
(praised

5 be god) do make and ordain this my present testament and last will in
manner following,
6 that is to say, **First** and principally, I give commend and bequeath my
soul unto Almighty God,
7 my most merciful creator, trusting by a lively faith which I have in the
most precious
8 death and blood shedding of his dear and only son Christ Jesus, my
Saviour and Redeemer,
9 to have his free pardon and remission of all my sins. And my body to the
earth to be
10 buried in the churchyard of Hadlow aforesaid ?? ??⁷⁶ doubting of a ??
11 resurrection unto life immortal. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the poor
of Hadlow aforesaid
12 twenty shillings to be distributed amongst them in the day of my burial by
my executrix
13 hereafter named. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Marie Sommer, my**
daughter, one hundred pounds
14 of good and lawful money of England to be paid unto her by my executrix
out of my ??
15 and moveables within three years next after my decease. The residue and
all other my moveables

76 looks like "nyl more", nil more or nevermore

16 and moveable goods whatsoever, I wholly and fully give and bequeath unto
Mary, my wellbeloved
17 **wife**, who I make and ordain my whole and sole executrix, to see this my
will proved, my
18 legacies paid and my body decently buried. And I do make and ordain my
loving friends and neighbours, **John Barton**
19 of **Spavelpits** and **William Fairley** overseers of this my will earnestly
entreating them to
20 their uttermost endeavour to see the same performed and finished
according to my true
21 intent and meaning whose pains and expenses any wise sustained about
the same
22 I will shall, from time to time, be ?? by my said executrix.

23 This is the last will and testament of me, the said Thomas Sommer, made
and declared the day
24 afore dated, concerning the order and disposition of all my lands,
tenements and hereditaments, situated
25 lying and being in the several parishes of Hadlow, aforesaid, **West**
Peckham, Capell and Pembury,
26 als. Pepingbury in the said county of Kent. **Item:** my will and mind is that
the said Mary, my

27 wife, and her assigns shall have, hold, receive and enjoy the ?? issues and
profits of
28 all my lands, tenements and hereditaments situated, lying and being
within the parish
29 of Hadlow and West Peckham aforesaid during the term and time of her
natural life towards the bringing
30 up of my children except such as happen to be sold as hereafter is
expressed. The said Mary, my wife,
31 keeping the reparations and making no ?? ?? or ?? in or upon the
premises. Provided always
31 and my will and mind is that my said wife shall well and truly pay out of
the same unto **my four**
32 **sons, Richard, Thomas, James and William? Sommer** towards their
maintenance as they shall
33 attain their several ages of 21 years, the sum of four pounds? a year of
lawful english money
34 ?? yearly by equal portions, that is to say, at the feast of St. Michael
Th'archangel and the
35 annunciation of the blessed virgin Mary or within fourteen days next after
either of the said feasts.
36 And after the decease of the said Mary, my wife, I will, give and bequeath
all and every my said lands,

37 tenements and hereditaments, situated, lying and being in Hadlow and
West Peckham ?? except such as
38 shall happen to be sold as aforesaid expressed, to my said four sons,
Richard, Thomas, James
39 and William Sommer and their heirs and assigns for ever. **Item:** ?? debts
40 ?? ?? being desirous that ?? shall have his rent, my will and mind
41 is that ?? every year free ?? ?? my said wife and my overseers
aforesaid or any
42 two of them, if the other be deceased, ?? ?? of my said sons as shalbe
then ??
43 ?? ?? at the most and best price they can or may, all and
44 every my lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever, situated, lying
and being in Capell
45 and Pembury, als. Pepingbury aforesaid (with such other of my lands in
Hadlow aforesaid
46 as they shall think fitting if there shall not be sufficient of the residue).
And
47 with the money thereof arising, to satisfy, discharge⁷⁷ and pay all and
every my
48 debts whatsoever, the overplus thereof, if any be, I will shall remain unto
49 my said wife. And I do hereby warrant all and every my said lands,

77 "dischardge", a spelling often used by John Hooper

50 tenements and hereditaments with th'appurtenances so to be sold as
aforesaid
51 unto him, her and them which shall buy the same, his, her and their
52 heirs forever as firmly and effectually as if the same had been sold
53 by my self in mine own person. **Lastly**, my will and mind is that if my
54 said wife shall happen to decease in the nonage of my said children or any
of
55 them, that then my said overseers shalbe guardians unto my said children
56 so under age. And that if my said overseers shall likewise happen to
57 decease in their said nonage, then they shall appoint such guardians
58 unto them as they shall think good and mine children to choose none
59 other. In witness whereof, to this my present last will and testament,
60 consisting of three sheets of paper, I, the said Thomas Sommer, to
61 every sheet thereof have written my name and to the last sheet set my
62 seal, the day and year afore dated, acknowledging the same to
63 be my very will and trus meaning.

Read, sealed, published and declared Thomas Sommer
to be the true and last will of the said
Thomas Sommer in the presence of

John Pavier and
Robert Hooper

The Children of Nicholas Speckman of Ightham

Nicholas Speckham (i1498⁷⁸) had three children baptised in Ightham:

- Elizabeth i1500 13 Sep 1590
- Judith i1501 3 Nov 1592
- Dorothy i1978 24 Oct 1602.

There was a ten year gap between the baptisms of Judith and Dorothy. Although this is feasible (possibly there were a number of miscarriages during the interval), it is possible that Nicholas's first died and he married again.

78 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

The Staces of Ightham

There were Staces in Seal, Wrotham, Leigh and other neighbouring parishes - see [Families & Transcripts](#) .

The first Stace mentioned in Ightham is actually a **Robert Stacey**. At the Assize held in July 1583, two labourers, **Walter Wells** of Otford and **John Raye** of London were "indicted for grand larceny. On 15th May 1583 they broke into Peckham Brome in Ightham, a close belonging to Robert Stacey, and stole a grey mare" valued at £4. Wells was "found guilty; to hang. Raye hanged in Newgate"⁷⁹.

The Robert Stacey above was most probably the **Robert Stace** who, on 2nd October 1587, was presented to the Court for having "allowed his hedge to grow to the hindrance and grave inconvenience of travellers, against the highway leading from **Ivy Hatch to Plaxtol**. Fined 6d and ordered to amend it before the next Court, under penalty 3s 4d." At the next Court, held on 17th April 1588, it was reported that Robert Stace had cut his hedge as ordered. (CRI 1937, p.198)

George Stace, gent. (i2047⁸⁰) had three children baptised in Ightham:

- Chrisogen i2053 23 May 1608 daughter
- Margaret i2049 16 Nov 1609
- Francis i2085 29 Jul 1613 son

The entry in the register for Francis just says "[Francis Stace baptised](#)" but "[Francis, son of George Stace, gent.](#)" was buried on 15th March 1614 in Shipbourne.

80 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

The Stacys of Shipbourne

Robert Stacy (\$198⁸¹) of **Wrotham** had two daughters baptised in Shipbourne:

- Elizabeth \$200 31 Dec 1581
- Marie \$328 30 Oct 1585

81 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

Lawrence Stake of Seal and the Plague

Lawrence Stake's wife and two children, a son aged twelve and a daughter ten, died from the plague in 1603:

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#1617 ⁸²	<u>STAKE, Lawrence</u> ----- 				1	2	11 Dec 1637
#1618	<u>his wife</u> -----				1	2	30 Sep 1603
• #1619	<u>STAKE, Ambrose</u>	4 Apr 1591			0	0	13 Sep 1603
• #1794	<u>Stake, Sara</u>	13 Jul 1593			0	0	4 Oct 1603

82 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

The Stanfords of Shipbourne

It is taken that the Andrew Stanford an Andrew Stamford were the same person with Stanford being taken as the standard.

Andrew Stanford (\$1532) married **Mercy Thorpe** (\$1542) on 25th November 1630; they had two sons baptised in Shipbourne:

- Henry \$1598 20 Oct 1633
- Thomas \$1599 27 Oct 1633

Were these twins baptised a week apart? Was it an incorrect entry in the register? It is most unlikely that there were two Andrew Stanfords.

Four years later they had a son, **Andrew** (\$1685) baptised on 10th January 1637 but, sadly, his wife was buried on the same day.

John Stanford (\$1819) had three children baptised in Shipbourne:

- **Andrew** \$1821 11 Mar 1645
- **Thomas** \$2028 11 Sep 1646
- **Joane** \$2094 25 May 1648 buried 15 Jan 1648

Simon Stephen of Brenchley

Simon Stephen's will (CKS: Drb/Pwr 17.358) was written on 27th March 1589. It was "proved before me, John Stockwood, vicar of Tonbridge Church the 6th June 1589 and the executor within named proved accordingly and the inventory is hereunto knit". Presumably the inventory was fastened to the will in some way.

Neither the will nor the inventory have been investigated.

[See Wills Proved Locally in Section Z of More Families & Transcripts](#)

The Stevens of Kemsing, Ightham & Seal

The items relating to Stevens (or the alternative spelling “Stephens”) in the parish records for Kemsing, Ightham and Seal can be arranged into six families, one each for Kemsing and Ightham and four for Seal. The connections between these families, if any, are not known although sometimes there are items for one family in more than one parish.

John Stevens of Kemsing

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died	
k230 ⁸³	<u>STEVENS, John</u> -----				1	4		
• k232	<u>STEVENS, John</u>	7 Nov 1595				0	0	
		probably died before March 1599 when a brother was baptised John						
• k233	<u>STEVENS, John</u>	3 Mar 1599				0	0	
		could be #3402 in Seal (see below) but John Stevens is a common name						
• k234	<u>STEVENS, William</u>	18 Aug 1603				0	0	
• k235	<u>STEVENS, Gilbert</u>	7 Sep 1606				0	0	

83 “k” indicates a reference in the Kemsing database, “i” in that for Ightham and # for Seal

Richard Steven of Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died	
i1033	<u>STEVEN, Richard</u> -----		10 Nov 1577(K)	Joan Grayce	1	4		
• i1035	<u>STEVEN, Thomas</u>	20 Apr 1578				0	0	
		no name given for father, just "Thomas Steven was baptised"						
• i1036	<u>Steven, Anne</u>	28 Oct 1580				0	0	
• i1037	<u>STEVEN, John</u>	22 Sep 1583				0	0	
• i1038	<u>Steven, Elizabeth</u>	7 Jan 1588				0	0	
• i1037	<u>STEVEN, John</u>	11 Dec 1590(K)				0	0	

Richard and Jane were married in Kemsing and their last recorded item was for the baptism of their youngest son In Kemsing.

On 14th April 1586, **Richard Steven** was fined 3s 4d because his wife had been "spoiling, breaking down and carrying away the Lord's wood" (CRI 1938, p.35)

On 20th October 1601, **widow Stephen** was brought before the Court for receiving a "stranger" - **John Rawlins**. She was to be fined 10s if he stayed without sureties being found. (CRI 1938, p.18) Was she Richard's widow? There were Rawlins in Ightham - see [More Families & Transcripts](#)

Matthew Steven of Ightham was buried, in **Sevenoaks**, on 4th April 1601

The Stevens of Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#758	<u>STEVENS, Thomas</u> -----				1	1	
• #760	<u>STEVENS, John</u>	9 Jan 1574			2	2	
	<i>Marriage 1</i>			J-- Stevens(m)	1	2	
• #3403	<u>Stevens(m), J-</u>				1	2	24 Aug 1607
• • #1837	<u>STEVENS, Thomas</u>	22 Dec 1594					0 0
	<i>Marriage 2</i>		29 Nov 1607	Edie Ardve	1	0	
							#2026

An Elizabeth Stevens, daughter of John Stevens, was buried 8 Nov 1590; this could not have been a daughter of #760 who would himself have been only 16 in 1590. Even so, if #1837 and #3402 were his children, he married for the first time at 20 or under, for the second time at 33.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#3402	<u>STEVENS, John</u> -----				1	2	
• #3405	<u>STEVENS, Richard</u>	23 Jan 1620			2	1	
				listed in the Knole MS of 1648 for Stone Street and Bitchet			
	<i>Marriage 1</i>						
• #3450	<u>Stevens(m), "first wife"</u>				1	0	1649/50
				"buried the first wife of Richard Stephens"			
				date uncertain since register not complete here			
	<i>Marriage 2</i>			? ___ 1650 Ales (Alice) Cots	1	1	
				#3410			
• • #3411	<u>Stevens, Ann</u>	19 Apr 1651					0 0

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#1600	<u>STEVENS, -</u> -----	(could be "John")			1	3	
• #1647	<u>Stevens, Johane</u>	25 Apr 1582					0 0
• #1641	<u>Stevens, Dorothy</u>						0 0 15 Jun 1586
• #1602	<u>Stevens, Mercy</u>	10 May 1590					0 0

On 21st March 1647, **John** (#3408), the “**base son of Ann Stephens**” was baptised.

A year later, on 25th March 1648, **Ann Stephens** (#3406) married **Thomas Worrells** (#3409).

In **Shipbourne**, **Lawrence Stevens** (\$1899⁸⁴) was baptised on 1st September 1646; no father (or mother) was given.

84 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

The Stilemans of Kemsing

Henry Stileman (k556⁸⁵) and his wife, **Elizabeth** (k557) had three children baptised in Kemsing:

- Richard k558 29 Dec 1629
- Ann k559 9 Feb 1632
- Henry k560 22 May 1634

85 "k" indicates a reference in the Kemsing database

The Stones of Seal

The family of **Christopher Stone** (#1382) and his wife **Debora Porter** (#552) are known from the will of their grandfather, **John Porter** (#305) - see [John Porter in Families & Transcripts](#)

Elizabeth Stone (#341) married twice, her first husband being **John Kerwyne** (#340) - see [Kerwyne in Families & Transcripts](#) for further details.

On 25th January 1593, **Frances Stone** (#1658) married **Margaret Warren** (#1659); no children were recorded.

The Family of Lawrence Stone

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#1149	<u>STONE, Lawrence</u> -----				1	4	10 May 1592
• #3962	<u>STONE, John</u>	14 May 1578(I)			0	0	
• #1151	<u>Stone, Johane</u>	15 Apr 1582			0	0	
• #1262	<u>STONE, William</u>	3 Apr 1584			0	0	8 Jan 1611
		died at 26 if burial and baptism refer to the same					William Stone
• #1304	<u>Stone, Elizabeth</u>	23 May 1585			0	0	24 Mar 1588

#3962, "John, the son of Lawrence Stone" was baptised in Ightham. Lawrence is an uncommon name and the only family of Stones in Ightham was that of Thomas Stone and Rebecca Chownings who married in 1612 (see [Chownings in More Families & Transcripts](#)) Thus it is likely that #3962 was the eldest child in this Seal family. Perhaps his mother came from Ightham.

On 5th April 1592, Lawrence Stone "a common plunderer of the lord's wood on [Ightham Common](#)" was fined 12d (Court Rolls - Ightham, p.207). Was this #1149? The man who died in 1592 could have been #1149's father.

Thomas Stone of Tudeley

A large number of Stone wills have survived; for those of John Stone of Tonbridge (1597) and Thomas Stone of Hadlow (1600), which were both written by Nicholas Hooper, see [Families & Transcripts](#)

Thomas's will (**CKS: Drb/Pw 12**) was probably written by Sir Thomas Fane whom Thomas appointed his overseer. Nearly two years previous to writing his will, in February 1576/7, Thomas had drawn up an "[inventory indenture](#)" detailing items of his "household stuff" which was to go, on his death, to his nephew Ned Stone. One part of the indenture has been given to Ned with Thomas's wife, Agnes, keeping the other part. Agnes was to have all the rest of his household stuff not mentioned in the inventory and, in addition £14. Ned was to be his executor, inheriting the rest of Thomas's goods and also a lease, the profit of which was to be "[enjoyed](#)" by Agnes during her widowhood.

The will, however, is mainly concerned with £10 which was already in the hands of four men and was "[to remain in their hands in stock or at their appointment to the use of the poor people of Tudeley](#)". Since this bequest seems to be a continuing one, it was the profit earned by the £10 which was to be paid out forever. The four men were to "[yearly make a true account to the churchwardens of the](#)

said parish of the bestowing” of the £10. When one of the four died, the three survivors were to elect another “of the most substantial persons of the same parish to make up the full number of 4 persons”. And “forever there be four or three at the least of the most substantial persons . . . to have the ordering and bestowing of the said ten pounds to the said use”. If any of the four or those subsequently elected refused to have the “ordering of the said ten pounds or the profit thereof, then . . . any other person . . . which . . . shall be most assessed or taxed in value for his lands to the payment of the subsidy last before the said refusal shall join with the other elected persons and have the bestowing and ordering of the said ten pounds and the profit thereof forever to the only use and for the relief of the said poor people”.

Having given these detailed instructions, the testator (or perhaps the scriptor) had doubts about the detailed arrangements. Fane, his overseer, was “to have the full and absolute exposition of all questions, ambiguities and doubts which may hereafter arise . . . And chiefly for the ordering of the said ten pounds before given for the use and behoof of the poor. That if the common laws of this realm will not allow of the same” the the £10 was to be “distributed to the use and for the relief of the said poor people in such manner and form as the said Sir Thomas Fane shall think most mete and convenient”.

1 In the name of god Amen. the 20th day of December in Anno Dm 1578
and in the 21st year of the reign of
2 our most gracious sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of god, of
England, France and Ireland, queen, defender of the faith,
3 etc. I, Thomas Stone of Tudeley in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, sick in
body but being of good and
4 perfect memory (thanks be to god) do ordain and make this my present
testament and last will in manner and
5 form following: That is to say, **First** I commit my soul into the hands of
Almighty god, my saviour and redeemer,
6 by whose only merit, death and passion I trust assuredly to be saved⁸⁶.
And my body to be buried in christian⁸⁷ burial.
7 I will that there shalbe bestowed upon a preacher for a sermon at my
burial and amongst the poor people there

86 it looks like "etc." here as at the beginning of line 3. On line 3, "etc." ususally appears in this context but it seems most unusual here

87 "xpen"

8 assembled 20s. **Item:** I give and bequeath ten pounds now in the hands of
9 **Nicholas Amherst, James Cowper, Thomas**
10 **Bennet and William Shelley**, to remain in their hands in stock or at their
11 appointment to the use of the poor people
12 of Tudeley aforesaid for and in manner and form hereafter expressed.
13 **Item:** I give unto **Ned Stone, son of ??**
14 **Stone, my brother** deceased, all such my household stuff as is mentioned
15 and conveyed in a certain inventory indenture
16 bearing date the 16th day of February in Ao dm 1576 whereof the one part
17 remaineth in the custody and keeping of
18 Ned Stone and the other part of said inventory indented remaineth in the
19 keeping of **Agnes Stone, my wife.**
20 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the said Agnes, my wife, fourteen pounds
21 whereof £10 is in the hands of **Robert Love??**
22 of **Capel, thatcher?**, and £4 residue of the said £14 is in the hands of
23 Nicholas Amherst. Also I give unto the
24 said Agnes, my wife, all such my household stuff as is not mentioned in
25 the said indenture. **Item:** I give ??⁸⁸
26 of grenefiled unto the said Ned Stone so that he suffer the said Agnes, my
27 wife, to have the profit thereof during her

88 the lease - see line 19

18 widowhood and if the same Ned Stone do not suffer and permit the said
Agnes, my wife, to have and enjoy the said (lease)
19 quietly as is abovesaid, then I give the same lease unto the said Agnes
during the continuance of the
20 same lease and the gift thereof above mentioned unto the said Ned Stone
to be utterly void. **All** the rest
21 of my goods, moveable and unmoveable. not before given nor bequeathed,
I give unto the said Ned Stone whom I ??
22 ordain and appoint my sole executor of this my last will and testament, to
see my debts and legacies paid and my funeral
23 discharged. **And where** I have above in this my last will and testament
given ten pounds now in the hands
24 of Nicholas Amherst, James Cowper, Thomas Bennett and William Shelley
to remain at their appointment and
25 use of the poor people of this parish of Tudeley. **My** very true intent and
last will is that the said four
26 shall yearly make a true account to the churchwardens of the said parish
of the bestowing of the
27 same ten pounds and that after the decease of any of the said 4 persons,
they which survive (shall)
28 elect other of the most substantial persons of the same parish to make up
the full number of 4 persons and they to

29 gether for the employing and bestowing of the same ten pounds to the use
of the said poor ??

30 and will is that always forever there be four or three at the least of the
most substantial persons of the said

31 parish to have the ordering and bestowing of the said ten pounds to the
said use. And if the said four ??

32 named, or any of them or any other person hereafter to be elected for that
purpose, do refuse to have the ??

33 or ordering of the said ten pounds or the profit thereof, then my will is that
any other person or ??

34 of the said parish which are or shalbe most assessed or taxed in value for
his lands to the payment of

35 the subsidy last before the said refusal shall join with the other elected
persons and have the bestowing and ordering

36 of the said ten pounds and the profit thereof forever to the only use and for
the relief of the said poor people

37 according as is above expressed. And I will that this shalbe and continue
forever after every ??

38 or refusal. **And** finally I will and earnestly require my very wellbeloved Mr.
Sir Thomas Fane

39 knight, to be my overseer of this my present last will and testament most
heartily desiring him and by

40 my last will authorising him to have the full and absolute exposition of all
41 questions, ambiguities and doubts
42 which may hereafter arise, happen or be by reason of any thing contained
43 in this my last will and
44 testament. And chiefly for the ordering of the said ten pounds before
45 given for the use and behoof
46 of the poor. That if the common laws of this realm will not allow of the
47 same, my meaning?
48 and gift of the said ten pounds, then my very will and mind is that the said
49 ten pounds
50 shalbe ordered and distributed to the use and for the relief of the said poor
51 people in such manner and
52 form as the said Sir Thomas Fane shall think most mete and convenient.

In witness

47 I have to this my present last will and testament set my hand and seal the
48 day and year first
49 above written, In the presence of these whose names are underwritten,
50 viz.

Thomas Fane, scr.⁸⁹

Roger Tompson

Robert Amherst John Woodgate

Richard Robins

89 the abbreviation following this name could be “scr” or “sen”; the signature looks to be written with a different pen from the rest of the will. The names of the other witnesses look to be written by the scribe of the will (all the initial “R”s are exactly the same) but there are no marks. There is no signature or mark for the testator. Earlier in the will Thomas Fane is described as “Sir” which could have indicated a cleric.

The Storyers of Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i439 ⁹⁰	<u>STORYER, John</u> -----				1	8	
• i164	<u>Storyer, Bridget</u>	27 Oct 1560	4 Oct 1591S	Will. Christopher #251	1	0	
• i447	<u>STORYER, John</u>				0	0	19 Nov 1569
• i441	<u>STORYER, Edward</u>	7 Nov 1563			0	0	
• i442	<u>Storyer, Margaret</u>	24 Feb 1566			0	0	
• i443	<u>STORYER, Reginold</u>	11 Jul 1568	13 Jun 1591S married at 23	Mary Christopher #399	1	1	13 Jun 1637S
• • i448	<u>STORYER, John</u>		9 Apr 1592				0 0 30 Jun 1593
• i444	<u>Storyer, Marie</u>	8 Oct 1570			0	0	20 Nov 1570
• i445	<u>Storyer, Marie</u>	25 Nov 1571			0	0	10 Dec 1571
• i446	<u>Storyer, Joane</u>	6 Jun 1574			0	0	

John Storyer was mentioned in the Court Records 1553-74 and also 1586-1618 and Edward Storie (who could have been John's son) between 1586 and 1618.

90 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database and # in that for Seal; "S" after a date indicates that the event took place in Seal

Bridget was recorded as the daughter of John "Storr" at her baptism but is most probably the Bridget Storyer who married **William Christopher of Seal** (#251) in October 1591 when she was practically 31. William was in his fifties and had already had nine children by his first wife. Bridget was pregnant when he died a year after their marriage but there is no record of a baptism in either Seal or Ightham.

Four months prior to Bridget's wedding, on 13th June 1591 in Seal, her brother Reginold had married William's niece Mary; see **Christopher in Families & Transcripts**. Reginold was mentioned in the Court Records 1586-1618; if the burial of Reginold Storyer in Seal in 1637 was this Reginold, he died when he was sixty-nine.

Only the burial of 1447 "**John, the son of John Storyer**" was recorded where can this John be fitted in? there was three years between Bridget and Edward and if had been born in 1561 or 1562 he would have been the eldest son, named after his father, as he would also have been if he was the eldest child born too soon to be recorded in the register. Yet another possibility is between Reginold and Marie, where there was a gap of 26 months between the baptisms of Reginold and Marie. If the Storyers employed a wet nurse, just over a year between births would not have been unusual..

Richard Streatfelde of Penshurst

Four Streatfelde (with various spellings) wills have survived for the Penshurst/Chiddingstone area:

Richard Streatfield	Chiddingstone	1 Aug 1580; proved 1585	PCC: Brudenell 24
Richard Streatfield	Chiddingstone	1601	PCC: Woodhall 70
Richard Streatfelde	Penshurst	4 Nov 1606	PCC: Stafforde 79 page 2.s.181
John Streatfield	Speldhurst	1631	CKS: Drb/Pw 28 yeoman

Only the Penshurst will has been transcribed but, not only is it unusual on its own account, it gives an insight into two other families - the Lucks and the Everests. It was written by Thomas Otley, scriptor, but it is not known if the original has survived.

At the March 1594 Assizes **John Chambers** of Speldhurst, labourer, was indicted for grand larceny. On 1st January 1594 at Penshurst, he stole a sheep (6s 8d) from Richard Stretfield. He was found guilty and sentenced to hang.⁹¹ This Richard could have been the 1606 testator.

91 Cockburn (Eliz.); 2108

Richard Streatfelde, yeoman

Richard was a wealthy yeoman able to leave at least £50 to his stepchildren, nephews and nieces. He had only one son, Thomas, who was eight or younger when his father died.

His will was written by Thomas Otley. It contains the unusual phrase: “[And my body to the earth at \(Almighty God's\) pleasure](#)”. He left money to the poor of Chiddingstone, Hever and Westerham as well as Penshurst.

Richard's Step-Children

Richard left considerable amounts of money (a total of £32 between them) to four “daughters-in-law” and two “sons-in-law” giving their surname - Luck. These agree exactly with the children of William Luck who died in 1596. William's widow must have married Richard, the children of his wife becoming his step-children. The bequests to Clemence and William Luck, who were 15 and 12 in 1606, were to be paid when they reached the age of twenty-one. The others would have been at least twenty-one when their legacies were to be paid two or three years after Robert died.

The date of William Luck's death is known from the parish records; no will has survived and the name of William's wife is not known. Richard's wife, however, is Clemence and one of her Luck daughters was Clemence.

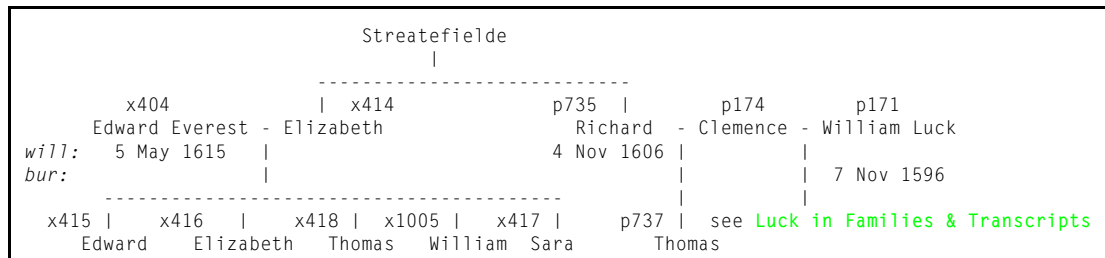
Richard's Nephews and Nieces

Richard's sister was married to Edward Everest, probably the Edward Everest mentioned earlier in her will and the Edward Everest of Chiddingstone whose will was written in 1615 - see [Everests in Families & Transcripts](#). Richard left money to Elizabeth's children: Elizabeth, Edward, William and Thomas (£5 to Elizabeth, £3 to each of the boys). Elizabeth's sons were to be his heirs if his son Thomas died without a heir. Their father, in 1615, mentions Edward, Elizabeth, Sara and Thomas. so that, between 1606 and 1616, William probably died and Sara was born. In 1606, the Everests were living in Penshurst whilst the testator of 1615 was "of Chiddingstone" but these are adjacent parishes. Another difficulty is that Edward's children were all under eighteen in 1615 whilst their uncle Richard specifies that their legacies be paid within three months of his death.

Richard, Elizabeth, Susan and Anna, son and daughters of Robert Streatfeilde of Penshurst were left only 12d each whilst the children of Edward Streatfeilde of

Hever were given £2 each. Robert of Penshurst could have been x411⁹², the son-in-law of the William Everest whose will was written in 1611 - see [Everest in Families & Transcripts](#). Where Edward of Hever “fits in” to the Streatfeilde family is not known.

Richard's Extended Family



Richard's wife, Clemence, was to be his executrix and was left all the residue of his goods etc. *“to the godly and virtuous bringing up of my child the which I hope*

92 “x” indicates a reference in the miscellaneous database where Robert was included before he was identified as likely to be Robert of Penshurst; “p” indicates a reference in the Penshurst database

she will do". If she died before Thomas, she was to leave him a number of household items including his "best bed and all that belongeth unto it"

Richard's Land

Richard owned land called Lullingdon with a barn on it in Ashurst but it was mortgaged for £140. Richard's son Thomas was to receive £200 within a year of his father's death, £140 being used to pay of the mortgage and the other £60 being invested by three of Richard's friends, Anthony Combridge⁹³, Robert Streatfeylde and Edward Everest, "to the use and behoof of the said Thomas".

He also owned tenements and land in Westerham and Penshurst and his wife was to have the profits of these until Thomas attained the age of fifteen "without strip or waste and keeping all my said house windtight and watertight during all the said time as often as needs shall require". Whilst the sentiment of this is not unusual, the actual instruction to keep a house windtight and watertight occurs very rarely. When Thomas came into possession of these lands he was to pay his mother an annuity of £10.

93 could have been the Anthony Combridge who wrote his will in 1623; a Thomas Combridge witnessed the will of the widow Joane Combridge in 1634 - see [Combridges in More Families & Transcripts](#)

1 In the name of god Amen. The fourth
2 day of November in the year of our lord god one thousand, six
3 hundred and six in the fourth year of the reign of our most

page 2:

4 gracious sovereign Lord king James, etc. I, Richard Streatfeilde of the
parish
5 of Penshurst in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick of body but yet of
perfect
6 memory (praised be given to God therefore) do make and ordain this my
last will and
7 testament in manner and form following: that is to say, **First** I bequeath
my
8 soul into the hands of Almighty god, my creator, redeemer and saviour.
And my body
9 to the earth at his pleasure. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the poor
people of this

10 parish of Penshurst forty shillings whereof I will that twenty shillings be
distr=⁹⁴
11 buted unto them in the day of my burial by the discretion of the
churchwardens and
12 overseers of the poor and the other twenty shillings that day twelvemonth
then
13 next following to be distributed unto them as is aforesaid by the said
officers for that time
14 being. **Item:** I give to the poor people of the parish of **Chiddingstone**
twenty
15 shillings to be paid into the hands of the churchwardens and overseers of
the poor in the
16 day of my burial to be distributed unto them at their discretion. **Item:** I
give unto the
17 poor people of the parish of **Hever** forty shillings to be paid into the hands
of the
18 churchwardens and overseers of the poor of the same parish in the day of
my burial
19 to be distributed unto them. **Item:** I give unto the poor people of the parish
of

94 “=” used as a hyphen throughout this probate copy

20 **Westerham** twenty shillings to be paid into the hands of the
churchwardens and over=
21 seers of the poor of the same parish to be distributed unto them as is
aforesaid. **Item:** I
22 give and bequeath unto **my son Thomas** two hundred pounds of lawful
money whereof
23 seven score lieth upon a piece of land called **Lullingden** with a barn
thereunto
24 belonging in the parish of **Ashurst** in Kent mortgaged for the said
25 seven score pounds. And if it shall happen the said money be paid
according to
26 said mortgage, then I will that the said Thomas, my son, shall have all the
said parcels
27 of land and barn with all and singular the appurtenances thereunto
belonging to him
28 and his heirs forever. **Item:** I will that he, the said Thomas, shall have the
profits
29 of the said lands or the seven score pounds if it be paid again immediately
after my
30 decease to have the profit thereof. And I will the other three score pounds
being the

31 rest of the aforesaid two hundred pounds, shalbe⁹⁵ paid into the hands of
Anthony Combridge,
32 **Robert Streatfeylde** and **Edward Everest**, all of them of this parish of
Penshurst, to
33 the use and behoof of the said Thomas, my son, by mine executrix
hereafter named within
34 one whole year next after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
Anne Luck,
35 **my daughter-in-law**⁹⁶, five pounds of lawful money to be paid unto her or
her assigns
36 within tow whole years next after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath
unto
37 **Margaret, my daughter-in-law**, ten pounds of like lawful money to be paid
unto her
38 within three whole years next after my decease. **Item:** I give unto **Sara, my**
daughter-
39 **in-law**, five pounds of like lawful money to be paid unto her within three
whole years

95 probate copy; not Hooper

96 step-daughter

40 next after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Clemence, my**
41 **daughter-in-law,**
42 five pounds of like lawful money to be paid unto her or her assigns when
43 she cometh
44 to the age of twenty one years. **Item:** I give unto **Richard Luck, my son-in-**
45 **law,**
46 forty shillings to be paid unto him within one whole year next after my
47 decease.
48 **Item:** I give unto **William Luck, my son-in-law,** five pounds of like lawful
49 money
50 to be paid unto him when he cometh to the age of twenty one years. **Item:**
I give unto
46 **my sister, Elizabeth, wife of Edward Everest,** of this parish of Penshurst,
47 twenty
48 pounds of like lawful money to be paid unto her, or her assigns, within one
49 quarter of a
50 year next after my decease. **Item:** I give unto **Elizabeth, her daughter,** five
pounds to
be paid unto her, or her assigns, within one quarter of a year next after my
decease.
Item: I give unto **Edward, William and Thomas,** my sister's sons three
pounds of like

51 lawful money equally to be divided amongst them within one quarter of a
year next

page 3:

52 after my decease. And if it happen either of them to depart this life before
53 they have received this my gift and bequest, then I will that the one to be
the others heir.

54 **Item:** my will is if **Clemence, my wife**, happen to die before my son
Thomas that

55 then she shall give him six pairs of my best sheets, my best bed and all
that belongeth

57 unto it and two dozen of my best pewter and four pieces of my best brass,
a

58 great spit and my best dripping pan. **Item:** I give unto **Richard, Elizabeth,**
59 **Susan** and **Anna, son and daughters of Robert Streatfeilde** of this parish of
60 Penshurst, to each one of them twelve pence to be paid immediately after
my decease.

61 **Item:** I give unto each one of **Edward Streatfeilde's** children of Hever forty
62 shillings. And it to be paid within one whole year next after my decease.

Item: I

63 give to each one of my godchildren twelve pence to be paid unto them
immediately

64 after my decease if it be demanded. **Item:** I give unto **John Mercer, my**
65 **servant,**
66 twenty shillings and it to be paid immediately after my decease. The
67 residue of all
68 my goods, moveables and unmoveables whatsoever unbequeathed (my
69 debts and legacies
70 being first paid and my funeral expenses) I give and bequeath unto
71 Clemence, my
72 wellbeloved wife, to the godly and virtuous bringing up of my child the
73 which I
74 hope she will do. And I do make and ordain the said Clemence, my sole
75 and lawful
76 executrix of this my last will and testament. And I do make and ordain my
77 trusty
78 and wellbeloved friends Anthony Combridge, Robert Streatefielde and
79 Edward Everest,
80 my supervisors and overseers of the same to see it performed and fulfilled
81 according to the
82 true meaning thereof. And I do appoint unto each of them, for their pains
83 taking in that behalf, six shillings, eight pence over and above their costs
84 and
85 charges. This is also the last will and testament of me, the said Richard
86 Streatefeild,

76 made and declared the day and year above written concerning the
disposing of all
77 my lands and tenements, situated, lying and being in the parish of
Westerham and
78 Penshurst in Kent. **First** I will unto Clemence, my wife, the profits of all
my
79 whole tenements and lands aforesaid until Thomas, my son, shall come to
his full age of
80 fifteen years without strip or waste and keeping all my said house
windtight and
81 watertight during all the said time as often as needs shall require. **Item:** I
will
82 that when my son Thomas shall come to his age of fifteen years he shall
have all
83 those my said lands and tenements within the said parishes of Westerham
and Penshurst
84 with all and singular the appurtenances thereunto belonging. To have
and to hold and
85 enjoy to him and his heirs for ever, upon condition that he shall pay unto
his
86 mother during her natural life ten pounds a year of good and lawful
87 money half yearly to be paid by even and equal portions. And if it shall

88 happen the said sum of ten pounds to be behind and unpaid in part or in
all
89 after either of the said times in which it ought to be paid, that then it shall
be lawful
90 for his said mother to distrain in or upon the said premises or any part or
parcel
91 thereof and the said distrain here so taken lawfully from thence to bear,
lead, drive
92 and carry away and the same to withhold and keep until she be fully
93 satisfied, contented and paid withall the arrearages thereof, if any shall
happen.
94 Provided always that my will is that if my son Thomas shall happen to die
and
95 depart this life without heirs of his body lawfully begotten, that then I give
and
96 bequeath all my said lands and tenements with their appurtenances to
Edward,
97 William and Thomas, sons of Edward Everest of Penshurst. That is to say,
to
98 Edward all that my lands in Westerham and to his heirs forever upon
condition that
99 he shall pay, or cause to be paid, unto his sister Elizabeth Everest two
hundred

100 of lawful money of England within one whole year next after

page 4:

101 he is possessed of the same. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the said
William Everest
102 my tenements and all my lands in Penshurst called **Hoodlies** with all and
singular
103 the appurtenances thereto belonging to him and his heirs forever. **Item:** I
give and
104 bequeath unto the aforesaid Thomas Everest all that my parcel of land
with
105 barn thereupon called by the name of Lullington situated in the parish of
Ashurst
106 in Kent which lieth upon a mortgage (if it be not redeemed) to him and his
heirs forever.
107 In witness whereof I have hereunto out my hand and seal the day and year
first
108 above written in the presence of Robert Streatfeilde, Anthony Combridge,
his mark
109 A.C. and **Thomas Otley, scriptor.** The mark of Richard Streatfeylde.

Richard Stretfield of Penshurst

This Richard Stretfield (p723) is not mentioned by the Stretfields/Streatfields above. In 1627 Peter Everest appointed him as one of the supervisors of his will and in 1638 George Beecher of Chiddingstone made him his executor. This implies he was born at the beginning of the seventeenth century or earlier.

A number of Streatfields witnessed wills in Speldhurst, Chiddingstone and Hever between 1605 and 1638.

The Stretfields of Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i1524 ⁹⁷	<u>STRETFIELD, William</u> -----				1	1	22 Feb 1598
				when buried: "the father of Thomas Stretfield"			
•	i1513 <u>STRETFIELD, Thomas</u>				1	9	2 Feb 1631
•	i1514 <u>the wife of Thomas</u>				1	9	8 May 1618
•	• i1515 <u>Stretfield, Susanne</u>	16 May 1591					0 0
•	• i1516 <u>Stretfield, Elizabeth</u>	17 Dec 1592					0 0 8 Jan 1593
•	• i1517 <u>STRETFIELD, Thomas</u>	28 Apr 1594	18 Jan 1628	<u>Elizabeth West</u>	1	9	>Sep 1652
				see page 2.s.195 for their children			
•	• i1518 <u>Stretfield, Agnes</u>	15 Dec 1595					0 0 13 Jan 1601
	only the name recorded at the burial; if she was Thomas's daughter, she died aged 5						
•	• i1519 <u>Stretfield, Marie</u>	26 Jun 1598	1 Sep 1623	<u>George SAWYER</u>	1	3	
			married at 25	i1536 see Sawyer, page 2.s.31			
•	• i1520 <u>Stretfield, Joan</u>	21 Feb 1600					0 0 20 Jan 1604
•	• i1521 <u>Stretfield, Clemence</u>	21 Dec 1602					0 0
•	• i1522 <u>Stretfield, Joane</u>	3 Mar 1605					0 0
•	• i1523 <u>STRETFIELD, George</u>	4 Jun 1612					0 0

97 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

Thomas Stretfield & the Court Records

The only Stretfield mentioned in the Court Records was **Thomas**, between 1586 and 1618; this was presumably i1513 - see above. None are mentioned in either the earlier or later records. **Thomas Stretfield, junior**, (i1517), would have been of a suitable age to be recorded in the missing volume for 1619 to 1696 but there do not appear to have been any active members of the family by 1697 when surviving records start again (the parish records have not been investigated past 1650).

Thomas Stretfield was a **borsholder** and **bailiff** sometime between 1586 and 1618 and a **churchwarden** in 1608 but some of the items recorded below do not seem to be the acts of a responsible borsholder, bailiff and churchwarden.

- On 22nd April 1590, **Thomas Stretfield** was presented to the Court for having "allowed certain trees to lie in the highway between Ightham and Oldbury Hill to the obstruction of the common passage there. To be removed before 7 June under penalty 3s 4d." (CRI 1937, p.199)
- On 5th April 1592, it was found that **John** (i1354) and **Thomas Borow** had assaulted **Thomas Stretfield**, drawing blood (see **Burroughs in More Families & Transcripts**). They were fined 3s 4d but Stretfield was himself

fined 4d and so must have been considered partly to blame. John Borow was said to be a "common quarreller" and "alehouse haunter" so that the fight might have occurred in Stretfield's alehouse -see the entry for 1599 below. (CRI 1938, p.5)

- On 11th April 1597, **Thomas Stretfield** was before the Court for having "placed a dead dog in the common water-course called the Busty in corruption of the water and to the inconvenience of the Queen's subjects. Fined 4d and ordered to remove it before 13 April, under penalty 3s 4d." (CRI 1938, p.11)
- On 24th April 1599, **Thomas Stretfield** was fined 3s 4d because he was "a common ale-house keeper within the precincts of the View and sells ale in unlawful stone cups, breaking the Assize." (CRI 1938, p.10)

The Children of Thomas Stretfield, Junior

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i1517	<u>STRETFIELD, Thomas</u> -----	28 Apr 1594	18 Jan 1628 married at 33	Elizabeth West i1526	1	9	>Sep 1652
i1526	<u>West, Elizabeth</u> -----				1	9	18 Sep 1652
• i1527	<u>STRETFIELD, John</u>	18 Jan 1629	twin		0	0	16 Feb 1629
• i1528	<u>Stretfield, Wenefrith</u>	18 Jan 1629	twin		0	0	
• i1529	<u>STRETFIELD, Thomas</u>	25 Apr 1630			0	0	14 May 1630
• i1530	<u>STRETFIELD, Thomas</u>	3 Jul 1631			0	0	20 Dec 1631
• i1531	<u>Stretfield, Joane</u>	14 Oct 1632			0	0	24 May 1637
• i1532	<u>STRETFIELD, Thomas</u>	16 Feb 1634			0	0	
• i1533	<u>Stretfield, Anne</u>	3 Jan 1636			0	0	
• i1534	<u>Stretfield, Katherine</u>	9 Jun 1639			0	0	
• i1535	<u>STRETFIELD, John</u>	9 Jan 1641			0	0	

The twins were recorded as "filia eiusdem of Thomas Stretfield, junior" and Anne, Katherine and John as the children "of Thomas Stretfield and Elizabeth".

The Stubberfields of the Tonbridge Area

Six Stubberfield wills have survived from this area:

Henry Stubberfield	Tonbridge	11 Feb 1569	CKS: Drb/Pw 9; Drb/Pwr 13.508	page 2.s.197
George Stubberfield	Penshurst	12 Dec 1605	PCC: Stafforde 14; Prob 11/107	page 2.s.200
Thomas Stubberfield	Bidborough	13 Feb 1609/10	CKS: Drb/Pw 20; Drb/Pwr 22.15	page 2.s.205
Roland Stubberfield	Bidborough	12 Dec 1621	PCC: Dale 96	
Thomas Stubberfield	Hadlow	2 Mar 1624/5	PCC: Clarke 29	page 2.s.208
Rachel Stubberfield	Bidborough	1627/8	CKS: Drb/Pw 27; Drb/Pwr 21/304	

There was also a George Stubberfield in Shipbourne - see page 2.s.210.

Roland Stubberfield was a clerk and the parson of Bidborough; Henry had a brother called Rowland so that it looks as if the parson could be a descendent of Henry or his brother.

Thomas Stubberfield witnessed a number of wills at least one of which he wrote:

- 18 Apr 1597, Thomas Inge of Hadlow (see [Inge in X2I](#))
- 7 Sep 1597, Wiat Plane of Hadlow
- 12 Dec 1605, George Stubberfield also witnessed by Roland

- 3 Apr 1608, William Bennett of Bidborough (see **Bennet in XB**) where he describes himself as the scriptor; Roland also witnessed this will; both here and in George's will, Roland's name appears first..

Roland witnessed a number of other wills

- July 1599, Edward Rivers of Leigh (this will was written by Nicholas Hooper)
- 1619, Thomas Lattare of Bidborough

Lattare's will may be one of a number of wills which Roland Stubberfield witnessed and wrote for his parishioners. His own will was written by John Hooper but it has not been investigated.

Will of Henry Stubberfield of Tonbridge

written: 11th February 1569
transcript from probate copy

1	In the name of god Amen.	The 11th day of February Ao 1569
3	I, Henry Stubberfield, the younger, of	Tonbridge in the county of Kent
5	and in the diocese of Rochester, ??	being sick in body but of whole and

7 perfect of remembrance, lauded be
9 last will and testament in manner
11 **First** I will and bequeath my soul
13 redeemer and my body to be buried
15 aforesaid. **Item:** I will to the poor
17 5s. **Item:** I will unto my brother
19 board ending at Christmas next.
21 **Howelden** all such debts as he
23 **Henry Stubberfield. my father,** the
25 that his hand is to. All the rest

27 my debts and legacies being well
29 give unto **Katherine, my wife,** whom
31 In witness hereof I, the said Henry,
32 the 11th day of February in Ao 1569
Those being witnesses
William Charlton, vicar of Tonbridge
Humfrey Dixon, Cuthbert Allen

god, do ordain and make this my
and form following, that is to say
to Almighty god, my saviour and
in the churchyard of Tonbridge
people in the town of Tonbridge
Rowland Stubberfield one year's
Item: I give unto **my brother Giles**
oweth me. **Item:** I give unto
debts which he oweth me in my book
of my goods and cattell
unbequeathed,
and truly satisfied and paid, I
I ordain and make my sole executrix
have hereto set my hand and seal

George Stubberfield of Penshurst

George is the only Stubberfield testator from Penshurst. His will was written on 12th December 1605 and proved on 14th February 1606, George having been buried on 11th January 1605/6. Alice, wife of George Stubberfield was buried on 8th June 1604.

Sara, one of George's daughters, married Andrew Goldsmith of Bidborough survived (see [Goldsmith in More Families & Transcripts](#)) and George left their son Joseph, his godson, £1 with ten shillings to each of their other children. It seems from George's will that neither of his other two daughters were married and he made Elizabeth his executor. (The Goldsmiths are in the miscellaneous database, denoted by "x" but both Richard and Thomas Stubberfield are in that for Penshurst, denoted by "p")

George left all his land in Penshurst to Sara and all his land and tenements in Sussex to be divided between his other two daughters, Elizabeth and Marie. If they had no heirs, it was to go to his nephew, another George Stubberfield, son of his brother Thomas..

	p986		p987		p988		p994	
will:	Richard -		George of Penshurst -		Thomas of Bidborough -		Elizabeth	
			12 Dec 1605		13 Feb 1610			
	p990	p992	p993	p727	x1203			
	Agnes	Elizabeth	Marie	Sara -	Andrew Goldsmith			
			p995	p996	p997	p998	p999	p1000
			George	Harry	Thomas	Richard	Nicholas	Alice

Will of George Stubberfield of Penshurst

written 12 December 1605

transcript from probate copy

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The twelfth day of December
- 2 in the year of our lord god 1605 and in the third year of the reign of our
sovereign lord James, the
- 3 first, and by the grace of god of England, Scotland, France and Ireland
king, defender of the faith, etc.
- 4 I, George Stubberfield, of Penshurst in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being
at this present

5 sick in body and yet, laud and praise be given to Almighty God, whole and
perfect of memory,
6 do ordain and make this my present testament and last will touching the
disposition as well
7 of all my lands, tenements and hereditaments as of all my goods, cattles⁹⁸
and debts in manner and
8 form following: **First** and principally I give and bequeath my soul into the
mercy of almighty
9 god beseeching his goodness of his infinite mercy and fatherly pity to
pardon and forgive mine
10 offences for his dearly beloved son Jesus Christ his sake by the merits and
satisfaction of whose
11 most bitter passion and blood shedding I trust assuredly to be⁹⁹ saved and
to attain unto everlasting
12 life; and as for my body I will that it be buried in convenient time at my
decease and in decent order. **Item:**
13 I give and bequeath unto the poor people at the day of my burial thither
resorting 40s. **Item:**

98 "cattells"

99 "bee" throughout including "shee" (line 35) but single "e" in "being" (line 4), probate copy, not Hooper

14 I give and bequeath unto **my daughter, Marie**, twenty pounds to be paid to
her by mine executor hereafter
15 named within one year next after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath
unto **my daughter,**
16 **Sara**, to be paid her likewise within one year next after my decease. **Item:** I
17 give and bequeath unto **Joseph Goldsmith, my godson**, twenty shillings to
be paid him within two
18 years after my decease. **Item:** I give unto the rest of the children of **Andrew**
Goldsmith to
19 either¹⁰⁰ of them ten shillings a piece to be paid to the said Andrew
Goldsmith, their
20 father, within two years next after my decease. **Item:** I give unto **John**
Richard, my servant,
21 twenty shillings to be paid within two years next after my decease. **Item:** I
give unto
22 **Mary Roggers, my servant**, ten pounds to be paid her within two years next
after my
23 decease. **Item:** I do remit and forgive unto **John and Thomas Holden** all
the debts which
24 owe me. **Item:** I give unto **Agnes, daughter of Richard Stubberfield**, ten
shillings to

25 be paid to her father for her use within one year next after my decease.
26 **Item:** I give unto the
27 children of **Thomas Stubberfield**, to either of them twenty shillings a piece
28 to be paid
29 to their father to their use within two years after my decease. **Item:** I give
30 unto **Jane**
31 ?? , my servant, 12d. And touching the disposition of all my lands,
32 tenements and
33 yearly rents, I will them in manner and form following: **First:** I will, give
34 and bequeath

page 2:

30 unto my daughter, Sara, **now wife of Andrew Goldsmith**, and to the heirs of
31 her body lawfully
32 begotten, all my lands and tenements which I have within the parish of
33 Penshurst. **Item:** I give, will
34 and bequeath unto **my daughters, Elizabeth and Marie**, and to the heirs of
35 their bodies lawfully
36 begotten all my lands and tenements which I have in **Sussex** between
37 them to be equally divided. If
38 it shall happen either of my said daughters, Elizabeth or Marie, to decease
39 without issue as is afore

35 said, then I will that she so surviving shalbe heir to the other deceased but
if it shall happen
36 both of them to decease without issue as is aforesaid, then I will that those
lands before given to
37 them shall descend unto **George Stubberfield, son of Thomas Stubberfield,**
my brother, and
38 to his heirs forever. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto my said brother
Thomas Stubberfield
39 annuities or yearly rents of fifty shillings by the year which I have going out
of the lands
40 of **John Martyn,** late of Hadlow, deceased, to have and to hold to the said
Thomas Stubberfield
41 and his heirs forever. The residue of all my goods and chattels
unbequeathed, my debts and legacies
42 being performed and paid, I wholly give and bequeath to Elizabeth, my
daughter, whom I ordain
43 and make my sole executrix of this my last will and testament requiring
her to see the same truly
44 and justly performed according to the special trust I have of her. In
witness whereof I have here
45 unto set my hand and seal, George Stubberfield. Witnesses to the same
Rowland Stubberfield, Nicholas Wood and Thomas Stubberfield.

Thomas Stubberfield, yeoman, of Bidborough

The Thomas whose will of 1609/10 has survived had four sons and a daughter; since one of his sons was George, it is probable that Thomas was the son of George of Penshurst. All his children were under twenty-four, the age at which they were each to receive £6 13s 4d. This money was to be put into “[the hands of some honest sufficient man to the best profits](#)” with those for the first eight years being used by his wife, who was his executrix, towards the bringing up of the children.

In addition, Nicholas was to receive a bullock and each of the his other children a ewe and a lamb.

Thomas and his children are in the Penshurst database in order to be with his brother George.

Will of Thomas Stubberfield of Bidborough

written: 13th February 1609/10

transcript from original

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The 13th day of February in the
- 2 year of our lord 1609, I, Thomas Stubberfield of Bitborough in the
- 3 county of Kent, **yeoman**, do make and ordain this my last will

4 and testament in manner and form following: **First** I bequeath
5 my soul into the hands of Almighty god through the mediation
6 of Jesus Christ, my only mediator and redeemer, and my body
7 to be¹⁰¹ buried in the earth. And for my worldly goods, **First**
8 I give unto every one of my children in money £6 13s 4d
9 to be paid unto them as they shall come to the age of 24 years.
10 And if any of them decease before he or she shall come to be
11 the said age that then his or her portion so deceasing to bee
12 equally divided among the survivors. **Item:** I give unto **Harry,**
13 **George, Thomas and Richard, my sons,** and **Alice, my daughter,** a
14 ewe and a lamb to every of them. And to **Nicholas, my son,** a
15 twelve monthly bullock. **Item:** I give to the poor of the parish
16 of Bitborough five shillings to be distributed unto them within one
17 month after my decease at the discretion of the minister and
18 mine executor. Also my will is that the whole stock of money
19 given unto my children shalbe bestowed in the hands of
20 some honest sufficient man to the best profits by the ?? of
21 my ?? if it please him and that the first eight years profit
22 shall be paid to my wife towards the bringing up of my said
23 children and whatsoever shall afterwards arise to be equally
24 divided among my children. All the rest of my goods, my debts

101 "bee", "hee", "shee", "beefore", "shalbee", "beestowed", etc.

25 and legacies being paid, I give unto **Elizabeth, my wife**, whom
26 I make and ordain my sole executrix of this my last will and testament.
27 In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the
28 day and year first above written.

witnesses **Richard Stubberfield**
John Elyard his mark
Edward Stubberfield

by me Thomas Stubberfield

Thomas Stubberfield of Hadlow

Thomas Stubberfield's will was nuncupative and only an extract is given. He had a son Henry and two daughters all underage in 1624 and he gave the responsibility of looking after them and paying their portions out of his estate to his sister Elizabeth and her husband Richard Bishop.

Thomas could have been the son of the Thomas who wrote his will in 1610 except that no Elizabeth was mentioned.

Will of Thomas Stubberfield of Hadlow

written: 2nd March 1624/5
transcript from probate copy

- viz. my will
- and mind is that my **brother, Richard Bishop of Battell¹⁰², Elizabeth, his wife, my sister**, shall have
- the disposition of all my goods and estate during the minority of my children and that the said Richard

- Bishop and Elizabeth, his wife, shall have the government of my said children during their
- minority and then to pay them their portions out of my estate and that **my son, Henry Stubberfield,**
- shall have a better portion than my two daughters. Being present and all and singular ? ?
- **Christopher Sedge, Edward Ruofe and John Thompson**

2nd March 1624 published by Christopher Sedge, John Thompson and after personally sworn upon the truth of the same in the presence of **John Randoll,** clerk

George Stubberfield of Shipbourne

The connection, if any, between George Stubberfield of Shipbourne (\$1580¹⁰³) and the above Stubberfields is not known but the name George does occur in the families described above. The first wife of George of Shipbourne was buried on 18th July 1632 but we do not know her name.

Ten months later, on 17th May 1633, George married **Susan Batley** (\$1581) and they had a son, **Thomas** (\$1691) baptised on 18th September 1636.

A Marriage in Shipbourne

On 11th April 1602, **Frauncis Tyler** (\$611) and – Stubberfield, “**both of Bidborough, were married by virtue of a licence**”. Unfortunately, Frauncis could have been either bride or bridegroom, most likely the latter since it was usual to give the man’s name first.

103 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

Margery Stutting of St. Margarets, Rochester

Margery's will (CKS: Drb/Pwr 18.38) was written on 19th December 1590 and proved on the 21st December so that Margery must have died very soon after it was written. She had lent money to Thomas Forward of Strood (£6), Richard Turke of Maidstone (£2 4s) and James Wetherhood of Glazir's Hall, London (£6). All these places are some distance from Rochester.

Although she described herself as the wife of Rolfe Stutting, was she actually his widow? No children were mentioned but William and George Hartrop were her brothers and she left small amounts of money to Alice and Margaret Hartrop who could have been her sisters or her nieces. Jane and Anne Malyine were also left small legacies; her executors were to be Richard Shawe, master gunner of the Victory, and his wife.

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 the 19th¹⁰⁴ of December Anno dm 1590
3 I, Margery Stuttinge, the wife of
4 **Rolfe Stuttinge**, ??, sick in body
5 yet whole and perfect in mind,
6 make this my last will and testament
7 in manner and form following: I

page 2:

8 first bequeath my soul to god, my maker
9 and redeemer, my body to be buried in
10 the churchyard of St. Margarets ??
11 I give to **Richard Shawe, master**
12 **gunner of the Victory and his wife** £6
13 which is in the hands of **Thomas Forward**
14 of **Strood** which they ?? ?? and
15 is due the 13th day of May next coming

104 "xixth"; also "xiiiith" (line 15), "xliiij" (line 18), etc.

16 after the date hereof. **Item:** I give and
17 bequeath to the foresaid Richard Shawe
18 and his wife 44s which is in the hands
19 of **Richard Turke of Maidstone** due
20 at Michaelmas next after the date
21 hereof. **Item:** I bequeath 40s to **Jane**
22 **Malyine** and 40s to **Anne Malyine**
23 and 20s to **Alice Hartrop** and
24 20s to **Margaret Hartrop** which whole
25 sum being £6 is in the hands of **James**
26 **Wetherhood** dwelling in **London** at
27 **Glazier's hall** due whensoever it is
28 demanded. **Item:** £6 ?? in the
29 hands of **George Hartrop** I bequeath
30 £3 thereof to **William Hartrop, the**
31 **brother of George Hartrop** and the
32 other £3 to remain to George Hartrop
33 still. **Item:** I bequeath a bed to Jane
34 Malyine and an other to Anne Malyine.
35 Also the bolsters and pillows belonging
36 to the said beds and the blankets.
37 **Item:** I bequeath to **my brother William**
38 **Hartrop**, dwelling in **Snodland**, my

39 best coverlet and my best blanket.
40 **Item:** to the said William Hartrop, I
41 bequeath a gown, a petticoat, a waistcoat
42 and a hat. **Item:** I bequeath a pair
43 of sheets to Alice Hartrop. **Item:**
44 I bequeath 2 chests to Jane Malyine
45 and an other to Anne Malyine and
46 each of them a kettle and a pot and
47 each of them 2 platters and each
48 of them a pewter dish and to Jane
49 Malyine a pair of sheets. All the
50 rest of my goods and chattells
51 whatsoever unbequeathed I ??
52 give and bequeath unto the said

page 3:

53 Richard Shawe and his wife whom I
54 make my full executors of this my last
55 will and testament. These being witnesses
56 viz: **Henry Shoe, John Cliffe? and Margaret his wife,**
?? Clarke.

The Styles of Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
#898 ¹⁰⁵	<u>STYLE, Richard</u> -----				1 5	31 Dec 1609
• #900	<u>Style, Mary</u>	2 Jan 1579			0 0	
• #1106	<u>Style, Margaret</u>	2 Jan 1581			0 0	she probably died before her sister, also Margaret, was born
• #1196	<u>Style, Margaret</u>	7 Jul 1583			2 3	end 1649 age 66
				died "Margaret Childrens, widow"		
	<i>Marriage 1</i>		3 Oct 1611	Richard CARTER	1 3	
			married at 28	#2037		
	<i>Marriage 2</i>		14 Oct 1619	Richard CHILDRENS	1 0	
				#2310		
• #1406	<u>Style, Dorothy</u>	30 Oct 1586			0 0	
• #1576	<u>Style, Johane</u>	15 Jun 1589			0 0	

Margaret Style and her first husband, Richard Carter, were both servants of **William Porter (#58)** - see **Carter in Families & Transcripts** for their children.. When she died she was "**Margaret Childrens, widow**".

In 1590, **Elizabeth Style (#4341)** who married **Thomas Siflet (#4340)** on 15th July 1610, was the servant of **William Pynden**; there were Siflets in **Ightham** (see **Families & Transcripts**) but no Thomas was recorded.

The Summers/Sumner of Ightham

On 23rd December 1599 **Vane Summers** (i1791¹⁰⁶) married **Elizabeth Crower** (i1792). Their son, **Thomas** (i1733), was baptised on 27th January 1600, only five weeks after they were married.

On 20th October 1601, **Edward Tunbridge** "was fined 6d for having allowed his wife to break and plunder the hedge of **Vane Somers**." (CRI 1937, p.218)

Helen (i1412), the daughter of **John Sumner**, was baptised on 2nd February 1589. A John Sumner was mentioned in the Court Records 1586-1618.

106 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

1 In the name of God Amen. The 6th
2 of April Anno Dm. 1568, I, John Sutor of
3 West Peckham in the county of Kent and
4 in the diocese of Rochester being sick in body
5 but of perfect remembrance, lauded be god,
6 do make this my present testament and
7 last will in manner and form following:
8 **First:** I bequeath my soul to Almighty
9 god, my saviour and redeemer, who I desire
10 for the merit of Christ's passion that I
11 may be the child of salvation. And my
12 body to be buried in the churchyard
13 of West Peckham aforesaid. **Item:** I bequeath
14 to the poor men's box 4d. **Item:** I bequeath
15 to **Elenor Sutor, my daughter**, 53s 4d to
16 be paid to her in the day of her marriage
17 by my executrix. **Item:** I bequeath to **Johane**
18 and **Elizabeth, my daughters**, to every of
19 them 53s 4d to be paid in like manner.
20

21 I will to my **sister Jane Wynter** a
22 quarter of wheat. The residue of all
23 my goods I give and bequeath to **Katherine**,
24 **my wife**, whom I make my sole executrix
25 to pay my debts and legacies and to
26 perform my will in all things.

page 2:

27 This is the last will of me the said
28 John Sutor made the day and year above
29 said concerning the disposition of all my
30 lands and tenements. **First:**I will to Katherine,
31 my wife, during her natural life, my
32 tenement and farm called **Kuse**, one orchard,
33 a croft and a meadow adjoining to it
34 and a meadow adjoining to the barn
35 paying the lord's rent and keeping the
36 reparations. **Item:** I will that the said Katherine
37 shall have towards the bringing up of
38 my children the one ?? ??
39 message and all the lands thereunto
40 belonging, joining in occupancy with **Thomas**
41 **Sutor, my son**, and he to have the other

42 moytie thereof during the sapce of 7
43 years next after my death bearing all
44 charges and rents equally between
45 And after the 7 years are ended, I will
46 the whole tenement and all the lands
47 thereunto belonging to the said Thomas,
48 my son, and to his.¹⁰⁷ Witnesses to this my
49 will: **Thomas Tuttesham** and **George Luck**.

Thomas Tuttesham probably wrote this will.

107 Just ends here. Was it an error in making the probate copy or in the original will?

The Suttons of Seal, Ightham & Shipbourne

Sutton is a common name and the following small families may not have been related. The only entry for Seal was the burial of **Richard Sutton** (#326¹⁰⁸) on 1st May 1563.

James Sutton (i508), whose father's first name was not recorded, was baptised in Ightham on 5th March 1564.

On 2nd October 1599, **Thomas** (\$648), son of **Jane Sutton** (\$647), was baptised in Shipbourne. No further information was given.

To return to Ightham: "**Reginald (i510), the son of William Sutton**" (i509) was baptised on 29th July 1599. Other children, whose father could have been William were recorded:

-	Martha	i511	baptised	9 May 1603
	Alice	i512		9 Jun 1605
	John	i513		12 Feb 1609
	William	i514		27 Jun 1613

108 # indicates a reference in the Seal database. "i" in that for Ightham and \$ in that for Shipbourne

No first name was given for the father of Martha and Alice; John and William are just entered as "[John Sutton](#)" and "[William Sutton](#)" with no parent given.

James Sutton (\$607) married **Margaret Orrett** (\$608) in Shipbourne on 2nd June 1595. This could have been the James who was baptised in Ightham; he would have been thirty-one in 1595. James and Margaret had two children baptised in Shipbourne:

- **Joane** \$670 14 Mar 1601
- **Richard** \$760 27 Mar 1603

A James Sutton was buried on 25th April 1603; if this was Margaret's husband, he would have left her a widow with two very young children. It could, however, have been the children's grandfather.

A Richard Sutton was buried in Shipbourne on 25th October 1615.

Joan (i516), the wife of **John Sutton** (i515) was buried on 8th May 1626.

The Swans of Ightham

A large number of Swans were recorded in Ightham but relationships are known for only a few; there were also Swans in Shipbourne (see [Families & Transcripts](#) and page 2.s.239) and Seal (see page 2.s.237) but there is no obvious connection between them. One will has survived from Ightham, that of Stephen Swan, brazier, written on 22nd March 1614/5 and proved 22nd August 1616 (CKS:Prs/w/14/208) - see page 2.s.228

The brazier's wife was Judith and a Stephen Swan (i834¹⁰⁹) married **Judith Nicolson** (i842), in Ightham, on 9th May 1613. In his will he mentions a daughter, Alice. No baptism was recorded but if Judith came from another parish she may have gone back there for the birth of her first child. A Stephen, son of **Sylvester Swan** (i831), was baptised on 9th October 1580. If this was the brazier he was thirty-three when he married Judith and Alice could have been a daughter by an earlier marriage. Having been married less than two years when he wrote his will (it was not proved until 22nd August 1616), it is easy to see why Stephen was worried about having mortgaged his land and tenements to Henry Seyliard.

109 i indicates a reference in the Ightham database

Stephen also had debts of at least £160 and he hoped that Henry Seyliard, would buy his lands for their full value, deducting the £40 mortgage plus the interest owed so that Judith could pay off his debts and than have something to live on and educate his daughter and "[allow some reasonable . . . portion for her advancement and preferment if she shall live to be married](#)".

Henry Seyliard (i1330) was vicar of Ightham (see [Seyliards in Families & Transcripts](#)) but he died in January 1615/6; this was after Stephen wrote his will but was Henry Seyliard still alive when Stephen Swan died? If Henry Seyliard did not buy the land it was to be sold "[at the best price](#)". It was usual for testators to specify that such a sale as this was to be carried out by his friends or relatives who were generally specified as overseers or supervisors (if one of them was not the executor). Stephen Swan does not seem to have had anyone he could ask to perform this service for him since he gave his wife authority to employ a chapman to carry out the sale.

One of the witnesses to the will was **John Nicolson** and **Nicholas Nicholson** (i2117), son of **Thomas Nicholson** (i2115), was baptised in Ightham on 20th May 1616 so that perhaps Judith has some relatives living in the village.

The Stephen Swans and the Bing v. Hooper Case

At least two Stephen Swans were mentioned in the Ightham Court records. A **Stephen Swan** was one of the witnesses in the Bing v. Hooper case (see **Excerpts from the Ightham Court Rolls in Families & Transcripts**) and he also featured in the arguments between **Robert Byng**, lord of the manor of Wrotham, and **Thomas Willoughby**, lord of the manor of Ightham, regarding the rights of the Courts held in the two manors. During the "preliminary skirmishing which preceded the main challenge, **Stephen Swanne of Ightham** obtained a judgement in the **Court of Chancery** against the 'beadle or reeve of the hundred of Wrotham' for the wrongful taking of Swanne's cattle to satisfy a fine of 20d imposed on him at the Wrotham court for refusing to be sworn or to present Ightham offences there."¹¹⁰ .

This must have been some time before 1570 when **John Lennarde** (of Chevening) and **George Multon** (or Moulton, of St. Clere), having been asked to arbitrate, reported¹¹¹. This was too early for it to have been the brazier whose will has survived but it could have been the Stephen who was buried 29th September 1578.

¹¹⁰ CRI 1937, p.179

¹¹¹ see CRI 1937, pages 180 to 182 for the details of this case.

But this arbitration was not the end of the affair for "in 1612 **Stephen Swanne** and others again challenged the right of the Wrotham court to require the men of Ightham to be sworn and to present there."¹¹². Harrison writes: "Swanne probably still relied on the judgement which he had obtained in the Court of Chancery, notwithstanding its abrogation by the arbitrators" but would this have been the same Swanne? To take a case to the Court of Chancery in the late 1560s, Swanne must have been at least in his late twenties, which would mean he was in his seventies by 1612. It is more likely that a younger Swanne had taken on the "family feud" and this could have been the brazier with some of his debts having arisen because of the costs of the challenge.

Stephen Swan and Trice Well

On 11th December 1611, **Stephen Swanne**, **William Aldridge** and **Thomas Richardson** (see **Aldridge** and **Richardson in More Families & Transcripts**) were presented to the Court for having "separately encroached upon a certain lane leading to **Trice Well** with their posts, palings and hedges. They were severally given till 2 February to remove the encroachments, under penalty of 3s 4d each".

Trice Well was a spring on a farm called Trices to the east of Ightham village¹¹³. This Stephen could also have been the brazier.

Stephen Swan's Family

This tree assumes that Stephen, the brazier and testator, was the son of Sylvester Swan who married in 1579 - see page 2.s.232

		i831	Sylvester - Elyn (Ellen) Giles	i832
<i>mar:</i>			2 Feb 1579	

	i833	i834		i842
	Marie	Stephen	- Judith Nicolson	Margaret
<i>bap:</i>	1 Nov 1579	9 Oct 1580		7 Apr 1584
<i>mar:</i>		9 May 1613		
<i>will:</i>		22 Mar 1615		
<i>bur:</i>	1 Nov 1579		i2746	12 Nov 1586
			Alice	

1 In the name of god Amen. The two and twentieth day of March Anno diem
1614. And in the twelfth year of the
2 reign of our sovereign Lord James, by the grace of God, of England, France
and Ireland, king, defender
3 of the faith, etc. and of Scotland the eight and fortieth. I, Stephen Swan of
Ightham in the
4 county of Kent, **brazier**, being sick and weak of body but of sound and
perfect memory
5 (praised be Almighty god) ordain and make this my present testament and
last will in manner
6 and form following: **First** and principally I commend my soul unto
Almighty god, my
7 creator, hoping and most steadfastly believing that through the merit,
death and passion of
8 Jesus Christ, my only saviour and redeemer, I shall have forgiveness of all
my sins and
9 be made an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven. And my body I commend
unto the earth

10 from whence it first came to be buried at the discretion of my executrix
hereafter
11 named. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Judith, my wife**, all my goods and
chattels
12 whatsoever for and towards the payment of my debts which said Judith I
make sole
13 executrix of my last will and testament.

14 This is the last will and testament of me, the said Stephen Swan, made
and
15 declared the day and year above written touching the disposition of all my
lands and
16 tenements situated, lying and being in Ightham aforesaid. Whereas I have
lately
17 mortgaged my said lands and tenements unto **Mr. Henry Seyliard** of
Ightham
18 aforesaid, clerk, for the sum of forty pounds and whereas I am at the
19 present indebted in greater sums of money than all my personal estate will
20 amount to satisfy the said lands and tenements so mortgaged being
21 ?? one hundred and three score pounds at the least, I do hereby will
22 and devise, and I earnestly entreat the said Mr. Henry Seyliard that
23 he will be pleased to pay unto my said executrix the full value of
24 my said lands and tenements deducting his forty pounds and the interest

25 for the same, to the end she may the better pay my debts and educate and
26 bring up **my daughter, Alice**, and allow her out of the same sum compet
27 ?? . Or if the said Mr. Seyliard shall not be pleased to
28 purchase the said lands and tenements absolutely, then I humbly desire
29 him that he will be content to accept and take the said forty pounds,
30 together with the interest thereof, and make assurance and ??
31 of the said lands and tenements to such person or persons as will buy the
same, as my said executrix,
32 or her assigns, shall procure to purchase the same to the end my
33 debts may be fully satisfied and paid and my said wife and
34 child may have some means to sustain and maintain them
35 selves when I am dead. And I do hereby give full ??
36 and authority to my said wife to ?? a chapman and make sale
37 of the said lands and tenements for the best price that may be gotten
38 for the same and to ?? and take the money thereof to be made
39 therewith to pay my debts which my goods will not extend to
40 pay and to educate and bring up Alice, my daughter, and to
41 allow some reasonable and ?? portion for her advancement
42 and preferment if she shall live to be married. In witness ??
43 I have published and declared this to be my last will and testament
44 hereby revoking all former and other wills and have hereunto set my
45 hand and seal in the presence of us whose names are
46 hereunder written

Stephen Swan his
mark **S**

John Gosling his mark
William Simans
John Nicolson
Tho: Ayorst¹¹⁴

114 this signature is completed with a flourish or decoration; perhaps Thomas Ayorst was the writer of the will

Sylvester Swan, sailor, baker and brewer

At the March 1582 Assizes, **Silvester Swan, sailor**, of Ightham was indicted as an accessory to a large gang of men who burgled a number of houses in 1581. He was found not guilty - see [John Howells in More Families & Transcripts](#).

A Sylvester Swan was brought before the Court on 2nd October 1587 because he was "a common seller of bread and ale and has allowed **Thomas Pearce**son, **John Borough** and **Solomon Hasden** to play in his alleys at the time of divine prayer, impiously, unlawfully and irregularly, having no care for the worship of God and not giving due weight to the salutary provisions of the laws in that behalf. Wherefore, it being the first offence, Sylvester was fined 6d and the said Thomas, John and Solomon, unlawful players, were fined 6d each."¹¹⁵

Perhaps the sailor became the seller of bread and ale. He could also have been the father of Stephen born in 1580 - see page 2.s.223

These are the only occurrences, in Ightham, Seal and Kemsing, where "Sylvester" occurs as a man's name but there were a number of Sylvester Pages in Shipbourne.

115 CRI 1938, p.13; see [Burroughs in More Families & Transcripts](#) for more details of John Burroughs

Other Swans of Ightham

The first Swan to be mentioned in the Court Records was **Jane**, sometime between 1553 and 1574 and a number were mentioned between 1586 and 1618.

The Swans recorded in the parish registers are listed below but only a few can be associated together:

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
i850	<u>SWAN, William</u> -----				0 0	28 Aug 1562
	A William Swan was an ale taster between 1553 and 1574; was this William, who s died in 1562, the father Sylvester and/or dome of the others mentioned below?					
i852	<u>Swan, Elizabeth</u> -----				0 1	4 May 1589
	died 24 years after the death of her illegitimate daughter assuming that it is the same Elizabeth					
● i853	<u>Swan, Joane</u>			"Elizabeth Swan's daughter called Joane"	0 0	27 Jun 1565
i837	<u>Swan, Alice</u> -----	<1551	16 May 1571	John MATTHEW 1836	1 0	

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i823	<u>SWAN, Henry</u> -----	<1555	8 Aug 1575	Margaret Haslyn 1824	1	2	
		mentioned in the Court Records for 1586 to 1618					
• i825	<u>Swan, Elizabeth</u>	16 Sep 1576	"was baptised and died shortly"		0	0	16 Sep 1576
• i826	<u>Swan, Joane</u>	24 Dec 1577	died aged 22 if baptism and burial refer to the same person		0	0	6 Feb 1600
i827	<u>SWAN, John</u> -----	<1556			1	3	
• i829	<u>Swan, The</u>	30 Jun 1577	daughter		0	0	
• i617	<u>Swan, Ellyn/Helen</u>	31 Jan 1580	24 Apr 1609	John TAYLOR married at 29 1608	1	6	24 Mar 1652 age 72
		baptised "Ellyn"; married "Helen"; "Helen Taylor, widow" when buried; the parish register records the date she died - 23 Mar 1652; see i608 in Taylors in More Families & Transcripts					
• i859	<u>SWAN, --</u>			" --, son of John Swan"	0	0	26 Mar 1584
		likely to either have been stillborn or to have died soon after birth					

Nothing, other than their burial, is known of the following:

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i854	<u>Swan, Agnes</u> -----				0	0	17 Jan 1570
i855	<u>SWAN, Henry</u> -----				0	0	17 Apr 1571
		cannot be the father of the children born in the 1570s					
i857	<u>Swan(m), Joane</u> -----				0	0	30 May 1583
		"widow" when buried					
i858	<u>SWAN, George</u> -----				0	0	12 Nov 1585

Nothing, other than their marriage, is known of the following:

i839	<u>Swan, Marie</u> -----	<1579	26 Apr 1599	Richard BEECHER i838	1	0	
i840	<u>SWAN, William</u> -----	<1591	6 Jun 1611	Marie Williams i841	1	0	
i830	<u>SWAN, Richard</u> -----	<1595	25 Jul 1615	Elizabeth Gransden i843	1	0	
i848	<u>SWAN, Paul</u> -----	<1612	5 Nov 1632	Sara Kirwyn(m) i#849	1	0	
		Sara was a widow when she married Paul; there were Kerwynes in Seal					

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i844	<u>SWAN, Walter</u> -----	<1598			2	1	
	<i>Marriage 1</i>		<=1618		1	1	
• i846	<u>SWAN, William</u>	6 Dec 1618					0 0
	<i>Marriage 2</i>		28 Jul 1622	Audrey Hadlow i847	1	0	
i847	<u>Hadlow, Audrey</u> -----				2	1	

Although the parish record does not say she was a widow, the Audrey Blackman who married Walter Swan in 1622 was probably Audrey Hadlow who had married **Henry Blackman** in 1618 - see [The Hadlows of Ightham in Families & Transcripts](#).

The Swans of Seal

In Seal, this name was spelled “Swanne”.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#79 ¹¹⁶	<u>SWANNE, Walter</u> -----		24 Nov 1560(I)	Alice Denman #80	1	3	1 May 1567
• #316	<u>Swanne, Margaret</u>	25 Jan 1562(I)			0	0	17 Mar 1562
• #81	<u>SWANNE, Steven</u>	14 Mar 1563			0	0	
• #175	<u>Swanne, Margaret</u>	9 Aug 1565			0	0	

Although it has not been possible to identify her, Alice was probably one of the Ightham Denmans, marrying there and returning "home" for the birth of her first child.

Helen Swanne, widow, married **John Willin** (#1668) on 16th May 1594 by a licence from Dr. Lewen

116 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

In 1609, the old fifth bell was cast by **Stephen Swan** (#4342) "**William Cox** and **John Raven**¹¹⁷ being the churchwardens"¹¹⁸

William Swanne (#3626) married **Sarah Chawklyn** (#3625) on 18th May 1647.

Thomas Swanne (#3627) married **Elizabeth Woodgate** (#3235) on 4th October 1647.

117 probably #1235 and #3600 - see [Cox in Families & Transcripts](#) and [Raven in More Families & Transcripts](#)

118 Incumbents of Kemsing with Seal, A.C. Vol,20 p.269

The Swans of Shipbourne

Three Swan wills have survived from Shipbourne:

		written		buried
Robert Swan	\$19 ¹¹⁹	15 Dec 1590	proved 1592	20 Jun 1592
Johane Swan	\$20	10 Dec 1593	nuncupative, spoken 18 Jun 1593	18 Jun 1593
Timothy Swan	\$157	9 Apr 1603		14 Apr 1603

Robert and Johane were husband and wife and Timothy was their son.
Transcripts of these wills are given in [Families & Transcripts](#)

Here a more detailed family tree is given together with information on other Swans mentioned in the parish registers.

119 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

Robert and Johane's Family

			\$19	Robert - Johane	\$20 ¹²⁰				
will:			10 Dec1590		18 Jun 1593				
bur:			20 Jun 1592		18 Jun 1593				

\$154		\$81		\$155		\$156		\$157	
Richard		Johane -		Edward		Alice - ??		Fathers	
								Timothy -	
								Mildred Goodhews	
								Elizabeth - ??	
								Arnold	
								Susan	
								8 Mar 1561	
								- William	
bap:									
will:								9 Apr 1603	
bur:								14 Apr 1603	

\$161		\$162		\$163		\$164		\$165	
Frauncis		Robert		John		Mildred		Elizabeth	
bap.								Anna	
31 Jul 1580		5 Jun 1582		9 Aug 1584		17 Nov 1588		23 Jan 1592	
								12 Apr 1594	
								\$235	
								John	
								6 Oct 1582	
								\$312	
								Timothy	
								28 Feb 1585	

See page 2.s.241 for more information on the children of Timothy and Mildred.

Nothing more is known of Richard and Edward other than them being mentioned in their mother's will which also gives the husbands of Johane, Alice and Susan..

An Edward Swan married **Frauncis Mylls, widow** (\$528) on 18th January 1591. If this was Robert's son, this marriage was probably his second, as it was his wife's, since he would have been in his forties by 1591.

Joane Swan married **John Curde** (\$80) on 25th July 1568; if this was Robert and Johane's daughter she was probably born about 1544 and could have been their

120 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

eldest child; she must have been widowed and remarried before her mother died in 1593 since she is then referred to as "**Johane Starie**"

Susan married William Brewer (or Bruar) and they had two sons as shown in the above tree. The eldest of these was born before 1593 as were five of the six children of Timothy and Mildred but Johane does not mention any grandchildren.

The Children of Timothy and Mildred

Timothy's wife, Mildred Goodhews came from one of the large Seal families - see [Goodhew in Families & Transcripts](#). The baptisms of their children were recorded in the parish register.

Francis married **Richard Mylls** on 13th May 1604. Although the Mylls (or Mills) were a large Shipbourne family it has not been possible to identify Francis's husband although he could have been (\$182) the youngest son of the mercer, Edmond Milles who wrote his will in 1582 when five of his six children all under age. Richard was probably the youngest. [See Mills in Families & Transcripts](#)

Mildred married **William Smith** (\$571) on 12th October 1603.

Robert had five children baptised in Shipbourne but nothing more is known about them:

-	Elizabeth	\$936	21 May 1609	buried 24 Sep 1615
-	Robert	\$1008	13 Jan 1611	
-	Timothy	\$1009	7 Sep 1612	
-	Henry	\$1013	3 Oct 1614	
-	Stephen	\$1187	6 Dec 1616.	

The Family of John Swan

John Swan (\$102) had eight children baptised in the seventeen years 1572 to 1589 but nothing else is known about him or his children:

-	Nicholas	\$104	7 Dec 1572	
-	Marie	\$118	7 Feb 1575	
-	Thomas	\$133	25 Aug 1577	
-	Anne	\$134	13 Apr 1581	
-	Susan	\$278	4 Aug 1583	
-	William	\$279	21 Nov 1585	buried 9 Jan 1586
-	William	\$280	10 Jul 1587	
-	Margaret	\$281	23 Sep 1589	

On 27th April 1576, **Thomas Parson**, (\$121) servant of John Swan, was buried having “**drowned**”.

Nicholas Swan, labourer or butcher

At the March 1582 Assizes, Nicholas Swan (\$2300), a “**labourer or butcher**” of Shipbourne was indicted for grand larceny. On 30th September 1590, at Oxen Hoath, he stole 2 oxen (£4) from Richard Middleton (Gregory).

On 1st October 1590, at Oxen Hoath, he stole an ox (£3 6s 8d) from **John Mrdelton** (Glascock)¹²¹

He was found guilty on the first count and confessed to the second but was allowed benefit of clergy.

121 Cockburn (Eliz.I); 1883 Gregory and Glascock were assize clerks who had, presumably, produced these indictments.

Oxen Hoath was in West Peckham and owned by the Bakers but the Middletons could have been their tenants.

Other Swans of Shipbourne

Edward Swan (\$891) had two sons baptised in Seal:

- Edward \$893 10 Jan 1608
- Edward \$1034 11 Aug 1611

An Edward Swan was buried on 23rd July 1628, but which Edward?

Alice Swan, widow (\$511) married **William Parker** (\$512) on 12th December 1644.

The Swaynslands of Seal

Six Swaynland wills from Seal are given in **Families & Transcripts** together with the large family of Edward Swaynland and his wife Elizabeth Fuller who were married in February 1621. Two Swaynlands married into the Christophers, one into the Bakers and another into the Homewoods

There were a number of other Swaynslands (or Swaynlands) mentioned in Seal:

A **George (or Henry) Swaynland** was an executor of the will of **Thomas Olyver** (#3905¹²²) in 1505 and witness to the will of **John Olyver** (#3907) of Kettles in 1512.

Alice Swaynland, widow, married **Richard Medhurst** (#227) of **Hever** on 25th August 1562. The only other mention of her is her burial twenty years later, on 10th January 1582.

John (#586), son of **John Swaynland** (#584) was buried on 31st December 1565.

122 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

The Symonds/Symons/Symsons of Shipbourne

William Symson (\$1731) married **Mary Burgesse** (\$1736) on 25th October 1638

There were four Symonds/Symons marriages in Shipbourne in 1644:

Henry Symonds (\$1927) married **Ursula James** (\$1945) on 21st May 1644.

Robert Symons (\$1933) married **Mary Grigson** (\$1951) on 12th August 1644

Gyles Symonds (\$1979) married **Elizabeth Heaver** (\$1989) on 28th November 1644; this marriage was entered again on 13th February 1645.

Susan Symonds (\$1994) married **Richard Harding** (\$1987) on 16th December 1644

T

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The Taylors of Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i572 ¹²³	<u>TAYLOR, Joachim</u> -----				1	2	
• i607	<u>Taylor, Anne</u>	11 Dec 1569			0	0	
• i608	<u>TAYLOR, John</u>	27 Jan 1572			3	12	

Marie (\$176), daughter of **Joachim Taylor** of **Wrotham** was baptised on 2nd February 1585. With Joachim such an unusual name, did i572 move to Wrotham and perhaps, given the gap between John and Marie, marry a woman from Shipbourne?

There were three groups of children whose father was **John Taylor**; if the John above was the father of Alice below (i610), he married in his early twenties; if he was father of the children born in the 1620s, he was 50 when William was born. Thus it is quite feasible that one John married three times and had a total of 12 children with both his first and second wives dying in childbirth.

123 i indicates a reference in the Ightham database.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
i608	<u>TAYLOR, John</u> ----- <i>Marriage 1</i>	27 Jan 1572			3 12	
				Elizabeth Taylor(m) i609	1	
i609	<u>Taylor(m), Elizabeth</u> -----				1 1	28 Apr 1596
		buried 3 days after her daughter Alice was baptised				
• i610	<u>Taylor, Alice</u>	25 Apr 1596			0 0	
	<i>Marriage 2</i>		10 Jun 1599	Elizabeth Tomlyn i611	1 5	
#464	<u>Tomlyn, Elizabeth</u> -----	28 Sep 1569 ¹²⁴			1 5	30 Dec 1608
		buried the same day that her daughter Helen was baptised				
• i612	<u>Taylor, Dorothy</u>	7 Apr 1600	25 Apr 1624	William HARRIS married at 24 i627	1 0	
• i613	<u>Taylor, Grace</u>	3 May 1602			0 0	
• i614	<u>TAYLOR, William</u>	4 Jun 1604			0 0	22 Aug 1604
• i615	<u>Taylor, Elizabeth</u>	11 Nov 1605			0 0	
• i616	<u>Taylor, Helen</u>	30 Dec 1608			0 0	14 May 1611

124 John Taylor of Ightham married Elizabeth Tomlyn of Seal (#464 - # indicates a reference in the Seal database) on 10th June 1599, "the bans 3 times proclaimed". John's wife is known as Elizabeth from her burial and this marriage date fits in with the baptism of Dorothy; she was thirty when she married

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died	
i608	<u>TAYLOR, John</u> ----- Marriage 3	27 Jan 1572			3	12		
			24 Apr 1609	Helen Swan 1617	1	6		
i617	<u>Swan, Helen</u> -----	31 Jan 1580			1	6	24 Mar 1652 aged 72	
			married at 29					
		"Helen Taylor, widow" when she was buried; she died on 23 Mar; see Swans in More Families & Transcripts						
• i2374	<u>Taylor, Esther</u>	1 Jul 1610	5 May 1629	John SOMERSOLLE married at 18 12372	1	5		
		see next page for details of their children						
• i619	<u>TAYLOR, John</u>	15 Dec 1611			0	0		
		probably died soon after birth since #621 also called John						
• i620	<u>Taylor, Marie</u>	26 Sep 1613	30 Jun 1636	William SHEPLEY married at 32 1629	1	0		
• i621	<u>TAYLOR, John</u>	14 Apr 1616			0	0		
• i622	<u>TAYLOR, Thomas</u>	28 Nov 1619		Elizabeth Taylor(m) 1624	1	2		
• • i625	<u>TAYLOR, Thomas</u>	19 Jul 1649			0	0		
• • i626	<u>TAYLOR, James</u>				0	0	31 Mar 1652	
		"son of Thomas Taylor and Elizabeth"						
• i623	<u>TAYLOR, William</u>	30 Mar 1622			0	0	20 Dec 1622 8½ mnths	

A John Taylor was an ale taster sometime between 1586 and 1618.

The Children of Esther Taylor and John Somersolle

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i2372	<u>SOMERSOLLE, John</u> -----		5 May 1629	Esther Taylor i2374	1	5	
i2374	<u>Taylor, Esther</u> -----	1 Jul 1610		married at 18	1	5	

Esther's name was given at the baptisms of Abraham, Margaret and Esther

- i2375 Somersolle, Sara 25 Apr 1630 0 0
- i2376 Somersolle, Elizabeth 30 Nov 1632 0 0
- i2377 SOMERSOLLE, Abraham 21 Aug 1636 0 0
- i2378 Somersolle, Margaret 29 Mar 1640 0 0
- i2629 Somersolle, Esther 28 Oct 1649 0 0

The Taylors of Seal

The Taylors were an Ightham family but **Sir Thomas Taylor** was vicar of Seal and Kemsing from 1554 to 1558.

Just three events for Taylor were recorded in the Seal parish records:

- **Joanne Taylor** (#513) was baptised on 6th July 1571.
- **Thomas Taylor** (#363) of **Westerham** married **Mary Raycliffe** (#384) on 3rd November 1573
- **Temperance Taylor** (#856) married **Robert King** (#1162) on 23rd October 1620.

The Taylors of Shipbourne

There were four Taylor marriages:

John Taylor (\$613) married **Elizabeth Stone** (\$614) on 23rd June 1595

Alyce Taylor (\$1254) married **John Hubble** (\$1245) on 25th May 1618.

Michael Taylor (\$1978) married **Elizabeth Norman** (\$1988) on 12th November 1644

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

and one baptism:

Elizabeth (\$1634), daughter of **Jeremy Taylor** (\$1632) and his wife **Lydia** (\$1633), was baptised on 15th February 1635.

Thomas Hudson, alias **Taylor** (\$1774), was buried on 28th February 1604

Richard Tebbe of Hadlow

In his will of 1513 (CKS: Drb/Pwr 6.372) Richard Tebbe instructed that some land be sold to his brother Edmonde for £20. If Edmonde would not buy it, it was to be sold for the best sum “[and the same was to go to the making of a new rood loft in Hadlow church](#)”.¹²⁵

Katherine Tennent of Kingsdown

Katherine's will (PCC: Ridley 99) written on 28th September 1628 and proved in 1629 has not been investigated but she is described as:

Katherine Tennent (or Tennant) in the mansion house of Kingsdown

This is the only occurrence of the surname Tennant in the complete index of wills. Should this be read as:

Katherine, tenant in the mansion house of Kingsdown, with her surname not having been given?

The Terrys of Seal and Ightham

The Terrys were basically a sixteenth and early seventeenth century Ightham family known mainly from their appearances in the Court Rolls, the earliest being **William Terry at Hothes in Wrotham** mentioned sometime between 1490 and 1508. There are a number of references to Terrys between 1553 and 1574 and also between 1586 and 1618 but none between 1697 and 1707, the next period for which Court Records have survived. Except for **Alice, daughter of John and Helen Terry of Wrotham** baptised 12 January 1651 when she was twelve days old, the last children to be recorded in the parish registers are those of **William Terry (i746)** in the 1610s - see page 2.t.3

See [Excerpts from the Ightham Court Rolls in Families & Transcripts](#) for further information on some of the entries described below.

In addition, there were Terrys in Seal at the end of the sixteenth century.

The Ightham Terrys

During the Bing v. Hooper case of the mid-1560s, **William Weston** reports how eleven years previously **William Tyrrie**, aged "60 years and upwards", then on his deathbed, described carrying the tithe corn from the ground under contention to the parsonage barn of Ightham. This was probably the **William Terry** reported at the Court held on 5th October 1556 to "have died seised of a parcel of land called **Tebbis**, held by copy, containing ten acres of land. **John Terry** is his elder son and will have the land by the custom of the manor. He pays a fine of 13s 4d and rent per annum 3s 4d." (CRI 1938, p.47) Tebbis lay east of the road from Ightham village to Ivy Hatch (CRI 1938, p.81).

On 31st May 1556, **William Terry** had been given "till the next Court to bring **Edward Mowg and Walter Mowg**¹²⁶ to take the oath of allegiance, under penalty 40d" (CRI 1938, p.9). This could have been the William Terry who died before the next Court but is more likely to have been a younger William, perhaps a younger brother of John Terry.

126 there was a Walter Muggle who married in 1574 who would have been of an age to take the oath of allegiance eighteen years earlier- see [Muggle in More Families & Transcripts](#) Edward could have been his brother.

In 1552, when an inventory of the goods of the parish church was taken, **William Terry** was one of the churchwardens¹²⁷. He could have been the father of the William (i742) who had children in the 1570s.

Isabel Terry married **Thomas Christopher of Seal** on 27th January 1571, in Ightham and this must have been about the same time as i742 married; perhaps William and Isabel were brother and sister.

The Terry Family

The William Terry who died in 1556, aged sixty or above, would have been born soon after 1490 and his older children in the 1510/20s. With this minimum of information, a very hypothetical tree can be constructed.

127 Bennett, F.J., The Story of Ightham, Homeland Association Limited, 1907

	i2710 ¹²⁸	William -			
<i>born:</i>		c.1490			
<i>died:</i>		1556			

	i2112	John -		i2713	William -
<i>born:</i>	1510/20s				
	inherited Tebbis				

	#740	John -	i743 Elizabeth -	i742 William -	i747 Goodyf Puste
<i>bur:</i>			24 Apr 1583		
	see page t.2.18				
					#794 Thomas -
					#795 Isabel -
					#70 John Olyver
					see Christophers in Families & Transcripts

	i744	i745	i746	-	i748
	Ann	Joane	William		Isabel
<i>bap:</i>	8 Feb 1573	10 Feb 1576	4 Aug 1577		17 Dec 1587

	i750	i751	i752	i754	i753
	Thomas	Alice	Jane	Susan	Thomas
<i>bap:</i>	29 Nov 1612	3 Apr 1614	8 Jan 1616		25 Dec 1619
<i>bur:</i>				30 Mar 1618	25 Jan 1620

What this shows for one extended family is repeated for other families - no further generations reported in Ightham after the early part of the seventeenth century but families in Seal continue until at least the end of the period investigated. Isabel Terry came from Ightham (in that she married a man from Seal in Ightham)

even if she was not #742's sister. Her husband died six years after her marriage but their son had seven children whose baptisms were recorded in Seal; at least two of these married and the baptism of one grandchild was recorded. Only six months after her husband's death, Isabel married **John Olyver of Seal** and had five more children. At least one of her sons by John Olyver married and had three children in the 1610s. As with #746, nothing further is known of these particular Olyver children but Olyvers are recorded in the Seal parish register up to 1650 (and beyond).

On 31st January 1580, William Bryssenden stole a gun, sword and dagger from a William Terry, the most likely William being the one who was having children in the 1570s and 1580s (i742) - see [Brissenden in More Families & Transcripts](#).

The Seal Terrys

When she married John Terry in 1578, Alice (nee Ifield) was the widow of James Christopher (#155) who died on 9th December 1577 by whom she had already had six children - see [Christopher in Families & Transcripts](#). Alice's husband could have been the son of the John who inherited Tebbis in 1556 particularly since Tebbis is in the same area as Bewley and High Crosse (see below).

In the following reconstruction, the burials, in Ightham, of "[Alice, wife of John Terry](#)" and "[John Terry](#)" are taken as those of #740 and #156. It would seem that, after having their children in Seal, they moved to Ightham which, if the above tree is correct, was where John was born. Their youngest son, Thomas, married in Seal in 1615 but, from 1597 onwards, a John Terry was mentioned a number of times in the Court Rolls for Ightham (see below). He could have been Alice's husband with the family moving to Ightham sometime between 1587 and 1597.

Alice was probably born about 1540 and would therefore have been in her seventies when she died. John could have been younger than Alice unless this was also his second marriage but he would have been at least in his seventies when he died nine years after Alice.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#740	<u>TERRY, John</u> ----- 		18 Jun 1578	Alice Ifield (Christopher(m))	1	4	23 Apr 1623(I)
#156	<u>Ifield, Alice</u> -----	<1543			2	10	28 Apr 1614(I)
• #908	<u>TERRY, John</u>	20 Mar 1579	twin		0	0	21 Jun 1586 age 9
• #909	<u>Terry, Margaret</u>	20 Mar 1579	twin		0	0	17 Jun 1579 at 3 mnths
• #1192	<u>TERRY, William</u>	31 Mar 1583			0	0	
• #1429	<u>TERRY, Thomas</u> 	18 May 1587	11 Jun 1615	Elizabeth Wyborne married at 28 #1797	1	0	
• #1797	<u>Wyborne, Elizabeth</u>	19 Aug 1593	married at 21		1	0	

See [Wybourne in More Families & Transcripts](#) for details of Elizabeth Wybourne's family. The only other two references to Terrys in Seal were the burials of:

- Elizabeth Terry (#1467) on 13th November 1582
- Walter Terry (#1979) on 21st August 1595.

John Terry of Ightham

From his appearances in the Court Rolls, John Terry (#740) obviously lived in Ightham for a considerable time even though there are no references to him in the parish registers. In 1597 he was the borsholder, an officer of the Manor Court, but earlier in the year he had been before the court for fouling the highway. He also appeared before the Court in 1600 and 1602.

- On 11th April 1597, **John Terry** was found to have "placed a manure heap on the highway at **Bewley Greene**. Fined 4d and to remove it before 1 May under penalty 3s 4d. The said John Terry has also placed certain hog troughs in the highway at Bewley Greene. Fined 2d and to remove them before 13 April 3s 4d." (CRI 1937, p.200) Bewley, a mile south of Ightham village, was one of the eight hamlets of Ightham.
- On 10th October 1597, "**John Terry**, borsholder, officer of this Court, was fined 40s for not giving a sufficient note in writing of the names of the inhabitants of this View of Frank-pledge." (CRI 1938, p.34) At this Court a number of residents were pardoned for default because "they were not sufficiently summoned to the Court." Terry's fine was one of the steps taken by **Percival Willoughby**, lord of the manor, to tighten up the administration

of the manor - see [The Willoughby's of Ightham in More Families & Transcripts](#).

- On 20th October 1600, **John Terry** was brought before the Court for having received a "stranger" - **Henry Everest**. He was to be fined 10s if Everest stayed without sureties being found for him. (CRI 1938, p.18) A Henry Everest had two children baptised in Seal, one in 1593 and the other in 1603.

- On 5th October 1602, **John Terry** was fined for obstructing "the highway at [Bewley between Ightham and High Crosse](#) by throwing out his sullage there and certain trunks of trees. Fined 12d to remove the obstruction before 1 November, under penalty 5s and if he offends again in this respect to forfeit a further penalty of 5s for each offence." (CRI 1937, p.201). High Crosse is the cross-roads east of Ivy Hatch and south of Bewley.

- The orders concerning "strangers" were detailed and the penalties for receiving them increased at the beginning of the seventeenth century. John Terry seems to have suffered from this tightening up:
 - on 28th October 1608, **John Terry** was presented to the Court for having received a "stranger" - **Richard Shoebridge**; he was to be fined 20s if Shoebridge stayed without sureties being found. (CRI 1938,

- p.18) It does not seem likely that this Richard Shoebridge could have been i1542. (see [Shoebridge in More Families & Transcripts](#))
- two years later, on 9th October 1610 John Terry was found to have "received one, **John Chayrie**, a stranger, in his cottage, without sureties for the exoneration of the parish, contrary to the order of 28 October 1608. Therefore he has forfeited for every month of his reception and retention 20s." (CRI 1938, p.17) Elizabeth, daughter of John Chare was baptised in Ightham on 16th June 1611.

Other Terrys mentioned in the Court Records between 1553 and 1574 were:

Agnes Terry, Edward Terry, Richard Terry and Robert Terry.

Between 1586 and 1608, others mentioned were:

James Terry, Reginald Terry and Thomas Terry

The Thomas Family of Seal

Richard Thomas married twice and had nine children, five by his first wife who was buried with their fifth child, at least two of the first four having already died and their second son, Thomas, died six months after his mother. Of the four children of the second marriage, the first died aged two but the other three (all sons) did marry. Only one of these, William, is known to have had any children and he died when the eldest was twelve.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#521 ¹²⁹	<u>THOMAS, Richard</u> -----				2	9	
	<i>Marriage 1</i>						
#522	<u>his wife</u> -----				1	5	21 Sep 1578
			buried with her fifth child				
• #3963	<u>THOMAS, William</u>	7 May 1570(I)			0	0	
• #523	<u>THOMAS, John</u>	16 Mar 1572			0	0	22 Mar 1579
• #786	<u>Thomas, Alice</u>	27 Dec 1574			0	0	7 Jun 1576
• #987	<u>THOMAS, Robert</u>				0	0	31 May 1578
• #988	<u>Thomas, child</u>				0	0	21 Sep 1578

129 # indicates a reference in the Seal database and "I" one in that for Ightham

	<i>Marriage 2</i>	29 Dec 1578	Margaret Wood	1 4
			#349	
#349	<u>Wood, Margaret</u> -----			2 4
•	#1212 <u>THOMAS, William</u>	15 Dec 1583		0 0 2 Feb 1586
•	#2531 <u>THOMAS, William</u>	Feb 1586-89	23 Oct 1609 Elizabeth Frenche	1 4 3 Feb 1622
	see page 2.t.24 for the children of William and Elizabeth			
•	#2055 <u>THOMAS, Richard</u>	2 Oct 1616	Johane Porter	1 0 21 Jan 1625

#2056

the most likely Richard Thomas to have "[drowned in Otford Park](#)"

•	#2532 <u>THOMAS, Edmund</u>	27 Jun 1625	Elizabeth Duble #2528	1 0
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Richard's eldest recorded son, "[William, son of Richard Thomas](#)" was baptised at Ightham and could have been the first child with Richard's wife possibly coming from Ightham and returning to her family for the birth.

Margaret's marriage to Richard was her second; she married **James WOOD (#348)** on 16th June 1571 but her maiden name was not given; no children were recorded, James being buried on 2nd November 1578 less than two months before Margaret remarried. Margaret could have been the Margaret Thomas who witnessed the will of Andrew Brewer in 1592 - see [Brewer in XB](#)

Of the children shown for Richard's second marriage, only the William born in 1583 can be clearly identified as the son of William and Margaret; the others are known only from their marriages but they "fit in" here.

The Family of William and Elizabeth

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
#2531	<u>THOMAS, William</u> -----		23 Oct 1609	Elizabeth Frenche	1 4	3 Feb 1622 in his 30s
			witnessed the will of Richard Carter (#19) in 1616			
#1130	<u>Frenche, Elizabeth</u> -----				1 4	19 Oct 1630
• #2533	<u>Thomas, Elizabeth</u>	4 Nov 1610	9 Nov 1634	Robert DALLY married at 24 #2538		1 0
• #2536	<u>Thomas, Margaret</u>	<1613	29 Oct 1633	John ROGERS #2537	1 2	4 Jan 1641
• #2534	<u>Thomas, Dorothy</u>	23 Mar 1617				0 0
• #2535	<u>THOMAS, Richard</u>	30 Jan 1620				0 0

The Thomas children ranged from twelve to two when their father died and, when their mother died in 1630, the eldest, Elizabeth would still have been only twenty.

The nuncupative will of Elizabeth Thomas, William's widow, has survived - see page 2.t.26. There were three Elizabeth Frenches who could have married William Thomas - see table below and the **Frenches in XF**.

Elizabeth	daughter of:	#	baptised	age at: marr.	death
#1130	Lawrence	#373	15 Oct 1581	28	49
#1398	Thomas	#282	29 Oct 1586	23	44
#1624	John	#596	29 Aug 1591	18	19

One of witnesses to her will was Lawrence Frenche, the elder. If this was #373 above, he was about eighty in 1630 but he did have a son called Lawrence (#1300), born in 1585, who himself had a son, Lawrence who was only ten in 1630, not old enough to be "the younger".

The other witness was Edward Frenche; the only known Edward was also the son of #373 so that it seems possible that William Thomas's wife was the daughter of #373 and that the witnesses to her will were her aged father and her brother.

Elizabeth was not buried until seven weeks after she made this nuncupative will; presumably whilst ill in August, she did not die until October but, once having

"spoken" her will was either not able to, or did not think it worthwhile, making a written one.

Will of Elizabeth Thomas, widow of Seal

written 25th August 1630; buried 19th October 1630

CKS: Drb/Pw 28; Drb/Pwr 21.420; transcript from original

1 Memorandum, that upon
2 the 25th day of August in the year of our lord god 1630, Elizabeth Thomas
3 of the parish of Seal in the county of Kent, **widow**, being of perfect mind
4 and memory, made and declared her last will and testament, nuncupative
5 or by word of mouth, in manner and form following: **First:** she comm
6 ended her soul to the Almighty god and her body to the earth. **Item:**
7 She gave to **her three daughters, Dorothy, Elizabeth and Margaret**
8 **Thomas**, a bedstead, a cupboard, a table with a frame and a form
9 standing in the house wherein **William Walker**¹³⁰ now dwelleth and all
10 other the goods which she had in that house she did give to **Richard**
11 **Thomas, her son.** **Item:** all other her goods whatsoever, cattells, chat

130 there was a William Walker (#1223) who had married in 1585 whose widow died in 1636 and another William Walker (#3483) who had children between 1606 and 1622.

12 ells and implements not by her before bequeathed, she willed to her said
13 three
14 daughters equally to be divided between them which words, or the
15 like in effect were uttered and spoken by the said testatrix in the presence
16 and hearing of **Lawrence Frenche**, th'elder and **Edward Frenche** of Seal
17 aforesaid and made **William Olyver**¹³¹, of Seal aforesaid, **bricklayer**,
18 overseer of her will who was also present at the hearing of the foresaid
19 words. **William Olyver**. The mark of **Lawrence Frenche**.

Robert & Joem Thomas of Ightham

John (i1173), the son of **Robert Thomas**, gent (i1171), was buried on 21st September 1569.

Joem Thomas (i2671) was buried on 21st February 1639.

¹³¹ the Olyvers, like the Frenches, were a very large Seal family and it has not been possible to identify the bricklayer

The Thomsons of Seal, Ightham & Shipbourne

Tomson, Tompson, Thompson are variations on this name. See [Porter in Families & Transcripts](#) for details of the family of **William Thomson** (#3231¹³²) who married Mildred Porter.

The Thomsons of Seal

On 17th October 1589 **Michael Thomson** (#1368) married **Ann Ricman** (#1369).

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#3234	<u>THOMSON, Giles</u>			Thomasine Thomson(m)	1	3	
	-----			#3237			
•	#3236 <u>THOMSON, William</u>	8 Dec 1633					0 0
•	#3238 <u>THOMSON, Edward</u>	3 Apr 1643					0 0
•	#3239 <u>THOMSON, Nicholas</u>	1 Apr 1645					0 0

132 # indicates a reference in the Seal database; "I" in that for Ightham and \$ in that for Shipbourne

A Thomasine Thomson married **Francis Crafts (#3240)** on 16th November 1648 and, although Thomasine was not recorded as a widow, she was probably Giles's wife since Thomasine is not a very common name. If this is correct Giles must have died before November 1648; one child was recorded for Thomasine's second marriage: **Isaac (#3241)**, son of Francis Crafts, baptised 5th March 1650.

The Thomsons of Ightham

On 10th May 1650, **Thomas** (i2643), son of **William** (i2641) and **Maria Thomson** (i2642), was baptised on 5th June 1650; he was born on 10th May 1650.

Reginald Tompson (i1297) had two children:

-	George	i1610	buried	9 Oct 1586
-	Anne	i1299	baptised	30 Nov 1586

The Thomsons of Shipbourne

On 3rd June 1634 **Alice Thompson** (\$1611) married **Richard Wells** (\$1608). Neither was mentioned again.

The Thrupps of Ightham

Alternative spellings of this name are Thrope and Throwpe; all of those mentioned here are indexed under “Thrupp”. There were a number of small families in Ightham and one mention in **Seal**. Three isolated burials were recorded in Ightham:

-	Anne Throwpe	i1358 ¹³³	14 Jan 1574
-	Ann Thrupp	i1873	28 Apr 1597
-	Joane Thrupp	i1877	5 May 1598

Richard Thrupp of Ightham

Richard Thrupp (i1153) and his wife, **Florence** (i1154) were both mentioned as bakers and brewers in the Court Records for 1553-74. Florence was buried on 13th February 1563. Her husband survived her by over ten years being buried on 16th November 1573. **William** (i1188), son of Richard Thrupp, was buried on 2nd June 1571. If he was Florence’s son, he was at least eight when he died,

133 “i” indicates a reference in the Ightham database, # in that for Seal

Richard Thrupp was a witness in the Bing v. Hooper case (1564-1566) - see [Excerpts from the Ightham Court Rolls in Section Z of Families & Transcripts](#). Twenty years earlier Richard Thrupp, with a number of others, had been transported to Boulogne for stealing sheep - see [Staly in Families & Transcripts](#). Assuming that he was in his early twenties when he was caught for sheep stealing, Richard was in his late thirties when his wife Florence died and his forties when William died

Edward Thrupp & Robert Eglestone

In Seal, on 25th January 1573, **Edward Thrupp** (#357) married **Ann Johnson, widow** (#358). It is possible that Ann was the widow of Henry Johnson, senior, who died in August 1568 - see [Johnson in More Families & Transcripts](#).

Nothing more was recorded for the Thrupps in Seal but in Ightham, on 27th April 1587, Edward Thrupp was brought before the Court for having received a "[stranger](#)" - **Robert Eglestone** (i2696). If Robert stayed without sureties being found for him, both he and Thrupp were to be fined 3s 4d. (CRI 1938, p.17). At the same time, the jury presented Robert Eglestone to the Court for "[breaking the](#)

hedges and fences of the lord and for taking away the lord's wood upon his common." For this Eglestone was fined 6d. (CRI 1937, p.206)

On 10th October 1586, **John** (i2698), the son of Robert Eglestone, had been baptised in Seal. It looks as if Eglestone had come to Ightham from Seal but nothing more is recorded for him in either parish.

Burglary at Edward Thrupp's

At the July 1598 Assizes, **Elizabeth Mylls** (i2768) of Ightham and **Elizabeth Shawe** of Limpsfield, Surrey, **spinsters**, were indicted for grand larceny. "On 15th April 1598, they broke into the house of Edward Thrupp at Ightham and stole half a flitch of bacon (3s), 2 cheeses (1s), 2 pieces of meat (1s), 12 candles (2d), 3½ yards of russet cloth (5s), a sheet (2s), a shirt (10d), a pair of stockings (1s), a 'cipres' hat-band (2s) and a petticoat (6s 8d)." **Catherine West** (i2770), wife of **Edward West** (i2769), tailor, was indicted as an accessory.

Mylls and Shawe were found guilty but remanded on plea of pregnancy. Here “spinsters” probably meant that they were spinners of wool and/or flax rather than unmarried. West was found not guilty.¹³⁴

An Edward Thrupp was buried, in Ightham, on 10th June 1598. This was after the burglary but before the women stood trial at the Assizes.

The Tichbornes of Seal and Edenbridge

This name can be spelled in a variety of ways - Titchborne, Tychborne, Tichebourne, Tichbourne, etc. and the wills which have survived are mainly from Edenbridge and Cowden.

George Tichborne and his wife Silvester Olyver had three children baptised in Edenbridge:

Mary	baptised	26 Jun 1582	
Olyver		18 May 1584	
William		15 Apr 1587	buried 12 Sep 1593

Although there were a number of Sylvester Olyvers in Seal, those of a suitable age all married someone else.

The Book of Accounts 1595-1742 of the Great Stone Bridge in Eatonbridge (Edenbridge) has survived (CKS: CH18 F1). The first recorded guardians of the lands and stock of money belonging to the bridge were George Tichborne, gentleman, and Robert Leigh th'elder. In 1607 bridge fund paid a man eight shillings for several days making a chest in which to keep the evidence and

writings connected with the bridge but, in addition, the chest required six locks and other iron work which cost 23s 2d (£1.16)

Francis Tichborne (#3729), gent. had two daughters baptised in Seal:

Sara #3731	baptised	28 Sep 1615
Mary #3732		29 Nov 1616

Francis died at Seal “[on Sunday night being 28th May 1620 and was buried on the Tuesday next following at Edenbridge](#)” where he had requested to be buried in his will. Perhaps Francis was George’s son.

Bequests of rent from land could lead to problems particularly if the land was left to someone else who would then be responsible for paying the money. In 1598 in Edenbridge there was a controversy between the parish and William Stanford which involved sending two men to Brasted as witnesses to testify in the matter. Brasted is about five miles from Edenbridge and the bridge fund paid the men 8d “for their travail”.

Thomas Tinlie of Tonbridge

The beginning of the will of Thomas Tinlie (CKS: Drb/Pw 16; Drb/Pwr 18.182) and basic details of the bequests he made by are given here.

The will of Edmond Tindley of Tonbridge has also survived (CKS: Drb/Pw 29; Drb/Pwr 22.198) and, since Thomas mentions a son Edmond, this could have been his will.

Will of Thomas Tinlie of Tonbridge

written 3rd May 1592
transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 The third day of May in the year of our
3 Lord god one thousand five hundred four
4 score and twelve and in the year of
5 the reign of our most gracious sovereign
6 Queen Elizabeth, by the grace of God
7 queen of England, France and Ireland,
8 defender of the faith, the 34th, etc.
9 I, Thomas Tinlie of the parish of

10 Tonbridge, being sick of body but yet
11 in perfect and good mind and remembrance,
12 thanks be to almighty god, do ordain
13 and make this last will and testament.
14 **First:** I will and bequeath my soul to
15 almighty god, my maker and redeemer,
16 by whose death and blood shedding I hope
17 to be saved and my body to be buried
18 within the christian burial of Tonbridge.
19 This is the last will and testament of
20 me, the said Thomas Tinlie, touching the
21 disposition of all my goods and cattells or
22 moveables whatsoever. **Item:** I will that
23 **Sybell, my wellbeloved wife**, shall have
24 my best bed with stead standing and
25 being within my house withall the furn
26 iture thereto belonging. **Item:** I give and
27 bequeath to **David, my son**, five pounds of
28 good and lawful money of England to be
29 paid to the said David within one whole
30 year after my decease. . . .

- . . . **Item:** I give and bequeath

- to **Abraham, my son**, five pounds . . .
- **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Edmond, my son**, twenty pounds . . . at the age of 24 years
- **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Margaret, my daughter**, five pounds, thirteen shillings fourpence within two whole years after my decease.
- **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Sybell, my daughter**, five pounds, thirteen shillings fourpence within two whole years after my decease.
- **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Anne, my daughter and wife to Edward**, . . .
?? ?? calf colour black.

- . . . the residue to my wife Sybell and **Thomas, my son**, whom I do ordain and make my whole and sole executors.

- **my cousin R.. Children and Sylvester Page** shalbe supervisors and overseers.

signed Thomas Tinlie

no witnesses given

The Tomlyns of East Malling

Two wills have been transcribed for the Tomlyns of East Malling. There were Tomlyns in Seal, three wills having survived from there - see [Families & Transcripts](#). There are no obvious connections between the Seal and East Malling Tomlyns.

Thomas Tomlyn	13 Oct 1614	20 Aug 1615	CKS:Prs/w/16/140	page 2.f.40
Richard Tomlyn	1 Jul 1637	12 Sep 1637	CKS:Prs/w/16/165	page 2.f.44

Three others from East Malling have survived:

Thomas Tomlyn	1600	PCC: Wallop 37	
John Tomlyn	1643	PCC: Crane 38	will proved by son, John
Moses Tomlyn	1649	PCC: Fairfax 82	will proved by son, William

When Thomas wrote his will in 1614 his father, Hamon, was still alive and he mentions his cousin Moses. In 1637 when he wrote his will Richard's father Moses was still alive and he could have been Thomas's cousin. If cousin was used with its modern meaning of first cousin, Hamon had a brother, the father of Moses who could have been the testator of 1649. These tentative relationships are shown in the tree below.

```

-----
x1362135 | |
      Hamon -      ??? -
          | x1365      x1366      | x1370
          Thomas - Cyrollery      Moses -
will:  3 Oct 1614 | |
-----
x1367 | x1368 | x1372 | x1373 | x1374 |
      Hamon      William      Frances      Richard      Petronella
will:                                     (sister) 1 Jul 1637

```

Will of Thomas Tomlyn of East Malling

written 13th October 1614

transcript from original

- 1 In the name of God Amen. the thirteenth day of October in the year of our lord god one
- 2 thousand six hundred and fourteen, I, Thomas Tomlyn of East Malling in the county of

3 Kent, **miller**, ?? sick of body but of perfect remembrance, do make my last
will and testament in manner and form following: **First:** I
4 commend my soul in to the hands of Almighty God, my creator, hoping
assuredly, through
5 the merits of Jesus Christ, my saviour, to be made partaker of life
everlasting
6 And my body to be buried in the church yard of East Malling aforesaid.
Item: I give
7 to **Hamon**¹³⁶ **Tomlyn, my son**, five pounds of of lawful English money to be
paid
8 by my executrix, hereafter named, when he shall accomplish the age¹³⁷ of
fifteen years.
9 **Item:** I give to **William Tomlyn, my son**, twenty pounds of of lawful english
money to be
10 paid by my said executrix when he shall accomplish the age of fifteen
years.
11 **Item:** my will is that **Cyrolley, my wife**, who shalbe my executrix, shall, at
the proving

136 reads as Hamon; one of the witnesses was Hamon Woodde and his mark was a very distict "H" showing that the initial letter was an "H"

137 "adge" here but "age on line 10

12 of this my will and testament, enter into bond to my **father Hamon Tomlyn**
13 of East Malling aforesaid and **my cousin, Moses Tomlyn** of the ?? for the
true payment
14 of my said two sons' legacies at the time before limited to their use
according
15 to my true intent and meaning. And further, my will is that Cyrolley, my
wife, shall
16 keep, maintain and bring up my said son William Tomlyn to school, well
17 and sufficiently until he shall accomplish the age of fifteen years. And also
my will
18 is that if Cyrolley, my wife, shall refuse to keep and bring up my son
William
19 or ?? him otherwise than it is meet for a child to be used, that then she
shall pay
20 the said legacy of twenty pounds to him before given to Haman Tomlyn,
my father,
21 and Moses Tomlyn, my cousin, within one month after notice thereof to her
given, to be
22 put out for the bringing up and maintaining of my son William until he
shall come to the
23 age of fifteen years. And moreover, my will is that if my son Hamon depart
this

24 life before my son William, that the legacy of five pounds to him before
given shall
25 remain to my son William. And if my son William depart this life before
26 Haman, that the legacy of £20 to him before given shall remain to my son
Norman.
27 ?? the ?? of my goods, moveables and chattells whatsoever not before
given and bequeathed,
28 I give to Cyrolley, my wellbeloved wife, whom I make full, whole and sole
executrix
29 of this my last will and testament. And I do make my father Haman
Tomlyn and
30 my cousin Moses Tomlyn, supervisors of this my last will and testament to
see it
31 performed according to my true intent and meaning. witness whereof I
have to this
32 my present will and testament put my hand and seal the day and year first
above written

Witnesses to this my will

Thomas Stace

Thomas Hodsoll

Hamon Woodde his **H** mark

Thomas

Tomlyn

1 In the name of God Amen. this first day of
2 July in the thirteenth year of the reign
3 of our sovereign Lord King Charles and in the
4 year of our lord god one thousand six hundred
5 thirty and seven. I, Richard Tomlyn of East Malling,
6 son of **Moses Tomlyn** of East Malling aforesaid
7 in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, do constitute and
8 make this my last ¹³⁸ and testament in manner and
9 form following
10 **First:** I commit my soul into the hands of Almighty
11 God in the merits of Christ Jesus, my blessed
12 Redeemer, and my body to the earth to be buried
13 in Christian burial.
14 And for my worldly goods, my will is and I do
15 hereby give unto **Petronella Tomlyn, my sister**,
16 forty shillings to be paid unto her within one
17 month next after my decease.

138 "will" omitted here?

18 **Item:** I give to the poor of East Malling ten
19 shillings to be distributed amongst them at the day
20 of my burial at the discretion of Moyses
21 Tomlyn, my father. All the rest of my goods
22 and chattells I do hereby give unto **Frances**
23 **Tomlyn, my sister**, which said Frances I do
24 make, appoint and ordain sole executrix of this
25 my last will and testament and I desire Moyses
26 Tomlyn, my father, to be overseer of this my last
27 will and testament. In witness whereof I have
28 hereunto set my hand and seal the day and
29 year first above written.

Witnesses:

Robert Whittle

William ??linge

Richard Tomlyn

The Tunbridges of Ightham

Denise Tunbridge (i1380¹³⁹) was buried on 14th January 1580. Over forty years later, Edward Tunbridge had three children, two of whom died very young::

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i1959	<u>TUNBRIDGE, Edward</u> -----				1	3	
• i1961	<u>Tunbridge, Margaret</u>	5 Sep 1602			0	0	28 Jan 1603
• i1962	<u>TUNBRIDGE, Steven</u>	25 Mar 1604			0	0	1 May 1604
• i1963	<u>TUNBRIDGE, Henry</u>	25 Oct 1607			0	0	

The "**widow Tunbridge**" buried 28 Dec 1626 could have been Edward's widow

On 20th September 1600, Edward Tunbridge "[assaulted Robert Baldwyn, \(i25\) drawing blood. Fined 3s 4d.](#)" (CRI 1938, p.6). A year later on 20th October 1601, "[Edward Tunbridge was fined 6d for having allowed his wife to break and plunder the hedge of Vane Somers.](#)" (CRI 1937, p.218) [See Balden and Summers in More Families & Transcripts](#)

139 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

Christopher Turke of East Peckham

The will of Christopher Turke, tailor, (CKS: Prs/w/16/173), was written by John Hooper, notary public and parish clerk of Tonbridge. The Hooper family wrote many wills in the Tonbridge locality from the late 1550s until at least 1650, the date at which this study ends.

A number of wills have survived for the Turkes of Mereworth, the parish to the north of East Peckham, but these have not been investigated.

Although a tailor, Christopher mentioned corn and cattle with the goods he owned. He had a wife, Mary, whom he made his executrix leaving her the “rents, issues and profits” of his messuage and land. He had two daughters but his main concern was his son Edward who was an “impotent creature”. Mary was earnestly requested to have a “motherly care” of him” giving “unto him all manner of necessaries, fitting and requisite for him”.

When she died, his daughters were to inherit his messuage and lands upon condition that, if he was still living, they “well and sufficiently, at their equal charges, keep, maintain, sustain and provide all manner of necessaries for my said

son, Edward, during the whole term of his natural life". If either refused to do this she was to lose her inheritance.

Will of Christopher Turke of East Peckham

written 28th June 1642

transcript from original

1 In the name of God Amen. The eight and twentieth day of June Ao dm
1642
2 and in the eighteenth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord Charles, by
the grace of God
3 King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc., I,
Christopher Turke of
4 East Peckham in the county of Kent, **tailor**, being weak and sickly but of
perfect mind and
5 memory (praised be god) do make this my testament and last will in
manner and form following:
6 **First** and principally, I recommend my soul into the hands and gracious
acceptance of Jesus Christ.
7 my saviour, trusting in and through his death and passion to have
remission of all my sins and ??

8 joyful resurrection to eternal life. My body I commend to the earth from
whence it was taken to be
9 decently buried at the discretion of my executrix hereafter named. **Item:**
for the settling and disposing
10 of that estate wherewith god hath blessed me, I thus will and ordain that
my loving wife Mary shall
11 have and enjoy all my moveables, goods, household stuff, corn, cattle and
moveables whatsoever during the
12 whole term of her life and shall also have and receive the rents, issues and
profits of my message
13 or tenement wherein I now dwell and all the land with th'appurtenances
thereunto belonging in
14 East Peckham aforesaid during her natural life. And I do make and ordain
the said Mary, my
15 wife, the full and whole executrix of this my testament and last will to see
the same proved,
16 my body decently buried and my debts discharged¹⁴⁰. And I do earnestly
request and desire my said

140 "dischardged" and "chardges" on line 23

17 wife that in consideration hereof, she will have a motherly care of **my son**
18 **Edward** being a du..¹⁴¹
19 impotent creature and so long as she live will provide and give unto him all
20 manner of necessaries,
21 fitting and requisite for him. And immediately from and after the decease
22 of
23 my said wife, I will and give all my said tenement wherein I dwell and the
24 lands with th'appurtenances
25 thereunto belonging unto **my two daughters Elizabeth and Mary** and to
26 their heirs and assigns for
27 ever. Upon this condition that they, the said Elizabeth and Mary, my
28 daughters, shall well and sufficiently,
29 at their equal charges, keep, maintain, sustain and provide all manner of
30 necessaries for my said son,
31 Edward, during the whole term of his natural life (if he, the said Edward,
32 shall be living at my said
33 wife's decease). And my will and mind is that if my said daughters,
34 Elizabeth and Mary, or either of them,
35 shall, after the decease of my said wife, refuse or neglect to clothe, sustain,
36 maintain and keep withall manner

141 the right hand side of the page is damaged and only "du" has survived for this word which, given the context, could be "dunce"

27 of necessaries, my said son Edward during the whole term of his natural
life, then my said son Edward shall
28 have, receive and take the whole rents, issues and profits of my said
tenements and land ?? ??
29 as aforesaid, for and towards his maintenance during his life, or such and
so much of the rents and profits of the said
30 tenement and lands, with th'appurtenances as belong to that of my
daughter as shall neglect or refuse to
31 do as aforesaid (Any thing in this my will contained to the contrary
notwithstanding)

32 In witness whereof I, the said Christopher Turke, have to this my testament
and last will, set my hand and
33 seal, the day and year first above written.

Christopher Turke¹⁴²

Read, sealed, published and declared to be the
last will and testament of the said Christopher
Turke in the presence of

John Gandell

John Hooper

142 looks like a signature

The Turners of Ightham

Two Turner families were recorded in the Ightham parish registers: the children of Thomas Turner born in the 1560s and those of Gregory Turner born at the beginning of the seventeenth century. Gregory died in 1624 and the short will of his widow has survived:

Prudence Gregory not dated; proved 15 Dec 1629 CKS: Prs/w/16/153 page 2.t.40, 55

There were other Turners mentioned in the Court Records between 1586 and 1618:

Anthony Turner, George Turner and widow Turner.

George could have been the George Turner (i245¹⁴³) whose son Am (i246) was baptised on 22nd April 1621. Prudence was not a widow until the end of 1624 and could not, therefore, have been the widow mentioned before 1618. **Joane Turner** (i243), daughter of **John Turner** (i241), was baptised on 16th May 1608.

There does not seem to be any connection between the Ightham and Shipboure Turners.

143 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

Thomas Turner

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i85	<u>TURNER, Thomas</u> -----				1	5	
• i87	<u>TURNER, Thomas</u>	31 Mar 1560			0	0	4 May 1560 at 5 wks
• i88	<u>TURNER, Thomas</u>	30 Nov 1561			0	0	12 Feb 1562 < 3mnths
• i89	<u>Turner, Marie</u>	7 Mar 1563			0	0	27 Apr 1563 at 7 wks
• i90	<u>Turner, Alice</u>	23 May 1564			0	0	
• i91	<u>TURNER, George</u>	25 Aug 1566			0	0	

The Thomas born in 1560 may not have been the eldest child of this family since records started only in 1560. It looks from the Court Records as if #85 had been established as a householder well before 1560. On 11th October 1555, it was found that **Thomas Turner** had "[encroached at Bewley Plain by making his hedge on waste land there, in length 7 rods and in breadth 4 rods. Penalty 10s.](#)" (CKS 1937, p.217). A rod is 5½ yards so that Thomas had hedged in a piece of land approaching 40 yards by 22 yards. This Thomas could also have been the one mentioned in the Court Records between 1586 and 1618.

The Family of Gregory and Prudence Turner

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i237	<u>TURNER, Gregory</u> -----	<1587	27 Sep 1607	Prudence Hase 1238	1	3	23 Dec 1624 in his 40s
i238	<u>Hase, Prudence</u> -----			"Prudence Turner, widow" when buried	1	3	23 Jul 1629 in her late 40s
• i239	<u>TURNER, Thomas</u>	28 Aug 1608			0	0	
• i240	<u>TURNER, Nicholas</u>	04 Sep 1612			0	0	
• i244	<u>TURNER, William</u>				0	0	10 Jan 1632
				"son of Gregory Turner"; probably in his teens when he died but, by 1632, both his mother and father had died.			

Prudence's will reads as if it were notes written down when she was on her deathbed, rather like a nuncupative will except that she puts her mark to it. It starts by listing amounts owed to her and then details legacies to her sons Nicholas, Thomas and William with the rest of her goods being divided between her children and used to "defray the charges".

1 The last will and testament of Prudence Turner
2 of money owing to her

3 **Richard Fletcher** five pounds ¹⁴⁴

4 **William Crafts**¹⁴⁵ three pounds

5 **widow Marten**¹⁴⁶ five shillings

6 **the Lady Sidley** three shillings to ??

7 at home? sixteen shillings

8 Imprimis given to her **son Nicholas** four pounds

9 a new brass chafer and a great brass kettle

10 and two pieces of pewter.

11 to her **son Thomas** forty shillings

12 and to her **son William** three pounds four shillings two pence

13 and the rest of her goods to be divided among

144 the phrase following here cannot be deciphered. it looks like "of on(e) oat besides the yous"

145 there was a William Craft (or Croft, i1642) having children in the 1620s

146 Prudence (i1465), the widow of James Martin, could have still been alive in 1629

14 her children and to defray the charges

The mark of Prudence Turner

Witnesses Goody Winter
Goody Thunden
Goody Standen
Richard Willton¹⁴⁷

147 Richard's name is followed by a small sign and he probably wrote the will particularly since the other witnesses were all women. His name looks like a signature and the Richard in "Richard Fletcher" is written in the same way.

The Turners of Shipbourne

On 25th July 1611 **John** (\$1033), “**son of Mr. Turner, Doctor of Physicke**” (\$1031) was baptised. In the same year, William Bassett and Dorothy Lowdwell, both of Otford, were married in Shipbourne “**by a testimonial from Mr. Turner, ye Minister of Otford**”. It is unlikely that the Doctor of Physicke and the Minister were the same man.

There were three Turner marriages in Shipbourne with only the Hadens having any children in the parish:

Elizabeth Turner (\$1515¹⁴⁸) married **Phillip Haden** (\$1514) on 17th May 1630. They had two children:

- **Anne Haden** \$1516 baptised 13 Mar 1631
- **William Haden** \$1782 23 Aug 1640

Nicholas Turner (\$1762) married **Dorcas Averell** (\$1766) on 1st November 1639.

Mildred Turner (\$1999) married **Thomas Seavenoke** (\$1985) on 3rd January 1645.

Catherine Turner (\$1613) was buried on 10th January 1638.

William Turner's Family

It is possible to build the following family tree from the other isolated items in the parish register:

<i>bur:</i>	\$1537	William Turner, senior -			
		2 Jun 1631			
			\$2280	William Turner, junior -	

	\$1103			\$1336	
		Robert -		James	(both sons of William Turner)
<i>bap:</i>		5 Apr 1613		21 May 1622	
<i>bur:</i>				27 May 1622	

		\$2033		\$2114	
		Elizabeth		William	
<i>bap:</i>		2 Nov 1645		31 Oct 1647	
<i>bur:</i>				21 Dec 1647	

William, junior, has been introduced as the father of Robert and James. If \$1537 was Robert's grandfather, he would have been about seventy when he died. There does not seem to be any connection between the Ightham and Shipbourne Turners.

Thomas Tuttesham, senior & junior

Thomas Tuttesham, gent., and his son Thomas both wrote a number of wills mainly for people from West Peckham with Thomas senior, and probably also his son, playing an important part in their local society. As gentlemen, did Thomas, senior, and Thomas, junior, write these wills without charging the testators or did they sell their services as scriveners?

Thomas Tuttesham, senior

Thomas Tuttesham, gent was one of the witnesses to the will of John Chownes of Shipbourne written in 1563 by John Hooper, the first of a family of scriptors of wills. From 1567 onwards this Thomas Tuttesham wrote a number of wills all for people from West Peckham except for Anne Welden from East Peckham

Mar	1567	John Baker	CKS: Drb/Pw 9, Drb/Pwr	13.320
5 Apr	1568	John Sutor	CKS:	13.357

see¹⁴⁹

Baker in FT
Sutor in MFT

	1574	Henry Stevens	CKS;		14.233	Stevens in FT
	1576	Robert Coker	CKS:	12,	14.313	not transcribed
	1586	Anne Welden	PCC: Sainberbe	84	(mention)	Weldon in FT
7 May	1589	Edward Johnson	CKS:	13;	16.191	Johnson in MFT
29 Jul	1589	George Baker	CKS:	16;	18.184	Baker in FT
Sep	1589	Elizabeth Baker	CKS:	16;	18.181	" "
	1590	Edward Luck	CKS:	15;	18.20 (mention)	Luck in FT

Overseer and Supervisor

In 1582, Christopher Gurley of Leigh appointed Thomas Tuttesham as one of the overseers of his will - see [Gurley in Families & Transcripts](#).

Henry Bassett of West Peckham was a widower when he wrote his will in 1598. Having ordained his mother-in-law as his executor he made his “[wellbeloved and trusted friend Thomas Tuttesham, gent., supervisor and overseer of this my will desiring him, for good cause, to be the best means he can of this my will may be performed according to the meaning hereof to whom I give, over and above his charges and expenses any wise to be laid out about this my will, six shillings and eight pence](#)”. Henry had an underage son and a daughter four years younger and he owned a considerable amount of land in West Peckham - see [More Families & Transcripts](#). Assisting Henry’s mother-in-law with the organising his estate until his children came of age could have been a fairly onerous task with £0.33 hardly

being much of a recompense. Small gifts like this were probably just token gestures to men such as Thomas Tuttesham who must have spent a considerable amount of time supervising and overseeing the wills of their friends but it was usual for all their “charges and expenses” to be paid by the testator’s estate.

Coroner

Thomas, senior, was also a coroner for the area. On 7th November 1587 he was the coroner for the inquisition (inquest) held at Pembury on the body of Margaret Tiseherste, wife of John Tiseherste of Pembury. The jury found that on 6th November, in the house of John Eversfelde at Copping Crouch in Pembury, Margaret was accidentally shot and killed by **Nicholas Somner** of Penshurst, yeoman. The jurors considered that this death was misadventure.¹⁵⁰ Pembury is about six miles south of West Peckham. What is surprising is the speed with which an inquest could be organised. It was held in John Eversfelde’s house and the thirteen men forming the jury are named in Cockburn.

Holding an inquest at very short notice was not an isolated event - at least for Thomas Tuttesham. On 3rd March 1590, William Pynden of Seal was stabbed

150 Cockburn (Eliz); 1670, recorded at the February 1588 Assizes

when his house at Padwell in Seal was burgled. He lived long enough to write his will being buried on 4th March. The inquest was held the next day which Thomas Tuttesham as the coroner and a jury including local parish gentry and wealthy yeomen.

Thomas Tuttesham, junior

Thomas junior, his father's third child, was also a scriptor of wills:

1590	Richard Bennett	PCC: Scott 26	West Peckham	not transcribed ¹⁵¹
1594	Alexander Bettes	CKS: Drb/Pw 17; Drb/Pwr 18.366	Mereworth	short note FT
1595	Thomas Barton	CKS: 17; 18.394	Hadlow	extract MFT

The 1616 will of William Batt of Shoreham (CKS: Prs/w/1/160) was also written by a Thomas Tuttesham; this will has not been investigated. Thomas, junior, was not mentioned in the 1567 will of his uncle George Baker although his brother and sister were (see **George Baker in Families & Transcripts**). If he was born about 1570, he would still have been under fifty in 1616 and this could easily have been the scriptor of William Batt's will. Thomas, junior, seems to have had contacts over a wider area than his father.

151 but see **Bennett in Families and Transcripts** for some comments on it

The Tylmans of Seal

Thomas Tylman (#361¹⁵²) married **Katherine Carter** (#362) on 26th October 1573. Although there were a number of Carter families in Seal, no Katherine is recorded. Since she married in 1573 she would have been born before baptisms were recorded in the parish registers.

Thomas and Katherine had two daughters baptised in Seal but the first died a few days after being baptised:

- Agnes #845 baptised 16 Jun 1577 buried 23 Jun 1577
- Agnes #885 10 Aug 1578

The name Tyrry is probably a variation of "Terry". John had five sons including two called William and a daughter, Jane (or Jone). His wife had the unusual name of Florence.

1 In the name of god Amen. the 4th
2 day of December and in the tenth year of
3 the reign of our sovereign Lady Elizabeth,
4 by the grace of god, of England, France and
5 Ireland queen, defender of the faith, etc. I.
6 John Tyrry of the parish of Leigh¹⁵³ and in the
7 diocese of Rochester being of perfect remembrance,
8 thanks be unto Almighty god, do make my
9 testament and last will in manner and form
10 following: **First** I bequeath my soul to Almighty
11 god, my saviour and redeemer, my body to the
12 earth in the churchyard of Leigh aforesaid.
13 **Item:** I give unto **Florence, my wife**, all such

153 "Lighe"

14 goods as were hers before I married her. And
15 also I give her more £6 13s 4d. **Item:** I
16 give to **John, my son**, £4 of good and lawful
17 money of England. **Item:** I give unto my

page 2:

18 **sons, Raphe, William the younger and Henry**,
19 every one of them, £3 6s 8d. **Item:** I give unto
20 **Jone, my daughter**, £8 of good and lawful
21 money of England. The residue of all my
22 goods and cattells, not given nor bequeathed,
23 my debts paid and legacies fulfilled, I give
24 and bequeath to **William Tyrry, my eldest son**,
25 whom I make and ordain my executor of
26 this my present testament and last will.
27 Witnesses whereof is **Michael Watson, gentleman**,
28 **Edward Cole, Edward Tyrry, William**
29 **W??**, John Tyrry and Raphe Tyrry with others.

U

More Families & Transcripts

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The Underdownes of Ightham

There were a number of Underdownes in Ightham during the 1560s and 1570s but little is known of them

On 23rd October 1570, Margaret Underdowne (i876¹⁵⁴) married Nicholas Clagget (i875). Although there were Claggets in Ightham, the only Nicholas was born in 1576. In 1615 Nicholas Clagatt, sen. witnessed the will of Austin Harman in Hadlow. Perhaps Margaret's husband came from Hadlow and that is where they lived.

William Underdowne (i1151) was buried on 20th October 1561. He could have been the father of Reginald and William who had children in the 1560s and 1570s and of Elizabeth who married in 1567 - see next page.

A William Underdowne was mentioned in the Court Records between 1553 and 1574; this could have been either of these two Williams. Reginald Underdowne was mentioned between 1586 and 1618.

154 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i389	<u>UNDERDOWNE, Reginald</u> -----				1	2	
• i391	<u>UNDERDOWNE, John</u>	7 Dec 1562			0	0	
• i798	<u>UNDERDOWNE, William</u>	28 Feb 1575			0	0	27 Jun 1575
There was a long interval between the births of John and William but both are recorded as sons of "Reginald Underdown".							
i628	<u>UNDERDOWNE, William</u> -----				1	2	
• i1169	<u>Underdowne, Lucy</u>			"daughter of William Underdowne"	0	0	4 Mar 1569
• i1170	<u>UNDERDOWNE, Nicholas</u>			only Nicholas's name was recorded at his burial	0	0	20 Apr 1569
i641	<u>MEDLEY, Robert</u> -----		6 Oct 1567	Elizabeth Underdowne	1	1	
							1642
i642	<u>Underdowne, Elizabeth</u> -----				1	1	18 Mar 1570
				buried 5 weeks after the baptism of her only recorded child			
• i643	<u>Medley, Elizabeth</u>	13 Feb 1570			0	0	

William Uprichardes of Seal

William Uprichardes (#166¹⁵⁵) had two sons baptised in Seal:

- William (#168) baptised on 24th June 1565 and buried on 1st July of the same year
- John (#212) baptised on 23rd August 1566.

The Usmers of Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i1243	<u>USMER, John</u> -----				2	2	11 Oct 1595
	<i>Marriage 1</i>			Margaret Usmer(m) i1244	1	1	
i1244	<u>Usmer(m), Margaret</u> -----				1	1	8 Nov 1585
• i1245	<u>Usmer, Anne</u>	16 Jan 1584				0	0
	<i>Marriage 2</i>				1	1	
• i1649	<u>USMER, Nicholas</u>	11 Feb 1593				0	0

Only a name was given for Margaret's burial and there is no reason to assume that the person buried was John's wife but, if she was and (i1243¹⁵⁶) was father of both Anne and Nicholas, he must have married twice.

156 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

On 17th October 1594 **John Usmer** was brought before the Court for receiving two "strangers" - **Thomas Baker and Samuel Mare** - and was to be fined 10s if they stayed without sureties being found for them. This was not the first time that Baker and Mare had come before the Court as strangers. On 5th October 1593, **William Webb** (i1247) was immediately fined 10s for receiving a number of strangers including a **Thomas Baker and Samuel Mare** who were themselves to be fined 3s 4d if sureties were not found for them or they did not depart. (CRI 1938, p.18). Both Baker (i1452) and Mare/Meere (i1695) seem to have been able to settle in Ightham.

[Families & Transcripts](#) for Baker and [More Families & Transcripts](#) for Meere and Webb.

V

More Families & Transcripts

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

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The Vandervaleys of Seal

On 16th July 1598, **Gabriel Vanderlay's son Randold** was baptised in Seal. This is a most unusual name; perhaps Gabriel was a foreigner who stayed in Seal just for a few months.

On 29th November 1598, **Reginold**, son of Gabriel Vanderley was buried. Were Randoll and Reginold two versions of the same name? If not, Reginold must have been an elder son.

The Vanes and Marriages by Licence

```
mar:                22 Feb 1586        15 Oct 1593
      ?? - Robert Waller - Alice Wimble - Edward Vane of Sevenoaks
          |           #1231157         #1232                #1664
      #1340 John
bap:   20 Mar 1585
```

Robert and Alice's marriage was by a licence from the Faculties
Alice and Edward's marriage was by a licence from my Lord of Canterbury

On 3rd July 1595 **Robert Vane** (#1685) married the widow **Eme Hatcher** by a licence from the Faculties.

All these marriages took place in Seal. These Vanes (and also those in Sevenoaks) may, or may not, have been precursors of the large Vane family of Shipbourne described next.

¹⁵⁷ # indicates a reference in the Seal database

The Vanes of Shipbourne

Sir Henry Vane, senior, knight, (\$1166¹⁵⁸) of **Fairlawn** (or “Fair lane”) was the father of a large Shipbourne family which included **Sir Henry Vane, junior, knight** (\$2078). Henry, senior, had ten children baptised between 1616 and 1628 but that of Henry, junior, was not recorded in Shipbourne. If, as is likely, he was the eldest son, he may have been baptised in London, where the Vanes lived for part of the time, or in the home parish of his wife whose name is not known. The burial of two of Henry junior’s children were recorded in 1647 and 1649 but no baptisms.

The Vanes were more than a local family - see [Gransden in More Families & Transcripts](#) for an incident in 1643 during the Civil War in which Sir Henry Vane, senior, was involved. The information given below covers just the details taken from the Shipbourne parish registers. There must be other sources of information for the family but these have not been investigated.

In addition to the ten children of Sir Henry, plus Sir Henry, junior, there were three Vanes, all sons of “[Sir Henry Vane, knight](#)”, buried between 1618 and 1634 and all

158 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

given the title “Mr.” which implies they were adults. They could have been the sons of \$1166 by a first marriage or the brothers of \$1166. They were:

- Mr. John Vane \$1264 buried 19 Oct 1618
- Mr. Richard Vane \$1590 13 Jun 1633
- Mr. Algernon Vane \$1600 29 Mar 1634.

Lady Margaret Cutts

Lady Margaret Cutts (\$1270) was the wife of **Mr. Richard Cutts** (\$1271). **John Cutts** (\$1272) “son and heir of Mr. Richard and Mrs Margaret Cutts, Esquire, was born at Fair lane ye first day of April (1620) and baptised the 19th day being that year Wednesday in Easter week”. Since John was born at Sir Henry Vane’s seat, Margaret was probably his daughter (or his sister since she must have been born before 1604).

The Ten Children of Sir Henry Vane, knight

The baptisms of ten children were recorded:

-	Thomas	\$1168	baptised	13 May 1616	buried	18 Nov 1629
-	George	\$1265		20 Jul 1618		
-	Walter	\$1266		6 Oct 1619		
-	Charles	\$1267		1 Nov 1626		
						“born in Chancery Lane, London”
-	Edward	\$1268		2 Sep 1622		
-	Ann	\$1355		27 Aug 1623		
-	Elizabeth	\$1365		5 Sep 1624		
-	Raphe	\$1366		30 Aug 1625		
-	William	\$1269		1 Nov 1626		
						“born at Charing Cross house”
-	Katherine	\$1490		19 Oct 1628		

The Children of Henry Vane, junior

The burials of two children, sons of “[Sir Henry Vane, junior, knight](#)” were recorded:

- Cecil \$2080 on 12 Mar 1647
- Edward \$2172 19 Feb 1649

Mrs. Anne Vane

On 12th July 1646 **Thomas Lydall, Esquire** (\$2051), and Mrs. Anne Vane were married. They had two children baptised in Shipbourne:

- Bridgitt \$2095 baptised 30 Apr 1647 “[at Fairlawne](#)”
buried 2 Oct 1649
- Henry \$2096 15 Oct 1648 “[at Fairlawne](#)”

Henry’s daughter Ann would have been twenty-three in 1646. The title “Mrs” was a courtesy title which could be given to unmarried as well as married women. Thomas Lydall’s wife could have been Henry’s daughter, particularly since her children were baptised at Henry’s seat.

Mistress Francis Vane

On 3rd April 1631, **Sir Robert Honeywood, knight** (\$1551) married **Mistress Francis Vane** (\$1552). No children were recorded. No Francis Vane is otherwise mentioned.

The Vaughans of Shipbourne

Edward Vaughan (\$286¹⁵⁹) had two children baptised in Shipbourne

- Edward \$288 22 Apr 1584
- Marie \$289 28 May 1587

On 4th June 1616 “[Mary, daughter of Mary Vaughan](#)” was buried. Edward’s daughter would have been twenty-nine in 1616.

159 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

The Vines of Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#3457 ¹⁶⁰	<u>VINES, Thomas</u> -----		11 Jul 1630(K)	Anna Lawrence #3510	1	2	
			married in Kemsing				
• #1229	<u>VINES, Edward</u>	24 Jul 1631	21 May 1655	Martha Berkin married at 23 #1230	1	0	
• #3511	<u>Vines, Elizabeth</u>	14 Sep 1634			0	0	11 May 1653