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The *Walkelyns* of Seal

Variations on this name include Walklyn and Wakelyne

Four wills have survived from Seal but Wakelyne and its variations is a fairly common name with wills having survived from Cobham, Chalk, Chelsfield (3), Hadlow, Higham, Otham, Westerham and Wouldham. Those from Seal are:

		written	buried			
Richard Walkelyn		1 Sep 1501		CKS:	6.42	see below
John Walkelyn	#94 ¹	25 May 1600	21 Sep 1600	CKS 19;	19I.352	page 2.w.13
Dorothy Walkelyn	#95		12 Aug 1602	CKS 19;	19I.216	page 2.w.15
John Walkelyn		1611	4 Jan 1612	CKS 21;	19I.494	²

The will of Richard Wakleyn/Walkelyn is difficult to read but he gives to the high altar of Seal 12d; the witnesses include: **John R---on, curate; John Roberts**. The second part starts:

1 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

2 not investigated

"This is the last will of me the said Richard. **First:** I will that **Marjorie, my wife**, shall have my house, buildings and common for the time of her life. And at her decease, I will that **Thomas Wakelyne, my son**, shall have it to him and to his heirs for ever. . ."

There is then a gap of practically a hundred years before the next will but, in the spring of 1524, **Thomas Walklyn** was living in a messuage belonging to John Idley - see **Idley in Families & Transcripts**. In 1560, **John Walkelyne, baker**, witnessed the will of Edward Swaynsland.

John and Dorothy Walkelyn

The testators John and Dorothy were husband and wife; they had at least eleven children, the eldest being born in 1563. He might have been old enough to be the baker who witnessed Edward Swaynsland's will. No description of him is given in his will. John Walkelyn, the testator of 1600 (#94) was probably the man who witnessed the will of Richard Fynne in 1575 and the codicil to the will of John(3) Tebold (#1) in 1578 (see **Fynne and Tebold in Families & Transcripts**).

In her will Dorothy mentions her "son-in-law" Thomas Walkelyn. Was he her husband's son by an earlier marriage? If he was born in the late 1550s his

baptism would have taken place before records were kept. Dorothy describes Agnes Harman as her daughter and, from the time intervals between the baptisms of Elizabeth and the two Agnes, it is likely that all the children shown in the tree below were hers.

	#94		John - Dorothy		#95							
<i>will:</i>	25 May 1600											
<i>bur:</i>	21 Sep 1600				12 Aug 1602							

	#96		#179		#541		#287		#843		#1158	
	Elizabeth		Agnes ^{d3}		John		Margaret		John ⁴		Margery ^d	
<i>bap:</i>	1 Aug 1563		12 Oct 1567		12 Aug 1571		12 Sep 1574		16 Feb 1577		25 Jul 1582	
<i>bur:</i>	26 Dec 1565											
	#404		#441		#753		#818		#922			
	Agnes ⁵		Clemence		James		Richard ^d		Dorothy ^{d6}			
<i>bap:</i>	2 Sep 1565		6 Mar 1569		25 Jul 1573		16 Feb 1576		9 Aug 1579			
<i>bur:</i>			19 May 1571		19 Aug 1573							

-
- 3 married John Harman (#1234) on 24th July 1586 when she was eighteen; her husband and three of her five children died of the plague in 1601 - see *harman.wll*
 - 4 a John Walkelyn married **Dorothy Everest** (#1678) on 2nd December 1594 and they had a daughter Agnes (#1881) baptised on 25th February 1597; if it was this John he was not yet eighteen when he married
 - 5 probably died before autumn 1567 when sister Agnes was baptised; similarly John (#514) probably died before 1577 when brother John was baptised
 - 6 Dorothy Brand of Wateringbury by 1602

John mentions none of his children in his will but he chose as his overseer the husband of his daughter Agnes describing him as his “[trusty friend](#)”. Perhaps, since all except Margery, the youngest, and Margaret, not mentioned by Dorothy, were married, John thought it more prudent to leave everything he owned to Dorothy and her heirs. Margaret had probably died as child without her burial being recorded in Seal.

Will of John Walkelyn 1600

written 25th May 1600

transcript from original which, from the note at the end, was probably a copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The five and twentieth day
2 of May in the year of our lord god one thousand, six
3 hundred. I, John Walkelyn of Seal in the
4 county of Kent, being weak in body but whole in
5 mind and in good and perfect remembrance, thanks be
6 to god, do make and ordain this my present testament,
7 containing herein my last will, in manner and form
8 following, that is to say, **First:** I commend my soul
9 unto Almighty god, my maker, hoping to be saved
10 by the merits of Jesus Christ, my redeemer and my
11 body to be buried in the churchyard of Seal aforesaid.

12 **Item:** I will and bequeath all my lands called **Godlake?**
13 lying and being in the parish of **Sevenoaks**
14 in the county of Kent containing, by estimation,
15 twenty acres, be it more or less, unto **Dorothy,**
16 **my wife,** and unto her heirs, for ever. And all the
17 rest of my goods and cattells, after my debts be
18 paid and my burial expenses performed, I will
19 and bequeath unto the said Dorothy, my wife, whom
20 I make and ordain my sole executrix. And I
21 make and ordain **my trusty friend, my son-in-**
22 **law, John Harman,** of the said parish of
23 Seal, in the said county, to be my overseer
24 of this my last will. Sealed with my
25 seal the day and year first above written.

Signed John Walkelyn. Witnesses hereunto

John Denman and **Andrew Holmwood**⁷

The mark of John Denman

fra collarane concordat

-- testator. **Jacobus Taylor,** norus pubiqs.

7

Andrew Holmwood (or Homewood, #715) was churchwarden of Seal at the end of the sixteenth century until 1603 (see *homewood.fam*); he could have written the will

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Dorothy Walkelyn, of Seal in the
2 county of Kent, **widow**, do make this my testament and last
3 will in manner and form following, that is to say, **First:**
4 I bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my maker, and to Jesus
5 Christ, my redeemer, by whose mercies and merits I hope to be
6 saved, and my body to be buried in the churchyard aforesaid.
7 I give and bequeath unto **my son Richard Walkelyn** thirty pounds
8 to be paid him within one year and 3 months next after my decease. The
profits
9 that shall arise or surmount if my said son Richard happen
10 to decease before he shall come to receive this said sum
11 at the time above expired, that then my will is that the said sum at
12 of 30 pounds shalbe divided in manner and form following:
13 that is to say unto **my son-in-law Thomas Walkelyn** 10 pounds and unto
14 **my son John Walkelyn** 10 pounds and unto **my daughter Dorothy**
15 **Brand of Wateringbury** 5 pounds and unto **my daughter Margery**
16 **Walkelyn** 5 pounds and the profits that may arise thereof⁸

17 I give and bequeath unto my daughter Dorothy Brand of Watering
18 bury ten pounds to be paid her within three months then
19 next after my decease and my great andiron of brass
20 and my cupboard that standeth in the hall.
21 I give and bequeath unto **my daughter Agnes⁹ Harman** 10 pounds
22 to be paid her within 3 months then next after my decease
23 and my brass cauldron that I did use.

24 I give and bequeath unto my daughter Margery Walkelyn
25 10 pounds to be paid unto her within 3 months then next
26 after my decease and an andiron that was my mothers and
27 a chafer dish of brass that was my mothers.
28 Also I give and bequeath unto my said daughter Margery my
29 bedstead that I lie in and the 2 beds that I ?? and the
30 best coverlet and 2 of my best pillows with 2 bolsters and
31 the blankets that belongeth unto it and my press that standeth
32 in the parlour.

From here the original is unreadable.

Clemence Walkelyn

Clemence Walkelyn (#1996) married **Thomas Hawker of Brenchley** on 4th February 1601; nothing further was recorded for Hawker and Clemence could have gone to live in Brenchley. If she had been a daughter of John and Dorothy, why did Dorothy not mention her in her will? If she was one of the John/Dorothy family, where could she have "fitted in"? She could have been the youngest child marrying at about seventeen. Otherwise, the longest gap between two baptisms is that between John in February 1577 and Dorothy in August 1579.

The Walklyns of Ightham

This name, with its numerous variations, is fairly common. There is no obvious connection between those described here and the Walkekyngs of Seal above.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i384 ¹⁰	<u>WALKLYN, James</u> ----- gent				1	3	
• i386	<u>WALKLYN, William</u>	7 Dec 1562			0	0	22 Dec 1562
• i503	<u>WALKLYN, Aleyne</u> (Alan)	25 Feb 1564			0	0	
• i504	<u>WaIklyn, Marie</u>	12 Aug 1565			0	0	
i974	<u>WALKLYN, Thomas</u> -----				1	2	
• i976	<u>WALKLYN, William</u>	4 Jul 1579			0	0	6 Jul 1579
• i977	<u>WALKLYN, Matthew</u>	18 Jun 1581			0	0	

"Elizabeth, daughter of -- Walklyne" was baptised on 27th May 1576; she could have been Thomas's daughter, born before William and Matthew above.

Matthew, born in 1581, could have been the Matthew brought before the Court Baron in 1618 and the Matthew burgled in 1630 - see below.

Grand Larceny

At the Rochester Assizes, 25 February 1585, **Thomas Wakelyn of Ightham, ploughwright** and **Richard Wimbball of Wrotham husbandman**, were indicted for grand larceny being charged with having stolen a lamb (3s) from an unknown man in Park Lane, Ightham on 4 February 1583, that is two years before the trial took place.

At the same Assizes, **Wakelyn** and **James Wood of Seal, labourer (#1308)** were charged with stealing a lamb (value 3s 4d) from an unknown man. On 31st January 1583, in a lane leading from Barrow (Borough) Green to Stonegate Cross in Wrotham, they stole a sheep (5s) also from an unknown man.

Whilst their crimes of two years previous had not resulted in a charge being made at the time, that of 28th January 1585 saw Wakelyn appearing at the Assizes in February of 1585 when all three charges were presented. On 28 January 1585, **Wakelyn** broke into the close of **Robert Richards, Esq.** at Wrotham and stole a

sheep (5s). **Wakelyn** was found guilty and sentenced to hang, **Wymbell** not guilty and **Wood** guilty but allowed benefit of clergy.¹¹

Thomas Walklyn could have been i194 above. Were the 1583 thefts not followed up because the victims were unknown?

James Wood was described as a labourer; how was he able to claim benefit of clergy? 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. This could have been memorised by an illiterate person before he stood trial. See page 2.w.270 for more details of James.

Local Misdemeanours

On 27th April 1587, **widow Walkelyn** was fined 12d because she had "[often taken from the common of the lord certain bundles of wood called shores \[props\], hedge-wood and cord-wood.](#)" (CRI 1937, p.206) Thomas's wife would, by 1587, have been a widow assuming the sentence on Thomas was carried out.

Widow Walklyn was only one of a number fined, at this court in April 1587, for infringing the rights of the lord relating to the common; the others were:

- **Thomas Walter** and **Thomas Ware** (i771), see page 2.w.45)
- the wife of **Daniel Syfelett** (i136 - see [Siflet in Families & Transcripts](#))
- **Robert Eglestone** (i2696 - see [Thrupp in More Families & Transcripts](#))
- "One Awcock" of Chart Common who was fined 12d for taking away and stealing "the wood of the lord upon his common, namely pales, hedge-wood and cord-wood." (CRI 1937, p.206).

On 26th October 1618 **Matthew Wakelyn** was found to have "made a nuisance by throwing 'pease hame'¹² in the highway between **Chaltonsgate and Bewley** and also [? alongside] a certain hedge on the east side of his barn there, to the serious inconvenience of the King's lieges passing and riding there. He has also obstructed the highway leading from Ightham towards the **Beacon** by throwing dung there. He was given till 25 December to abate the nuisances, under a penalty of 3s 4d in each case." (CRI 1937, p.202).

Chaltonsgate was south-east of Ightham village and the Beacon, one of a chain of ancient signalling beacons, was on the summit of Raspit Hill, north-west of Ivy

Hatch. (CRI 1938, p. 69, 66) Matthew could have been Thomas's son, i977, who would have been thirty-seven in 1618.

Matthew Wakelyn Burgled

At the March 1631 Assizes, **Henry Eagles** (i2770) of Ightham, labourer, was indicted for grand larceny. “On 1st October 1630 he broke into the house of Matthew Wakelyn, while the house was unoccupied, and stole 3 gold 22-shilling pieces (66s), 4 gold 11-shilling pieces (44s) and £4 in money”. This indictment was endorsed by Matthew Wakelyn as a “true bill”.

Eagles was found guilty and sentenced to hang.¹³

The Walkers of Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
i2508 ¹⁴	<u>WALKER, William</u> -----		1 May 1637	Helen Livermore	1 3	<Apr 1649
				i2509		
• i2510	<u>Walker, Grace</u>		12 Mar 1638			0 0
• i2513	<u>WALKER, Thomas</u>		12 Apr 1640			0 0
• i2627	<u>Walker, Sara</u>		8 Apr 1649			0 0

Only a few baptisms were recorded for the period 1641 to 1645 with dates often missing for those which were recorded. Sara was recorded as the daughter of "[Helen Walker, widow](#)" implying that William died before April 1649.

See [Families & Transcripts](#) for the Walkers of Seal.

¹⁴ "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

The Walkers of Kemsing

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
k506 ¹⁵	<u>WALKER, John</u> ----- gent				1	5	
• k508	<u>WALKER, Robert</u>	20 Dec 1601					0 0
• k509	<u>Walker, Mary</u>	22 May 1603					0 0
• k510	<u>WALKER, Edward</u>	16 Jul 1604					0 0
• k511	<u>WALKER, Richard</u>	15 Dec 1605					0 0
• k512	<u>WALKER, Renald</u>	1 May 1607					0 0

Edward Walker (\$1800) was buried in Shipbourne on 15 January 1644; he could have been John's son.

See [Families & Transcripts](#) for the Walkers of Seal.

¹⁵ "k" indicates a reference in the Kemsing database, \$ in that for Shipbourne

"In witness hereof, I the said Thomas Waller, have set my hand and seal the day and year above written

The mark **X** of Thomas Waller, gent, being
full of the pockes" (*pox?*)

witnesses include **George Stubberfield**

This will was written by John Hooper, notary public and parish clerk of Tonbridge, one of the Hooper family who wrote many wills over a long period of time.

1 In¹⁶ the name of god Amen. The last day of May in the
2 nineteenth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord, James, by the
3 grace of God, king of England, France and Ireland, defender
4 of the faith, the ??, And of Scotland the four and fiftieth. An d--
5 1621. I, William Walter of **Wisells Hoath** in the parish of Tonbridge
6 in the County of Kent, **yeoman**, being at this time of sound memory
7 and perfect remembrance (thanks be to god), notwithstanding sickly
8 in body and mindful of my last end, to the intent that no contention
9 may arise touching these worldly goods and possessions whereof God
10 hath given me part in this world, do ordain and make this my
11 testament and last will in manner and form following: **First** and principally
12 yielding my soul to God almighty, my maker, with an assured hope
13 of salvation through his mercy in the merit and mediation of his
14 dear son, Jesus Christ, my saviour, and my body to the earth in decent

15 manner to be buried. **Item:** I will to the poor of Tonbridge twenty
16 shillings to be distributed amongst them on the day of my burial at
17 the discretion or other appointment of my executrix. **Item:** I will and
18 bequeath to **my two sisters, Katherine and Helen**, twenty shillings a piece,
19 to be paid them with in half a year next after my decease and their
20 husbands to give acquittance therefore upon payment thereof. **Item:** I
21 will and give to **John Thorpe, my apprentice**, one ewe which ?? he
22 should have when he had served me three years, to be delivered him
23 within short time after my decease. **Item:** I will and bequeath to
24 **John and Marie, the brother and sister of my wife**, for a token of my
25 love to them, ten shillings a piece. **Item:** I give unto **John Walter, my son**,
26 thirty pounds to be¹⁷ paid to him by my executrix at his age of twenty
27 and three years. And if he decease before that age, I will that **William, my**
28 **son**¹⁸, shall have twenty pounds thereof and my executrix the rest.

29 The rest and residue of all my goods, cattells and chattels, I wholly and
30 fully give and bequeath to **Goodeth, my loving wife**, whom I make
31 the sole and only executrix of this my testament and last will upon

17 "bee" here but not everywhere

18 it appears that William is to receive something only if his elder brother dies and then only £20 of the £30 left to John

32 this condition that, if she marry again after my decease, that, then
33 within one month next after her said marriage, she pay or cause to
34 be paid to **William Walter, my son**, ten pounds of lawful
35 english money which I give unto him upon her such inter marriage and
36 not otherwise. And I desire and appoint **my good friends,**
37 **Mathew Parker** and **John Thistleton, the elder of Tonbridge** aforesaid,
38 **yeomen**, to be overseers of this my testament and last will to see so much
as
39 in them shall lie, that the same may take effect according to my mind and
40 true meaning. And for my said overseers pains herein to be taken I
41 give them five shillings a piece over and above their charges¹⁹ by this
occasion to be taken.

- . . . messuage or cottage . . . with the garden, backside and land . . .

- . . . all that messuage or tenement wherein I now dwell and all
- other lands, tenements and hereditaments in Tonbridge aforesaid or
else

19 spelled "chardges" in the original will

- where in the County of Kent not formerly willed to the said **John,**
- **my son,** Notwithstanding my will is that the said Goodeth, my wife shall

In witness

- whereof I have to this my testament and last will set my hand and seal
- hereon the day and year first above written.

- Read, sealed, published and declared

- **Mathew Parker, John Thistleton,** the mark of **M** **William**
- **Godfrey Jessop²⁰ and John Hooper,** notary **Walter**
- **public, sen.**

The Walters of Shipbourne

There were four Walter marriages in Shipbourne:

On 10th February 1617 **Thomas Walter** (\$1193²¹) married **Anne Masters** (\$1194)

On 26th June 1626 **Elizabeth Walter** (\$1401) married **Richard Browne** (\$1398)

On 12th February 1635 **Elizabeth Walter** (\$1631) married **Stephen Banks** (\$1629)

On 1st January 1648 **John Walter** (\$2118) married **Mary Chapman** (\$2129).

Nothing more is known about any of these people.

21 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

John Walter, Victim of Grand Larceny

On 16th April 1596 at Shipbourne, **John Walter** (\$2301) had an iron-grey mare (40s) stolen from him by **Richard Jorden** (\$2302) of Shipbourne, **labourer**.

At the July 1596 Assizes, Richard Jorden was indicted for grand larceny and **Richard Sleverick** (\$2303) was indicted as an accessory.

Also on 16th April at Shipbourne, Jorden and **Henry Daye** (\$2304), of Shipbourne, **labourer**, assisted by **William Bawcombe** of Shipbourne, **husbandman**, stole a grey gelding (£3) and a bay mare (50s) from **Richard Mann, clerk** (\$2305).

On 6th March 1596, at Sevenoaks, Daye (then given as of Sevenoaks) stole a roan mare (40s) from **Thomas Baker**. **Sarah Bawcombe**, wife of William Bawcombe (also now of Sevenoaks), husbandman, was indicted as an accessory.

Jordan was found guilty and was to hang; the others were at large.²²

William Bawcombe of Wrotham and his wife Sara had three children baptised in Shipbourne between 1582 and 1587 - see [More Families & Transcripts](#). It is probable that they were the accessories to the above crimes.

The Wamslies of Shipbourne

This is an unusual name so that it is likely that all these Wamslies were related. By 1590 they could have been headed by **Agnes Wamslie** (\$565²³) who was buried on 30th August 1592. **Margaret** (\$307), the daughter of **David Wamslie** (\$305), was baptised on 1st November 1584.

Margaret married **Thomas Hart** (\$781) on 22nd October 1603, just before her nineteenth birthday. **Thomas Hart, senior**, was buried on 21st February 1636. By that time Margaret's husband could have had a son, Thomas, of about thirty.

Edward (\$301), the son of **John Wamslie** (\$299) was buried on 17th July 1595.

There was another **David Wamslie** (\$1375) who married for the first time in the early 1620s - see the next page. He had no children by his first wife but named his second daughter after her. His second wife was Joane Page. The large Page family of Shipbourne is described in [Families & Transcripts](#) and also in [More Families & Transcripts](#) but it is not possible to decide who was Joane's father from the information available.

23 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
\$1375	<u>WAMSLIE, David</u> -----				2	5	24 Feb 1639
	<i>Marriage 1</i>			Mabel Wamslie \$1376	1	0	
\$1376	<u>Wamslie(m), Mabel</u> -----				1	0	16 Oct 1624
	<i>Marriage 2</i>		25 Apr 1625	Joane Page \$1377	1	4	
\$1377	<u>Page, Joane</u> -----				1	4	
● \$1378	<u>Wamslie, Elizabeth</u>	30 Apr 1626			0	0	
● \$1456	<u>Wamslie, Mabel</u>	30 Apr 1626			0	0	
● \$1457	<u>WAMSLIE, David</u>	8 Aug 1630			0	0	
● \$1458	<u>WAMSLIE, John</u>	22 Apr 1633			0	0	

Richard Wamsley, tailor

At the April 1565 Assizes **Richard Wamsley** (\$2295) of Shipbourne, **tailor**, was indicted for grand larceny. “On 6th October 1563 he broke into the house of Jeremy Brooke at Hadlow and stole 4 pairs of sheets (20s), 3 napkins (3s), a cloak (5s) and a coat (5s)”. He was found guilty but the sentence is not known.²⁴

At the same Assizes **Richard Wansley** of London, tailor, was also indicted for grand larceny. At the Assizes in the previous January a grand jury had presented “that on 5th October 1564 broke into the close of Jeremy Brocke, blacksmith [at Hadlow] and stole 2 mares (£5)”. Again, Wansley was found guilty but the sentence is not known.²⁵

Were Richard Wamsley and Richard Wansley the same person? It is strange that the two burglaries are a year apart less one day. At the April Assizes, before the indictments were presented, **Richard Wammesley** was a remanded prisoner. At

24 Cockburn (Eliz.I); 309

25 Cockburn (Eliz.I); 294

the next Assizes, July 1565, **Richard Wamsley** was a remanded prisoner and in March 1566, **Richard Wamslowe** was a remanded prisoner²⁶.

The easiest solution is to take it that there was one Richard Wamsley/Wansley/Wammesley/Wamslowe who was a tailor. In October 1563, broke into the house of Jeremy Brooke at Hadlow. He then went to London but, a year later, he again broke into the house of Jeremy Brooke/Brocke. At sometime between October 1564 and April 1565, Richard was arrested and at the April Assizes, where he arrived as a gaol prisoner, he was indicted with the two charges of grand larceny. In both cases he was found guilty but, for some reason he was not sentenced to hang, or, if so, there was some reason why the sentence was not carried out directly. Nothing more is known. Either he was hanged, kept in prison indefinitely or released/escaped.

The Wards of Hadlow

Two wills have survived for the Wards of Hadlow:

Richard Ward 1602 CKS: Drb/Pw 19; Drb/Pwr 19I.286

Elizabeth Ward 1612 CKS: Drb/Pw 22; Drb/Pwr 20.457

Since Richard's mother Elizabeth was alive in 1602, she could be the Elizabeth Ward, widow, whose will has survived but this has not been investigated.

Will of Richard Ward

transcript from original

1 I, Richard Ward of Hadlow in the county of Kent, labourer,
2 being sick in body but perfect in remembrance, thanks be
3 to god, do ordain and make this my last will and testament
4 in manner and form following: **First:** I will and bequeath
5 unto **Elizabeth Ward, my natural mother**, 20s during her

6 natural life²⁷ and, after her decease, unto **Elizabeth**
7 **Baker**, my sister's daughter.
8 **Item:** I give to my forsaid mother my cupboard during
9 her life and, after her decease, unto the foresaid Elizabeth
10 Baker.
11 **Item:** I will **Alexander Ward, my brother, 20s,**
12 my best hose doublet and my cloak and a pair of new sleeves
13 and a pair of cloth? stockings.
14 **Item:** I will unto **my brother William Ward 20s** during
15 his life and after his decease unto
16 **my sister ??'s son Reynold Carrier?**
17 **Item:** I will unto my brother William all my tools.
18 Also I will unto **my brother-in-law John Baker**
19 all the rest of my apparel except my best band? which
20 I give unto Elizabeth Baker, my sister's daughter.
21 I do ordain and make William Ward, my brother, my executor.
witness hereof **Thomas Reynold**
Thomas Corney
and **James Reynold**

27 is an annuity of 20s a year meant here? If so, where is a £1 a year to come from indefinitely - until the death of his niece? Or was his mother to have the 20s to "invest", having the interest herself but passing on the capital on her death to her granddaughter? Similar queries arise with regard to the 20s willed to his brother William and then to his nephew.

The Wards of Ightham

Thomas Warde (i553²⁸) had a son, **John** (i555) baptised and buried on the same day - 9th December 1564.

Robert Ward (i1277) had a son, **William** (i1279) baptised on 14th November 1585 and a Robert Ward was buried on 26th June 1610.

William Ward was buried on 1st July 1638. If he was Robert's son he would have been 52 when he died.

Margaret Ward, widow (i2441) was buried on 17th April 1631.

These are the only entries for Ward in the parish registers and there were just a few mentions in the Court Records:

- There was a fight in Robert Ward's house on 4th October 1603 - see [Robert Mathews of Ightham in Families & Transcripts](#)

- On 19th April 1604, **Robert Warde** was fined 3s 4d for having, "on 1 November last, assaulted **John Williams**, striking him with a stick and drawing blood." (CRI 1938, p.7).
- A **Robert Ward** was **churchwarden** 1605 to 1608 and a **borsholder** sometime between 1586 and 1618.

There is nothing to connect all these events with one person but they could all refer to #1277 above.

- **William Warde** was mentioned in the Court Records for 1586 to 1618.
- A **Thomas Warde** was mentioned in the Court Records for 1586 to 1618 and this could have been the Thomas whose son was baptised and buried on the same day in 1564.

There were no Wards mentioned in the Court Records in either the 1553-74 period or the 1697-1707 period.

Susanna Ware, spinster of Tonbridge

This will (PCC: Fines 236; Prob 11/202) is the only one to have survived for a Ware of Tonbridge: it was written by George Hooper one of the Hooper family who wrote many wills over a long period of time.

Susanna, not married, had two brothers and a sister, Elizabeth, married to William Denby and two brothers. She made Elizabeth and her husband joint executors of her will. Although Susanna's will did not mention land at all and could have, presumably, been proved at Rochester, her executors chose to have it proved at the Public Consistory Court in London. They would thus have had an expedition to London which could have been paid for from Susanna's estate.

Will of Susanna Ware of Tonbridge

written 7th April 1646

transcript from probate copy

- 1 In the name of god Amen.
- 2 The seventh day of April in the year of our Lord Christ one
- 3 thousand five hundred forty and six, I, Susanna Ware of Tonbridge in the

4 county of Kent, **spinster**, being at the present sick and weak in body
5 but of sound and perfect memory for which I praise God, to the intent that
6 that little estate which god hath blessed me with have, may be²⁹ enjoyed
with
7 love and quietness amongst these to whom I shall whereby dispose the
same
8 and therefore make and ordain this to be my testament and last will in
9 manner and form following, that is to say, **First** and principally I commend
10 my soul to the gracious acceptance of Almighty God hoping and assuredly
11 trusting to have the pardon and remission of all my sins and eternal
12 salvation by the only merits, death and passion of his dearly beloved son
13 Jesus Christ. And my body to the earth in decent manner to be buried. I
will
14 and give to **Robert Ware, my loving brother**, the bedsteddle which is mine
15 now standing at his house. And also my featherbed, bolster and pillow
16 now being at my dwelling house at the lower end of **Tonbridge Town**.
17 **Item:** I will and give to **Thomas Ware, my loving brother**, the sum of
18 ten pounds of lawful money of England to be paid him within three
19 months next after my death by my executors hereafter named. **Item:** I will
20 and give to **Katherine Denbye, my executor's daughter**, the sum of

21 twenty pounds of lawful money of England, to be paid unto her within
22 six months next after my death by my executors. **Item:** I give more to
23 the said Katherine my virginals, my new safe cupboard and all my books
24 and samplers or patterns. **Item:** I will and give to **Elizabeth Denbye, my**
25 **executor's other daughter**, the sum of five pounds of lawful money of
26 England to be paid unto her at her age of eight years. And my will is
27 that if the said Elizabeth shall decease before she shall have attained her
28 said age, then I will the said five pounds shall be paid to the said
29 Katherine Denby within short time after the death of the said Elizabeth
30 by my executors. **Item:** I will to **Goodwife Evans** my new iron pot, my new
31 iron kettle and one pair of my sheets. **Item:** I will that all my wearing
32 apparel shall be disposed of and given away by **Elizabeth Denbye, my**
33 **sister**, by what part and portions she shall please, to **Marie Hall, Marie**
34 **Bartlett, the daughter of Robert Bartlett, and Ruth, the daughter of John**
35 **Wybarne** as my said sister shall think fit. **Item:** I will that all other my
36 linen, not before disposed of, shall be laid and divided into two equal
37 parts, one part whereof I will and give to the said Katherine Denbye
38 and the other part thereof I will to the said Elizabeth Denbye, her sister.
39 The residue and all other my goods and chattels not before disposed of, I
40 wholly give and bequeath to the said Elizabeth Denby, my sister, in
41 satisfaction of the twenty pounds which should belong to her after my
42 death according to my father's will. And I make and ordain **William**
43 **Denby, my brother-in-law**, my said sister's husband, and the said Elizabeth,

44 my sister, to be the joint executors of this my testament and last will
45 upon condition they pay my debts and legacies aforesaid. And see my
46 body decently buried at their charges. In witness whereof, I have hereunto
47 set my hand and seal, the day and year first before written. Suzanna
48 Ware. Read, sealed, published and declared by the said Suzanna Ware to
49 be her testament and last will in the presence of Signum **William**
50 **Tinley, George Hooper.**

Thomas Ware of Ightham

Thomas Ware was married to Mary Gardner, sister of the Walter Gardner whose will of 1612 has survived - see [The Gardners of Ightham in More Families & Transcripts](#) for details of their family. Walter Gardner made his nephew William, the son of Thomas Ware, his heir and executor describing him as “[of Brenchley, tailor](#)”. In 1612, William would have been thirty-three.

Thomas appeared a number of times in the Court Records of Ightham mostly for offences connected with “strangers”:

- In 1586 he was fined 4d for "[not doing suit at the Court](#)" held on 14th April (CRI 1938, p.35)
- On 27th April 1587, it was found that "[Thomas Walter, a stranger and inmate, and Thomas Ware, an inhabitant of this View, have often cut the wood of the lord upon his common and taken it away with them. Fined 12d.](#)" (CRI 1937, p.206). At the same court, Ware was immediately fined 12d "[for receiving into his house Thomas Walter without finding sureties for his good behaviour.](#)" Walter was also fined immediately - 6d. Perhaps these immediate fines, which were unusual, was because they had been

found cutting the lord's wood. In addition, if Walter stayed without sureties being found, he was to be fined 20d and Ware 3s 4d. (CRI 1938, p.17)

- In 1586, **William Chownings** was a stranger within the View having been received by **William Sigas**; in 1587 Chownings was given until the next Court either to remove himself or find sureties and "six months later **Thomas Ware** was found to have received him into his tenement. On 17 April 1588, it was reported that Ware had removed Chownings. Whether the latter resented his ejection and showed his resentment we do not know but, a year later," at the Court held on 11th April 1589, he and Ware were both fined 12d for assaulting each other. "**Thomas Ware** assaulted **William Chownings** and struck him with his fists. **William Chownings** also assaulted **Thomas Ware** and struck him with his fists." (CRI 1938, p.15).
- On 22nd April 1590, "**David Warren and Christopher Owlton** in a certain cottage of theirs situated at **Redwell**, and **Thomas Ware** in a certain cottage of his at **Ightham**, do each of them allow two several households to abide - contrary to the law in that behalf made. But by the grace of the lord of the manor the prescribed penalty was remitted and they were given till the next Court to remove the inhabitants from the several cottages, under penalty 10s." (CRI 1938, p.10)

- On 8th May 1598, **Thomas Ware** was found to have received the "stranger" **Thomas Lowe** and was to be fined 40s if he stayed without sureties being found (CRI 1938, p.18)
- At the same Court he was fined 2s for having "since Christmas last, broken, stolen and taken away the hedge of **James Martin** at Ightham." (CRI 1937, p.218)
- On 20th October 1600, **Thomas Ware** was found to have received the "stranger" **John Vickers** and was to be fined 10s if he stayed without sureties being found (CRI 1938, p.18)

Thomas Ware's Copyholds

"**Thomas Ware** occupied two copyholds, **Tebbs and Patches**, both of which were on the verge of the common" and this land was mentioned in 1604 during **John Rootes's** dispute with the Court over a tree which he had cut down (CRI 1937, p.208).

John Terry, on the death of his father in 1556, became the tenant of Tebbis. In 1558, **John Hawke** surrendered "a message called Patches . . held by a copy of Court Roll, to the use of **Robert Gardner**" who was buried on 20th May 1595. (CRI 1938, p.47). Both of these copyholds "came in the fullness of time into the possession of Thomas Ware who left his holdings and went into Ireland, never to return. After three proclamations in accordance with custom, his property reverted to the lord of the manor." (CRI 1938, p.48)

The first proclamation was in 1616; the Thomas Ware who married in 1572 would, by that time have been in his sixties. Perhaps by 1616, his son Thomas, born in 1584 who would have been thirty in 1614, had taken over the copyholds. The extracts from the records given by Harrison tell the story (the spelling has been modernised:

2.10.1615 "Lastly the jurors upon their oath present in the following words in English, namely, that **Thomas Ware**, being a copyholder of this manor, did in Lent (last?) twelvemonth willingly go into Ireland, but whether he be dead or alive we know not. And therefore day is given to him to be at the next Court if he be then living upon pain of forfeiting his copyholds."

16.10.1616 "At this Court the first proclamation was made that if Thomas Ware, one of the customary tenants of this manor, or anyone else in his

place or name, wished to claim out of the hands of the lord of the manor a customary tenement and one acre of land called **Patches**, lying near the customary lands of the heirs of **Richard Hayward**, let him appear and be heard. And no one comes."

"There was a first proclamation in similar terms concerning the customary tenement and ten acres of land called **Tebbs**. A year later the second proclamation of both properties were made, without result, and on 26 October 1618, the third and last proclamations, all ending with the same sad, ringing phrase 'And no one comes'. And so Patches and Tebbs were forfeited to the lord of the manor." (CRI 1938, p.48,49)

See **Chownings, Gardner, Hawke, Martin, Rootes and Terry in More Families & Transcripts** for more details of these men.

The Wares of Seal

There were four Ware families in Seal between the 1570s and the 1650s but with no obvious connection between them although William (#3523³⁰) could have been the son of James (#787). **Johane Ware** (#1749) was buried on 24th April 1589 but no further details were given.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#787	<u>WARE, James</u> -----				1	4	
• #789	<u>WARE, John</u>	6 Jan 1575					0 0
• #864	<u>Ware, Mary</u>	16 Feb 1578					0 0
• #1118	<u>Ware, Jane</u>	27 May 1581					0 0
• #1255	<u>Ware, Elizabeth</u>	7 Feb 1584					0 0
#1450	<u>WARE, Andrew</u> -----			Elizabeth Ware(m) #1451	1	3	
• #1452	<u>WARE, William</u>	26 Jun 1631					0 0
• #3533	<u>WARE, Samuel</u>	16 Nov 1634					0 0
• #3534	<u>Ware, Judith</u>	1 Jan 1639					0 0

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#3523	<u>WARE, William</u> -----		2 May 1613	Joan Bardell #3524	1	7	29 Jun 1631
•	#3525 <u>WARE, William</u>	31 Dec 1615		"son of William and Joan Ware"	0	0	22 Jan 1639
•	#3526 <u>WARE, Drew</u>	12 Jul 1618	17 Jul 1652	Mary Brumfil married at 34 #3535	1	1	
•	• #3536 <u>Ware, Mary</u>		1 Apr 1655				0 0
•	#3527 <u>Ware, Joane</u>	9 Jan 1620			0	0	
•	#3528 <u>WARE, Andrew</u>	30 Jun 1622			0	0	
•	#3529 <u>WARE, Richard</u>	12 Dec 1624			0	0	
•	#1880 <u>WARE, Thomas</u>	31 Dec 1626			0	0	
•	#3530 <u>WARE, Peter</u>	19 Apr 1629			0	0	

At the March 1629 Assizes, William Ware was presented to the Grand Jury for selling “[beer without licence and in an unfit place](#)”. This did not deter him since at the next Assizes, in July, he was indicted “[for keeping an unlicensed tipping-house at Seal on 1st February 1629 and other](#)”. Writs of various forms were made against him at each of the Assizes up to July 1637.³¹

³¹ Cockburn (Chas.I) 437, 484, 557, 621, 718, 801, 914, 984, 1068, 1070, 1110, 1198, 1320, 1397, 1439, 1481

In those for July 1633 and March 1634, a **William Goldwell** (#4354) was associated with Ware. See [Unlicensed Tippling Houses in Section Z of More Families & Transcripts](#) for other similar indictments.

A William Ware was buried on 29th June 1631. Assuming all these writs applied to the same man, he cannot have been the one who was buried in 1631.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#695	<u>WARE, John</u> -----			Dorothy Ware(m) #696	1	3	
• #697	<u>WARE, Thomas</u>	25 Jun 1648					0 0
• #3531	<u>Ware, Mayvell</u>	17 Mar 1651					0 0
• #3532	<u>WARE, Henry</u>	1 Jan 1654					0 0

What is unusual about the Wares is that there no burials were recorded for any of the children.

The Warrens of Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i1314 ³²	<u>WARREN, John</u> ----- 				1	3	7 Jun 1609
i1315	<u>his wife</u> -----				1	3	6 Oct 1596
• i1316	<u>Warren, Elizabeth</u>	28 Feb 1587					0 0
• i1317	<u>WARREN, Robert</u>	16 Nov 1589					0 0
• i1712	<u>Warren, Sybil</u>	23 Nov 1595					0 0

John Warren and William Warren appear a number of times in the Court Records. John could be #1314 above; a **John Warren**, possibly his father, and also a William Warren were mentioned in the Court Records between 1553 and 1574.

- Both John and William. were fined by the Court held on 14th April 1586, William 4d for "**not doing suit at the Court**" and John 3s 4d for allowing his wife to spoil, break down and carry away the Lord's wood. (CRI 1938, p.35)

32 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

- On 22nd April 1590, **John Warren** was given until Michaelmas "to repair his fence opposite the land of **Richard Cornford** on the south and opposite a meadow of the said John on the north and opposite certain land of **William Warren of Charte**, under penalty 3s 4d." (CRI 1937, p.217)
- On 8th May 1598, "**Reginald Hasden, William Warren and John Warren**, tenants of this manor, allow their cattle to go and feed on the common after 1 May last, wherefore each of them has incurred a penalty to the lord, according to the tenor of a certain order." (CRI 1937, p.209)
- The Court held on 19th April 1604 ordered that **William Warren at Chart Bottom** was to be fined £5 if the "stranger" he had received - **John Hubble** - stayed without sureties being found for him. (CRI 1938, p.18). There were Hubbles in Seal - see **More Families & Transcripts** - and John could have been and the stranger could have been the John Hubble whose first child was baptised in Seal in 1615. Chart Bottom is the valley "now called **Styants Bottom**, which lies to the west of Oldbury Hill, adjoining Seal Chart." (CRI 1938 p.70)

A **Richard Warren and Robert Warren** were also mentioned in the Court Records between 1586 and 1618 but no details are given by Harrison.

The Warrens of Seal

The earliest record of a Warren in Seal was the burial of “old William Warren” (#1961³³) on 8th March 1593. A Richard Warren and William Warren witnessed the will of Alice Geston in 1562; William could have been “old William”, thirty years younger.

The Two Joiners

There were two joiners, William (#546) and Richard (#1120), sometimes referred to as “alias Joyner”; they could have been brothers and were probably the William and Richard Warren who witnessed the will of William Hadlow of Seal in 1587 although there other Richard Warrens in Seal at that time. Richard Warren, joiner, was recorded as a servant of William Porter of Hall (#58) when he was buried in September 1598. Families were recorded for both these men.

William Warren, joiner

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#546	<u>WARREN, William</u> -----				2	7	15 May 1609
		a joiner					
	<i>Marriage 1</i>						
#547	<u>Warren(m), Elizabeth</u> -----				1	3	10 Apr 1575
• #630	<u>Warren, Agnes</u>				0	0	3 Jan 1570
• #548	<u>WARREN, John</u>	13 Mar 1573			0	0	19 Mar 1573
• #771	<u>Warren, Elizabeth</u>	1 May 1574			0	0	<1580
	<i>Marriage 2</i>		15 Nov 1576	Mary Wade(m)	1	4	
#728	<u>Wade(m), Mary</u> -----		a widow when she married William		2	4	
• #1093	<u>Warren, Elizabeth</u>	30 Sep 1580			0	0	25 Nov 1592
• #1195	<u>Warren, Ann</u>	23 Jun 1583			0	0	
• #1644	<u>WARREN, Andrew</u>				0	0	28 Jul 1586
• #1320	<u>WARREN, Henry</u>	5 Dec 1585			0	0	

Other Seal Warrens

There were three other Richard Warrens in Seal:

- #1945 buried 14 Apr 1591
- #2005 buried 16 Jun 1605 servant of **Richard Hye**
- #769 buried 12 Sep 1613

Richard Warren and his wife Sybil (#770) had a son David (#1775) baptised on 24th November 1592. Sybil was buried on 9th July 1601 and a David Warren, who could have been #1775, on 6th June 1611.

Sybil's husband is most unlikely to have been the joiner since his wife, Agnes, did not die until February 1592; he could have been the Richard who was buried in 1613 (#769).

A Richard Warren married **Priscilla Symons** (#3539) on 12th October 1601. They had two children:

- Margaret #3540 baptised 11 May 1604
- Richard #3541 16 Mar 1606

Priscilla's husband could have been #769 marrying three months after Sybil died.

The Watts of Kemsing, Seal & Ightham

There were Watts in Kemsing for at least a hundred years from the 1550s; three wills have survived:

John Watts		1558	CKS: Drb/Pw 6; Drb/Pwr 12.282(1)	
William Watts	k331 ³⁴	23 Oct 1565	CKS: Drb/Pw8; Drb/Pwr 13.253	page 2.w.61
William Watts	k328	24 Jul 1566	CKS: Drb/Pw8; Drb/Pwr 13.261	page 2.w.64

John (whose will has not been investigated) and k331 were given as “of Heverham in Kemsing” in their wills and k328 when he was buried on 5th September 1566. His will was proved soon after his death with k331’s being proved only a short time prior to that of k328. Heverham is a hamlet to the east of the village of Kemsing.

In 1564 the burials of two children “of William Watts” were recorded:

on 29th January 1564 Elizabeth Watts (k330)
on 28th December 1564 William Watts.

William Watts, will 1565

The only relations William mentions are brother Thomas whom he made one of his executors, his sister Agnes Broughton to whom he left £5, a bed and a bolster and another sister married to John Bogas. Their son, William, was to receive £10 and their daughters, Anne and Jone, £2 each. Bogas is a name not otherwise met with in Seal or Kensing.

William's other executor was William Wigzell, presumably the William who had married Sylvester Watts in 1564 - see [Wigzell](#).

Also mentioned was Richard Watts who was left a black horse. He was one of a large number of beneficiaries including the children of William Pytchfork who were each to receive 6s 8d. Both these wills are just too early for many names to be found in the parish registers.

At the end of his will, William gave details of the debts owing to him (totalling £5 6s) and those he owed (£1 15s 8d).

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 The 23rd day of October in the year of our
3 lord god a thousand, five hundred, three score and five
4 I, William Watts, the younger, of **Heverham** in the
5 parish of Kemsing in the county of Kent and diocese
6 of Rochester, sick in body but whole and perfect of mind
7 and memory make my last will in this wise: **First:**
8 I bequeath my soul unto Almighty god and my
9 body to be buried in the churchyard of Seal
10 aforesaid³⁵. **Item:** I give to **William Bogas, the son**
11 **of John Bogas**, ten pounds. **Item:** I give to **Anne**
12 **Bogas, his sister**, forty shillings and to **Jone Bogas,**
13 **her sister**, 40s. **Item:** I give to **Agnes Broughton**
14 five pounds. **Item:** I give to **Jone Hills, the daughter**
15 **of William Hills**, ten shillings. **Item:** I give to
16 **Mother Mower** 3s 4d. **Item:** I give to ??
17 **Monney** 3s 4d. **Item:** I give to **Gilbert Monke**

35 definitely Kemsing above and Seal here

18 12d. **Item:** I give to **John Rumney's daughter**
19 of **Kingsdown** 12d. **Item:** I give to **my goddaughter,**
20 **Robert Dirling's daughter,** 12d. **Item:** I give to
21 **William Hasden** 3s 4d. **Item:** I give to **the children**
22 **of William Pytchfork** 6s 8d a piece. **Item:** I
23 give to **Richard Watts** my black horse and to
24 his wife 2 angels³⁶. **Item:** give to **William Masters**
25 6s 8d. **Item:** I give to **Agnes Foke** 12d. **Item:** I
26 give to **Agnes Broughton, my sister,** a ??
27 bed and a bolster. **Item:** I give to **my sister**
28 **Bogas** a tyke? for a featherbed. **Item:** I do
29 make mine executors **my brother Thomas**
30 **Watt** and **William Wigzell** and all the
31 rest of my goods unbequeathed I give them to
32 shift equally between them all my debts
33 that is owing, all the making of my last
34 will. **George Larder** oweth me £4 10s. **Christopher**
35 **Chowning** 3s 4d, **Walter Peritt** 8s, **John Chowning**
36 10s, **John Rumney** oweth me 2s 8d in money in
37 pasture. And my debts that I do owe as to

38 **Nicholas Walker** 31s 8d, **William Pitchfork** 4s.
39 witnesses to the same **John Monke** and **Thomas**
40 **Hills** with others.

William Watts, will 1566

In addition to 20 shillings to be divided amongst the poor of Kemsing, William gave 20s “[towards the mending of Corbney Lane](#)” and another 20s “[towards the buying of a mother bell for Kemsing](#)”.

William mentioned two sons, Richard and Thomas, in his will. Richard had married Margaret Porter, daughter of Andrew Porter of Seal, nearly a year before William wrote his will and they were to go on to have a large family. See [Porter in XP](#) for details of Margaret’s family. If Margaret was left a widow, William specified that she was to be paid an annuity of £2 by those to whom he had “[given and entailed](#)” his land and tenements.

Nothing more is known of Thomas who was left “twenty pounds to be paid to him at the day of his marriage”. It is most unusual for a will to specify that a son is to receive his inheritance when he marries as distinct from reaching a given age . A

bequest to a daughter specified on the day of her marriage or when she reached a specified age, whichever happened first. Was Thomas to get this money only if he married, however long he lived?

William was a popular choice for a godfather. He lists eight godsons, each of whom was left 12d.

Since none of William's grandchildren were born before he died, his descendants are given after the will. One of the witnesses to this will was Gilbert Jenyns, clerk, who was the vicar of Seal and Kemsing and probably wrote the will.

The Will of William Watts of Kemsing, 1566

written 24th July 1566

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The 24th day of July in the year of our
2 lord god a thousand, five hundred, three score and six. And in the eighth
3 year of the reign of our sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the grace
4 of God, Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of
5 the faith. I, William Watts of the parish of Kemsing in the
6 county of Kent, **yeoman**, being whole of mind and in perfect remembrance,
7 do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and

8 form following³⁷: **First**: I bequeath my soul to Almighty god,
9 my maker and redeemer, and my body to be buried within the church
10 yard of Kemsing aforesaid. **Item**: I give to the poor people of
11 Kemsing 20s to be distributed the day of my burial. **Item**: I
12 give and bequeath to every of my godsons 12d, that is to say, **Thomas**
13 **Hills, John Hadlow, William Mills, William Carrer, Robert**
14 **Smith, William Poelle, Thomas Watts and William Woodday,**
15 godchildren. **Item**: I will and bequeath unto **William Hasden** 6s 8d.
16 **Item**: I give to **Johane Hills** 20s to be paid to her by my executor
17 at the day of her marriage or else at the age of 21 years, the
18 which shall come first to pass. To **William Curde** 6s 8d.
19 **Item**: I give to **Mowers widow** and to **Elyn Foulks, her daughter,**
20 6s 8d. And to **George Foulks and his wife**³⁸ 6s 8d. **Item**:
21 I give towards the mending of **Corbney Lane** 20s and towards
22 the buying of a mother bell for Kemsing aforesaid 20s. **Item**: I be
23 queath unto **Thomas Watts, my son,** one bed called a

37 "folowing" in original

38 Was Elyn George's wife? George and his wife had six children baptised in Kemsing between 1566 and 1584 -see [Foulks in X2F](#)

24 featherbed and a mattress with a bolster and a kinlett³⁹, 2 blankets, one
25 pair of
26 sheets. Moreover, I bequeath to the said Thomas twenty pounds
27 to be paid to him at the day of his marriage. **Item:** I bequeath unto
28 **John Wigzell**⁴⁰ 6s 8d. **Item:** I give to **John Borgase**⁴¹, the younger,
29 five pounds to be paid unto him when he shall come to the full
30 age of fifteen years. The residue of all my goods and cattels, not
31 legated nor bequeathed now by me or any time given away, after
32 my debts paid and this my last will performed, I wholly give and bequeath
33 unto **my son Richard Watts** whom I ordain and make my sole exec
34 utor and performer of this my last will and testament, to see the same
35 wisely and truly executed and performed according ot the true meaning
36 thereof. And I ordain **Davy Poly** to be the overseer of this my last
37 will and testament and I do give unto him, for his pains
and labour 13s 4d.

39 coverlet?

40 a large Kemsing family; "Wygsale" here but usually Wigsell or Wigzell; no John was recorded in the family of the William Wigzell who married Sylvester Watts but he could have been William's brother

41 is this a variation of the name "Bogas" which occurs in the 1565 will?

38 This is the last will and testament of me, the said William Watts,
39 concerning the disposition and order of all my lands, tenements and
hereditaments
40 within the said parish of Kemsing aforesaid or elsewhere within the
41 county of Kent, made the day and year first above written. That is to
42 say, I give and bequeath to my son Richard Watts all my lands, tenements
43 and hereditaments within the said parish of Kemsing or elsewhere
44 within the said county of Kent, to have to the said Richard
45 Watts, and to the heirs male of the body of the said Richard
46 lawfully begotten. And for default of such issue, the said
47 lands and tenements to remain to the heirs male of the body of my son
48 Thomas Watts, lawfully begotten. And for default of such issue,
49 the said land and tenements to remain to the next heirs of me, the said
50 William. The said land and tenements to remain to the right heirs
51 of my said son Richard for ever. And also I will that, if it shall
52 happen that **Margaret, the wife of my said son Richard** that now
53 is shall happen to survive and out live the said Richard, her husband,
54 that those to whom I have given and entailed my said land and tenements
55 shall pay, or cause to be paid, unto the said Margaret yearly during
56 her natural life 40s to be paid unto her, or her assigns, quarterly,
57 by even portions, and for default or non payment of the said yearly
58 rent of 40s, or any parcel thereof, at any of the time or times that it
59 ought to be paid, being lawfully asked and demanded, it shall be law

60 ful for the said Margaret, or her assigns, to distrain anything
61 within the said tenement or upon the said lands, or any parcel
62 thereof and the same distress so taken to drive and to retain
63 until she shalbe full satisfied, paid and contented of the said year
64 ly rent of 40s, or any parcel thereof. In witness whereof I, the
65 said William Watts, have set my hand and seal to this my
66 last will and testament, the day and year first above written.
67 Witnesses at the ensealing

hereof: **Gilbert Jenyns, clerk**

William Masters

John Dames

Thomas Watts

Richard Watts

The Descendants of Richard, William's Son

<i>will:</i>	k328 William -		24 Jul 1566							
<i>bur:</i>			5 Sep 1566							

<i>mar:</i>	k303	k304/#264		k393						
	Richard - Margaret Porter		Thomas							
		20 Aug 1565								

<i>bap:</i>	k305	k306	k313	k307	k55	k308	k309	k310	k311	k312
	Richard	William	- Alice Bromplent	Richard	- Anne Chownings	Elizabeth	Robert	Joane	Gilbert	Sylvester
<i>mar:</i>	21 Dec 1566	8 Aug 1568	6 Oct 1587	4 Jul 1571	20 Sep 1575	10 Jan 1574	11 Dec 1575	3 Jun 1581	22 Apr 1584	13 Apr 1587
				10 Sep 1594						

<i>bap:</i>	k314	k315	k316	k320	k317	k318	k319			
	Richard	John	Stoehen	- Joanne Boning	Margaret	Dorothy	Thomas			
<i>mar:</i>	9 Nov 1594	1 Mar 1596	20 Nov 1602	7 Jul 1634	25 Nov 1597	29 Jan 1604	3 Nov 1605			

<i>bap:</i>	k321	k322	k323							
	Margaret	Nicholas	Jarvis							
	29 May 1637	29 Sep 1639	30 Jan 1642							

There are a number of ambiguities in the above tree. William Watts married Alice in October 1587. If this William was Richard's second son he married when he was only nineteen. The first recorded child was not baptised until 1594. Alice could have died and these children could be from a second marriage - or they could be the children of a different William. Or, they could be the children of this William with Alice's husband being a completely different William Watts.

If Richard's wife was k55, the daughter of John Chownings and his wife Alice Man, she was nineteen when she married, much less than the average age at

marriage but less exceptional than for a man. Their first recorded child was baptised over three years after the marriage and there is a gap of six years before the next child of a Robert Watts is baptised.

There was also a John Watts (k324) who had two children baptised in Kemsing:

Sylvester Watts (k326)	on 14th July 1605
Thomas Watts (k327)	on 26th March 1607

The Watts of Seal

There were Watts in both Seal and Kemsing but there is no obvious connection between the two families.

In addition to Steven's family, given below, the burial of Margery Watts (#2003)⁴², for whom no details were given, took place on 11th April 1601.

42 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

The Family of Steven Watts of Seal

Steven Watts of Seal married twice but, in both cases, there was a long time between the marriage and the baptism of a child. There was also a gap of over five years between the baptisms of his two sons. This is similar to what is known about the Watts from Kemsing. Did the Watts (except for the Richard who married Margaret Porter) suffer from a below average ability to conceive? Or do the details which have survived give an erroneous picture of what was actually happening?.

		#628					
	mar:	#629 Elizabeth Stone	-	Steven	-	Dorothy Bryan	#1650
		16 Jan 1576				15 Oct 1592	
	bur:	3 Apr 1592					

		#1110	#1394	#1582		#1908	
		Steven	Robert	Margaret		Mary	
	bap:	29 Jan 1581	4 Sep 1586	14 Sep 1589		6 Aug 1598	
	bur:	2 Apr 1596					

The Watts of Ightham

A **John Watts** was mentioned in the Court Records between 1553 and 1574 and **John Watts** (i1378⁴³) was buried on 29th January 1578.

Gregory Watts (i880), son of **Joane Watts** (i879), was baptised on 18th October 1576; there is no indication that he was a “base child”.

Richard Watts (i2263) had two children baptised in Ightham:

- William i2265 baptised 1 Apr 1627 buried 6 Apr 1627
- Sara i2450 14 Jul 1633

43 “i” indicates a reference in the Ightham database

The Watts of Shipbourne

John Watts (\$812) married **Elizabeth Joanes** (\$814) on 9th September 1604.

William Watts (\$947) married **Susan Baylie** (\$963) on 14th June 1610 by a licence from Rochester.

The Waymans of Shipbourne

The will of Simon Wayman, husbandman of Shipbourne (CKS: Drb/Pw 26; Drb/Pwr 21.71) has survived but it has not been investigated. His family has been built up from the parish register. Simon's first child was baptised and buried in Ightham.

<i>bur:</i>		\$393 ⁴⁴	Simon	-							
			25 Feb 1625								
		\$505		\$506		\$507		\$657		\$782	
	William	Dorothy	Johane ⁴⁵	William		Mabell	Dorothy				
<i>bap:</i>	4 Apr 1588	28 Dec 1589	2 Jul 1592	19 Jan 1595		27 Apr 1600	26 Jan 1604				
<i>bur:</i>	22 Aug 1588				\$395						
				\$1410 Maru	-	John	-	Elizabeth Lambert	\$1416 ⁴⁶		
<i>bap:</i>				17 Jul 1597							
<i>bur:</i>			2 Apr 1626								
		\$1498		\$1499		\$1500		\$1710		\$1880	
		Agnes		Mary		William		daughter		infant	
<i>bap:</i>		13 Sep 1629		19 Feb 1632		30 Mar 1634		26 Feb 1637			
<i>bur:</i>										10 Apr 1643	

44 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

45 Johane married Stephen Batchelor on 16th June 1616 - see [Batchelor in More Families & Transcripts](#)

46 married 6th June 1626, six weeks after John's first wife was buried

William Wayman, son of Simon Wayman, was buried on 1st September 1624. If this was Simon's son born in 1595, he was twenty-nine.

On 14th July 1602, “[Joane, daughter of – Bates, nourished at Symon Wayman's](#)” was buried. This was about halfway between the births of Mabell and Dorothy. Simon's wife may have been carrying out the duties of a wetnurse throughout her married life but this would have tended to stop her conceiving again. As it was, the gap between her last two children was nearly four years compared with only about two and a half between the others. See [Nursechildren in Section Z of More Families & Transcripts](#).

The Webbs/Niccolls of the Tonbridge Area

Many of the Webbs from the Tonbridge area were also known by the name of Niccoll (spelled in a variety of ways) and vice versa. Surviving wills include:

From **Tonbridge:**

William Webb	18 Feb 1596/7	CKS: 18.551; 18	page 2.w.80
John Webb (al.Nichol)	proved 1600p	CKS: 19I.121; 19	husbandman
Henry Webb (al.Niccoll)	proved 1613	CKS: 20.442; 22	page 2.w.92
Elizabeth Niccoll (al.Webb)	22 Jun 1624	CKS: 21.177; 27	page 2.w.100
John Webb (senior) (al.Nicoll)	proved 1629	CKS: 21.354; 28	page 2.w.115
Richard Niccoll	19 May 1634	PCC: Seager 74; Prob 10/529	page 2.w.119
Margaret Nicoll (al. Webb)	27 Feb 1644/5	CKS: 23.1; 31	page 2.w.109
Thomas Niccoll	19 Mar 1645/6; 1647p	PCC: Fines 68; 11/200	

Leigh:

William Webb (al.Niccoll)	proved 1622/3	CKS: 25	
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Shipbourne

John Webb (al.Nicoll)	proved 1637	CKS: 22.253; 29	see next page
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Hildenborough in Tonbridge:

John Webb	proved 1644	CKS: 22.636	yeoman
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John Webb from Shipbourne made a bequest of all his “[working tools](#)” but did not specify what these were and his occupation or standing is not given in his will. He appointed as his overseer Richard Bowles “[minister of the parish](#)”. This will has not been transcribed. See page 2.w.130 for more details of the Shipbourne Webbs.

Six of the wills were written by a Hooper (a family of scribes who wrote a large number of wills):

- William Webb's of Tonbridge by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne
- Henry, Elizabeth, John (1629) and Richard's Nicolls by Nicholas's son, John Hooper, a notary public and parish clerk of Tonbridge.
- Thomas Nicoll's by John's son George.

Only the first page of the will of John (1629) and the last page of Richard's have been transcribed. Richard cannot be Margaret's brother since, when Margaret wrote her will, Richard was living in the same house as she was. The end of Margaret's will is difficult to read and it is not possible to tell who wrote it. The film of Thomas's will of 1646 is very difficult to read and this will has not been transcribed.

William Webb of Tonbridge

William Webb was the usher of the Free School of Tonbridge and he appointed as his executors William Hatch, schoolmaster at the school and Robert Newman, mercer, of Tonbridge. The School was supported by the mercers. The first tasks his executors were set was, with the help of “such other honest neighbours as they shall appoint within some convenient time after my decease”, to “price all my moveable goods except my wife's wearing apparel only”.

Unfortunately the original is too damaged to read and the pages of the probate book are tightly bound so that, on the microfilm, the ends of lines on left-hand side pages are difficult to read. This makes it difficult to interpret exactly what was to be done when the appraisal had been made.

William's wife, Margaret, was to “have and enjoy to her own use all her wearing apparel, as well linen as woollen, whatsoever.” She was also to have “the sum of four pounds lawful money remaining in the hands of her mother” - had this been left her by her father who, by giving it into the custody of her mother, hoped to keep it from getting into the hands of her husband? William did arrange for her to have an annuity of £5 and it should be noted that, since it was accepted that a wife could own nothing in her own right, it did not mean that when arrangements

like this were made a husband was being hypocritical when he described his wife as “wellbeloved” in another part of his will.

William owned land in Sussex as well as in the Tonbridge area; four parcels of land and meadow in Tonbridge had descriptive names: Barnfield, Waterlake, the Paddock and the Wheat bread field.

William had a daughter, Anne, two sons called Thomas and a third son William. William left to the younger Thomas and William a considerable amount of land in Sussex and Tonbridge “together with all the barns, buildings, gardens, orchards, lands, meadows, pastures, woods and underwoods thereto belonging” which was to be divided “equally between them”. If they could not agree on the “parting and shifting of all which said tenements and premises to them willed . . . between themselves within one quarter of a year” after William reached the age of twenty-one they were to “choose and nominate, each of them, two men which shall apportionate and divide the same equally between them unto whole honest dealing and equal shift.”

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 The eighteenth day of February in the year
3 of our lord god, one thousand, five hundredth,
4 fourscore and sixteen and in the nine
5 and thirtieth year of the Reign of our
6 Sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of
7 God, Queen of England, France and Ireland,
8 defender of the faith, I, William Webb, **usher**
9 **of the free school of Tonbridge** in the county
10 of Kent, being at this present sick in body
11 but whole and perfect in mind and remembrance,
12 make this my present last will and testament in
13 manner and form following: And **First** and
14 principally I give and commend my soul
15 into the hands of Almighty god, my creator,

16 And to Jesus Christ, my redeemer, by whom
17 and in whom alone, I hope to be saved and
18 my body to be buried in the earth with an
19 assured hope of resurrection to eternal life.

20 **Item:** I give and bequeath
21 to the poor inhabitants of the parish
22 of Tonbridge aforesaid 13s 4d to be distributed
23 unto them within one half year after my
24 decease at the discretion of my executors.

25 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Anne Webb, my**
26 **daughter,** fifty pounds of lawful money

27 to be paid unto her at her age of twenty
28 years or at the day of her marriage which
29 it shall please god to come first, the which
30 sum I will, in the meantime, shalbe
31 employed by mine executors towards the
32 maintenance and bringing up of the said
33 Anne. And the said sum to be by them paid
34 as aforesaid. And if it shall happen the said
35 Anne to decease before the said age or marriage
36 as aforesaid, then I will the said fifty pounds
37 shall remain to **Thomas Webb, my second**

38 **son and William Webb, my youngest son**, equally
39 between them and to be paid unto them at
40 their several ages of one and twenty years
41 which sum I will also, in the mean season be
42 for, and to, the use of the maintenance of
43 Thomas and William at the discretion of my
44 executors, my loving and trusty friends,
45 **William Hatch, schoolmaster** at the
46 Free School and **Robert Newman**⁴⁷ of Tonbridge
47 aforesaid, **merc**er, whom I constitute and
48 appoint executors of this my will and testament,
49 desiring them to see this my will accomplished
50 according to the true meaning hereof. **First:**
51 I will that they, my said executors, with
52 such other honest neighbours as they shall appoint,
53 shall, within some convenient time after my
54 decease, price all my moveable goods (except?)⁴⁸
55 my wife's wearing apparel only . . .

47 the will of Robert Newman, mercer, was witnessed (and probably written) by John Hooper on 10th December 1604

48 pages tightly bound so that the ends of lines on left-hand side pages are difficult to read

56 and that all the same goods (together with)
57 such debts as are to me owing and not . . .
58 by this my will and as may conveniently
59 be gotten in and obtained by lawful means,
60 shall not amount to the sum of fifty pounds
61 aforesaid given to my daughter Anne . . .
62 so much money over and above as shalbe
63 out for the payment of any my debts,
64 funeral expenses, legacies herein otherwise . . .
65 probation of this my will and other expenses
66 whatsoever by my said executors to be paid,
67 expended or necessarily laid out, then (I)
68 will that so much as shalbe thereof (short)
69 shalbe paid by **my eldest son, Thomas⁴⁹**,
70 his heirs or assigns, out of the lands and
71 tenements hereafter in this will to (him)
72 given by the sum of ?? shillings (per year?)
73 until all the said fifty pounds . . .
74 money as aforesaid shalbe expended, paid
75 or laid out be fully paid. **Item:** I will

49 both his eldest and second son appear to have been called Thomas

76 the said **Margaret, my wife**, shall have and
77 enjoy to her own use all her wearing
78 apparel, as well linen as woollen, whatsoever.
79 And also the sum of four pounds lawful money
80 remaining in the hands of her mother and to
81 and ?? one Annuity of five pounds
82 hereafter ?? . This is the last will of me,
83 the said William Webb, made and declared the
84 day and year first above written concerning
85 the order and disposition of all my land and
86 tenements situated and severally lying and
87 being within the parish of Tonbridge aforesaid
88 and in **Whatlington**⁵⁰ **in the county of Sussex**,
89 or elsewhere within the counties of Kent and
90 Sussex. **First:** I will and bequeath unto Thomas
91 Webb, my eldest son, all that my messuage or
92 tenement situated, lying and being in Tonbridge
93 aforesaid, now in the occupancy of **William Harris**,
94 **the elder**, and situated next the **Schoolhouse**
95 there on the northside of the schoolhouse

50

about two miles north of Battle, twenty plus miles from the centre of Tonbridge

96 with the barn and edifice, closes and backsides
97 there unto belonging. And also four sendalls or
98 parcels of land and meadow severally lying and
99 being in Tonbridge aforesaid, one called **barn**
100 **field**, another the **Waterlake**, the third the
101 **Padock** and the fourth **Wheat bread field**
102 and containing, in the whole by estimation, eleven
103 acres, whether more or less, thereof be had,
104 To have and to hold all the said messuage
105 or tenement, barn, edifice, closes, garden
106 and backside and the said other four parcels
107 of land and meadow withall and singular
108 thappurtenances unto the said Thomas Webb,
109 my said eldest son, his heirs and assigns,
110 to the only use and behoof of the said Thomas
111 Webb, my said eldest son, his heirs and
112 assigns forever. Notwithstanding my will
113 and mind is that the said Thomas, my said
114 eldest son, his heirs, executors or assigns,
115 shall pay out of the said tenements and .
116. to him before willed, unto the said (Margaret),
117 my wellbeloved wife, yearly during the term
118 of her natural life, the sum of five pounds

119 of good and lawful money of England at
120 the feasts of Thannunciation of the blessed
121 virgin Mary and Saint Michael
122 Th'archangel by equal portions or within
123 fifteen days next after either of the said
124 feasts. And also one other Annuity of
125 forty shillings of like lawful money
126 unto the aforesaid William Hatch and Robert
127 Newman, their executors or assigns, to
128 be paid at the said feasts by equal portion
129 only for and during such time as the
130 sum of fifty pounds and other sums . .
131 expenses before specified be fulfilled with

132 said goods and debts afore specified. And
133 as often as it shall happen the said Anne
132 or either of them or any parcel of them to be
135 unpaid after either of the said feasts in which (my will)
136 said it ought to be paid by the said space of (fifteen)
137 days, that then and so often as any
138 . . Margaret, my wife,
139 . . William Hatch and Robert Newman
140 . . .

141 and distreign . . .
142 . . .
143 . until the said Annuities with all Arrearage of
144 then and all charge⁵¹ by that occasion sustained
145 to be lawfully satisfied, contented and paid.
146 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Thomas Webb, my**
147 **second son and William Webb, my youngest**
148 **son,** all that my other messuage or tenement
149 lying in Tonbridge aforesaid, now in the
150 occupancy of **widow Codd** with the garden
151 and little orchard thereto adjoining and
152 belonging and adjoining to the garden
153 belonging to my said tenement before given
154 to the said Thomas, my eldest son, on the
155 Northside thereof. And also all that my other
156 messuage or tenement called **Poppinghode**
157 lying in the parish of **Whatlington** in the
158 said county of Sussex, together with all
159 barns, buildings, gardens, orchards, lands,
160 meadows, pastures, woods and underwoods

51 probate copy, but not original, has a "d" in it

161 thereto belonging, containing, in the whole
162 by estimation, thirty acres whether more
163 or less, thereof be had lying in Whatlington
164 aforesaid, now in the occupancy of one
165 **Picise**, to have and to hold the said messuage
166 in Tonbridge and the said other messuage
167 in Whatlington withall the lands, gardens,
168 orchards, meadows, woods and underwoods
169 to either belonging unto the said Thomas
170 Webb, my second son and William Webb,
171 my youngest son, their heirs and assigns
172 to the only use and behoof of the said
173 Thomas and William, their heirs and assigns,
174 equally between them forever after the
175 parting and shifting of all which said
176 tenements and premises to them willed. I will,
177 if my said sons cannot agree between them
178 selves within one quarter of a year (after)
179 my said son William shall accomplish his
180 full age of one and twenty years
181 the dividing thereof that they, my said (sons)
182 shall choose and nominate, each of them, two
183 men which shall apportionate and divide

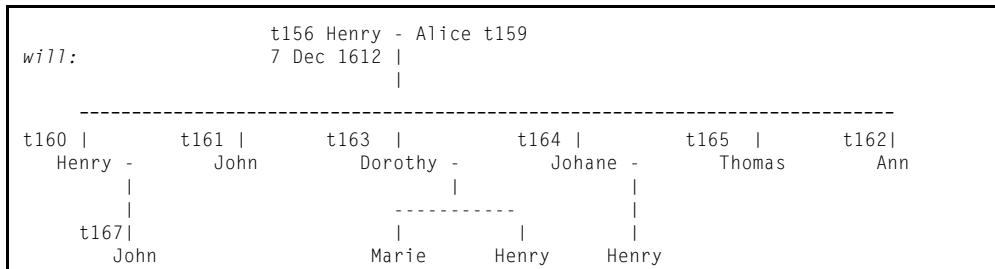
184 the same equally between them unto whole
185 honest dealing and equal shift. I will
186 they, my said sons, shall content and . .
187 And if it happen either of them, my said
188 sons, to decease before his full age of one
189 and twenty years, then I will all . .
190 whole premises with thappurtenances shall wholly
191 remain to the survivor of them and his heirs
192 forever. And if both die . .
193 . . to my eldest son, Thomas Webb
194 and to Anne Webb, my daughter,
195 and their heirs
196 forever. Anything herein before mentioned
197 to the contrary hereof in any wise notwithstanding. In witness whereof, to this my
198 last will and testament, I, the said William
199 Webb, have set my hand and seal
200 the day and year first above written
201 **William Webb**
202

Read and acknowledged in the presence of **William Harris, Thomas Fisher** and of me, **Nicolas Hooper, writer hereof** and others.

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Henry Niccoll, butcher of Tonbridge

Henry was a rich butcher with three sons and three daughters. Three who were married, Henry, Dorothy and Johane, were each to receive only five shillings, perhaps because they had already been “preferred”. John and Ann were to receive £20 each and Thomas £10 plus Henry’s messuage with appertinences. Thomas was to pay Henry’s wife (who was his executrix) an annuity of £8 (the will is not very clear and instead of £2 per quarter it could be a total of £2 per year).



The will describes Henry as “[being in good health](#)” and it was not proved for another eleven months.

John Hooper's mark

1 In⁵² the name of God Amen. The seventh day of December in the tenth
year of
2 the reign of our sovereign lord King James of England, France and Ireland.
And of
3 Scotland the sixth and fortieth 1612. I, Henry Niccoll als Webb of
Tonbridge in the county of
4 Kent, **butcher**, being in good health of body and of perfect memory, thanks
be to God, do
5 ordain and make this my present testament and last will in manner
following: **First:** I bequeath
6 my soul to Almighty God, my maker, with an assured hope of salvation
through his mercy in the merit
7 of his dear son Jesus Christ and my body to the earth from whence it was
taken. **Item:** I will and

52 decorated "I"

8 give to the poor of Tonbridge 5s to be⁵³ distributed in the day of my burial
at the discretion of mine
9 executrix. **Item:** I will and give to **John, my son**, and to **Ann, my daughter**,
to either of them
10 twenty pounds a piece of lawful english money to be paid to them, and
either of them, within one whole
11 year next after my decease by mine executrix hereafter named. **Item:** I will
to **Henry, my son**,
12 and to **Dorothy and Johane, my daughters**, to either of them five shillings a
piece to be paid within the
13 year next after my decease. **Item:** I will to **John, the son of my son Henry**, to
Henry, the son of
14 **my daughter Johane**, and to **Marie and Henry, children of my daughter**
Dorothy, twenty shillings
15 that is to say, to every of them five shillings of lawful english money to be
paid to them at their
16 lawful ages of twenty and one years or their several days of marriage which
shall first happen. **Item:**
17 I will and give to **Thomas, my son**, the sum of ten pounds of lawful english
money to be

18 paid to him within one year next after my decease by my said executrix.

19 **The Reasidue**⁵⁴all and every my goods, cattells , chattells and credits⁵⁵ I wholly

20 give to **Alice, my loving wife**, whom I make and ordain my sole and only executrix to see this my

21 will proved, my debts and legacies paid and my body decently buried. And I do ordain

22 and make **Richard Rigsby** and **John Everest**, my loving neighbours, my overseers of this my testament

23 to whom I give five shillings apiece of lawful english money for a remembrance of my good will

24⁵⁶ **This** is also my last will touching the ordering and disposing of all my lands and

25 tenements. **Item:**I will and give to the said Thomas Niccoll als Webb, my son

54 spelled in this way in a number of John Hooper wills

55 "creadits"

56 the lines of the rest of the will are inset

26 all that my message or tenement situated in Shipbourne in the county
aforesaid with all
27 and singular th'appertenances to have the same with all and singular
th'appertenances unto the
28 said Thomas, my son, his heirs and assigns forever, he and they paying to
Alice,
29 my loving wife, the sum of forty shillings of lawful english money to be paid
to her
30 quarterly, every quarter of a year, during her natural life by equal and even
portions.
31 And if the said Thomas or his heirs shall not pay the same upon every
quarter day
32 (?? the quarter day from the day of my burial according to the usual ??
33 of three months to the quarter) or within seven days next after every
quarter day,
34 the same being lawfully demanded at the said message, then upon any
default in paying
35 thereof contrary to this my will, I will it shall be lawful for my said wife and
her assigns
36 to enter into and upon my said message or tenement with
th'appertenances and the same to hold and enjoy
37 with all profit which shall come thereof during the whole term of her life
afterwards.

38 **In witness** whereof I have to this my present testament and last will set my
39 hand and seal yeven the day and year first above written.

His mark Henry Niccoll

Sealed, published,
subscribed and ??
in the presence of

John Hooper, notary publique.

Elizabeth Niccoll al. Webb of Tonbridge

Elizabeth was a widow with three sons, William (who was to be her executor), Richard (who was married) and John, and three daughters.. One daughter, Margaret, was unmarried and it is this Margaret whose will of 1644 has survived.

Another of Elizabeth's daughters, whose name is not given, married and had a son Thomas Browne but seems to have died since Elizabeth describes the large number of household items she left to her grandson as goods which "[were his mother's goods and given her by my mother](#)". These included:

- bedstead, bed, bolsters, pillows, bedclothes and other furniture thereto belonging whereon I now lie,
- the great chest in the room wherein I lie,
- the cupboard in the hall,
- a little chest with the linen in it which was his mother's,
- a table in the entry and the trestles and forms thereto,
- a trunkel bedstead,
- a brass pot, two kettles, a spit, a dripping pan, a great brass candlestick, a frying pan

Susan, another of her daughters, was married to John Darker and they had three sons - John who was to receive £3 and Edward and Thomas who were each to receive £2. These bequests were to be paid, within a year after her decease, to their father who had to give an acquittance to her executor for his children's legacies thus releasing her executor from being responsible for the payment a number of years later. This was a fairly common arrangement which obviously made it much easier for the executor, some of whom could otherwise be left with payments which had to be made up to twenty years in the future. This could often mean that the executor could die leaving his duties unfinished.

The legacies to her Susan's children were still further protected in that Elizabeth specified that their father was to [“put out their said legacies and employ the same](#)

for their benefit and advantage till their ages of twenty and one years. And then shall pay them the same with the benefit thereof." Sometimes, but not her, the testator specified that whoever was responsible for eventually paying the legacy had to accompany it with a detailed account of how the money had been used in the interim.

Elizabeth's Son-in-Law, John Darker

Susan's husband can be identified from Margaret's will as the John Darker of Seal. Five of his children were baptised there between 1619 and 1632. Except for Miles who died in 1627, they plus their elder brother John, were Margaret's main heirs, their father being her executor. Perhaps Susan returned to her family in Tonbridge for the birth of her first child. Details are given in the tree on the next page.

John Darker was mentioned in the Knole Manuscript of 1648 as an inhabitant of Seal - see [XZ](#); from Margaret's will he was a tailor.

Elizabeth's Family

	- Elizabeth t85				#733 John Darker -			
will:	22 Jun 1624							

t86	t87	t89		t90	t91	#1598	#1597	
William	Richard -	Margaret		??? - ??	Browne	John	Susan -	John
Miles ⁵⁷								
will:	27 Feb 1645							

t93	t94	t95	t96	t97	t99			
Richard	William	Ellen	John	Thomas	Thomas			

	t101	#2502	#2503	#2504	#2505	#2506		
	John	Edward	Thomas	Ann	Miles	Mary		
bap:		14 Feb 1619	22 Feb 1624	7 Jan 1627	2 May 1629	23 Mar 1632		
bur:						3 Apr 1639		

57 twin sons baptised, in Seal, on 25th April 1590

1 In the name of god Amen. The two and twentieth day of
2 June in the year of our lord god one thousand, six hundred and twenty and
3 I, Elizabeth Niccoll, als. **Webb of Tonbridge**, in the county of Kent, **widow**,
4 for the settling of my temporal ?? that no contention may arise there about
5 after my
6 decease amongst my children do ordain and make this my testament and
7 last will in
8 manner and form following: **First:** therefore, recommending my soul unto
9 Almighty God with
10 confidence of his mercy and of everlasting life by Jesus Christ, his son. I
will and bequeath
11 unto **my grandchild, Thomas Browne**, the sum of twenty pounds which **my**
12 **son William** oweth me by bond to be paid him by my son,
13 William, my executor hereafter named, his executors or assigns, at his age
14 of twenty and
15 one years. And it, till that time, to be and remain in the hands of the said
16 William, his executors

11 or assigns, without any use or allowance to be given or yielded for his
pains. And if the said
12 Thomas shall decease before his said age, I will the said twenty pounds to
my daughters,
13 **Margaret and Susan,** equally between them, to be paid them within one
year next after the said
14 decease of the said Thomas. And if my said daughters, or either of them,
shalbe then deceased,
15 then her and their children so deceased to have her part of the said £20
equally between them.
16 And also I will to the said Thomas, my grandchild, these parcels of goods
and household stuff
17 hereafter mentioned, that is to say, the bedstead, bed, bolsters, pillows,
bedclothes and other
18 furniture thereto belonging whereon I now lie, the great chest in the room
wherein I lie,
19 the cupboard in the hall, a little chest with the linen in it which was his
mother's, A table
20 in the entry and the trestles and forms thereto, A trunkel bedstead, a brass
pot, two kettles,

21 a spit, a dripping pan, a great brass candlestick, a frying pan and one ??⁵⁸
of pewter
22 ?? Those of these goods were his mother's goods and given her by my
mother. All which goods I will shall
23 remain with my son William, or with whom he shall think fit, for the use of
the said
24 Thomas until his age aforesaid and then to be delivered to him. And if the
said Thomas
25 shall decease before his said age, Then I will all the said goods and
household stuff shalbe
26 to **my sons and daughters** that shalbe then living equally amongst them. I
will and give
27 to **Margaret, my daughter**, the sum of thirty pounds of lawful and good
english money
28 within the chest with lock and key hereafter, by me, willed unto her⁵⁹. And
also I will and give to the said Margaret, these parcels of goods
29 and household stuff hereafter mentioned to be delivered to her presently
after my decease,

58 "vosen"?

59 original line crossed out and replaced with this

30 that is to say, one of my kyne to be taken at her choice, the featherbed,
bedstead and
31 furniture which my mother gave her, my best coverlet, my joined chest that
hath lock and key
32 and the linen and the said thirty pounds therein, the table that is folded by
the entry, the settle in the hall, two
33 pewter vessels and two pewter platters, two flat vessels of pewter, two
porringers, one
34 candlestick of brass, one dozen of --ouchers, A wooden platter, my wooden
wheel and
35 Storkard⁶⁰, A brass pot, the cupboard in the lower chamber, A great spit, A
chafer,
36 A dripping pan, two trugs, A keeler and a kylderkyne and all? hemp? and
pewter in the
37 chest with lock and key and my ?? and carpet.
38 **Item:** I will and give unto **John Darker and Susan, his wife, my daughter,**
the sum of
39 twenty pounds which is in the little chest given to Thomas Browne, my
grandchild.
40 And also I will and give to the said

60 probably a spinning wheel but what was a Storkard/Steckard?

41 Susan, one of my kyne to be chosen by the said Susan after her sister
Margaret hath
42 made her choice. And also one pair of sheets and a brass chafer. The said
twenty pounds,
43 the said cow and goods to be delivered presently after my decease. **Item:** I
will and give unto
44 **John, the son of the said John Darker and Susan**, the sum of three pounds
of lawful
45 english money. And to **Edward and Thomas, their two other sons**, forty
shillings,
46 a piece, of lawful money. And I will that the said three sons of the said
John Darker
47 and Susan, shalbe paid their said legacies in this manner by my executors:
That is to say
48 their said legacies shalbe paid to their said father, John Darker, to their
uses, within one year
49 next after my decease by my said executor. And upon payment thereof so
made, my said executor
50 shalbe discharged against the said children. And I will that the said John
Darker shall
51 give an acquittance, to my said executor, for his said children's legacies
upon payment thereof

52 And shall put out their said legacies and employ the same for their benefit
and advantage till their
53 ages of twenty and one years. And then shall pay them the same with the
benefit thereof. **Item:**
54 I will and give unto **my son Richard's wife** my best gown, best petticoat,
waistcoat? and
55 hat. **Item:** I will that my daughters, Margaret and Susan, shall or may have
convenient
56 standing and being? for their household goods aforesaid in the house
wherein I dwell until they
57 can, or may, conveniently have away the same and that my executor shall
bestow and give
58 among the poor at my funeral twenty shillings and shall suffer my
daughters to shift my
59 wearing linen and my other wearing apparel not before given away.
60 And my will and mind is that the said William, my son, shall have and take
61 into his hands my ready money (not formerly bequeathed) And such and so
much of my goods and household stuff, coarne⁶¹, debts
62 and cattell, (not formerly bequeathed), indifferently to be preferred As shall
extend to the

61 com?

63 payment of {*rest of this line and next crossed out*}

65 all my debts, the said legacies formerly willed to John, Edward and
Thomas Darker, my
66 daughter Susan's children, my funeral expenses, the chardges of the
probation of this
67 my will and of his travel thereabouts of ?? my goods, my overseers'
legacies and
68 chardge⁶² of tea--- about this my will if any be. And any other chardge
necessary
69 occasioned by my death or by this my will. ?? I will and give the
70 residue and remainder of all my said moneys, goods, coarne, cattell, debts
and chattels
71 unto the said **William, my son, And to John and Richard, my sons**, equally
to be divided
72 and shifted between them my said three sons.
73 And I make and ordain the said William, my son, my executor, for the
execution of
74 this my testament and last will. And **my good friend, John Frenche of
Otford** I

62 "charge"; spelt similarly further along this line and in other places

75 make Overseer the same, that it may take effect according to my mind or
true meaning.
76 And I give the said John Frenche six shillings eight pence for his pains
herein to be taken
77 over and above his chardges thereabouts to be sustained. In witness
whereof I have
78 to this my testament and last will, set my hand and seal hereon the day
and year first
79 above written.

?? **E** Elizabeth Niccoll
als. Webb

Published, sealed and declared
with the words interlined and scratched
out in five places of the first leafe
and in three places⁶³ of this present
leafe before then sealing hereof by
the appointment of the testatrix

63 on this leafe (page), which started at line 47, "any" was changed to "the" on line 50, "not formerly bequeathed" was inserted on line 61 and nearly two lines were "scratched out" in the middle of the page

in the presence of:

John French⁶⁴

John Hooper sen⁶⁵ ?? Blackhouse

Margaret Niccoll al. Webb of Tonbridge

Margaret was Elizabeth's daughter who remained a spinster, probably in her fifties when she died. She owned a third part of a messuage in Hildenborough (just north of the Tonbridge and then in the parish of Tonbridge. Also living in this messuage was her brother Richard and Thomas Larkin.

She made her brother-in-law, John Darker, her executor and it was her sister Susan's family who were her heirs. She mentions her two brothers, William and Richards and Richard's five children leaving each of them just a shilling each. She does not mention her brother John who had perhaps died by this time.

64 looks like a signature

65 senior?

Margaret's portion of the message was to be "sold to the best advantage . . . and the money . . . put out into able and sufficient mens hands" with John and Susan to receiving the interest during their lives. When they died the full sum of money was to be equally divided equally amongst all their children.

When Susan died, her eldest daughter Ann was to have Margaret's "joined bedstead in the parlour chamber with a featherbed, a feather bolster and a feather pillow, three white blankets, a red and black coverlet, a pair of sheets marked with W.M., a pillow coat and a silver pin". Her other daughter, Mary, was to have a black and yellow "coverlet, a red and blue striped carpet, one blanket and a pair of sheets, a pillow and a pillow coat" and also a "childbed sheet".

Will of Margaret Niccoll al. Webb of Tonbridge

written 27th February 1644/5

transcript from original

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The 27th day of February 1644, I, Margaret Niccoll als Webb of Tonbridge within the county of
- 2 Kent, **spinster**, being at time in perfect health and of sound memory do commit my soul to god, my saviour and my body to be
- 3 buried in Tonbridge churchyard. And for such worldly goods as god hath lent me, I do hereby dispose of as followeth:

4 **Imprimis** I give and bequeath all and every the part purparty? and portion
of me, the said Margaret Niccoll als
5 Webb, namely one third part of and in three to be⁶⁶ divided of all that
messuage or tenement wherein I, the said
6 Margaret Niccoll als Webb, **Richard Niccoll als Webb, my brother,** and
Thomas Larkin now live, situated in **Hilden**
7 **borough** in Tonbridge aforesaid. And of all the houses, barns, buildings,
gardens, orchards and forestalls thereunto
8 belonging. And two pieces or parcels of land (now made into three
severally) next unto the said messuage or
9 tenement adjoining containing, in the whole, by estimation six acres (more
or less) together situated, lying
10 and being in the said parish of Tonbridge in the county aforesaid, that is to
say, lying and bounding to the highway
11 leading between Tonbridge Town and **Sevenoaks** south, to the lands late of
Thomas Chowne and now of
12 **Edward Dixon Esquire** towards the east, to the lands of **William Johnson,**
Esquire, late the lands of **John**
13 **Gurley,** deceased, northwest and to other the lands of the said Edward
Dixon towards the north and east.

14 And also all other my part, portion, demand and interest of, in and to the
said messuage, lands and premises I
15 purchased of Richard Niccoll als Webb, my brother, as by the deed ??
more at large appeareth, unto
16 **John Darker of Seal** in the county aforesaid, **taylor**, and to **Susan, his wife**,
during the term of their
17 natural lives and, after their decease, unto the then sons and daughters of
the said John and
18 Susan for ever. Now my true intent and meaning is that this my part,
property and portion of the
19 said messuage, lands and premises be sold to the best advantage after my
decease and the money to be
20 put out into able and sufficient mens hands, the said John and Susan to
receive the interest during their
21 lives and after their decease, the full sum of money so put forth to be
equally divided amongst all
22 the then sons and daughters of the said John and Susan by even and equal
portions.

23 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Ann Darker, eldest daughter** of the said
John and Susan Darker, after
24 the decease of the said Susan, her mother, my joined bedstead in the
parlour chamber with a

25 featherbed, a feather bolster and a feather pillow, three white blankets, a
26 red and black coverlet, a pair
of sheets marked with W.M., a pillow coat and a silver pin. And if the said
Ann Darker happen to die
27 unmarried, my will is that **Mary Darker, her sister**, shall have the said bed
and all other appurtenances
28 bequeathed to Ann. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto Mary Darker,
youngest daughter of the said John
29 and Susan, my coverlet black and yellow, a red and blue striped carpet,
one blanket and a pair of sheets,
30 a pillow and a pillow coat but, if she happen to die unmarried, my will is
that Ann Darker, her sister,
31 shall have the said coverlet and all other things before bequeathed to the
said Mary. **Item:** I give and bequeath
32 all my linen, pewter, brass and iron household stuff unbequeathed unto
Ann Darker and Mary Darker aforesaid to be
33 equally divided between them after my decease. **Item:** I give and
bequeath unto **Susan Darker, my sister**, all
34 my wearing apparel whatsoever. **Item:** I give unto **Thomas Darker,**
youngest son of the said John⁶⁷ a plain

35 boarded chest. And unto Ann Darker my great wainscot chest, to Mary
Darker my trunk in my chamber. **Item:**
36 I give unto **William Niccoll als Webb, my brother**, one shilling and to
Richard Niccoll als Webb, my brother, one shilling
37 and to **Richard, the younger, his son**, one shilling and unto **William, his
second son**, one shilling, to **John, his third
38 son**, one shilling, to **Thomas, his fourth son**, five shillings and to **Ellen, his
daughter**, one shilling within
39 twelve months next after my decease. **Lastly**, I appoint and desire my
loving brother-in-law, John Darker, aforesaid
40 executor of this my last will and testament and **Andrew Hoadly**, my kind
friend, overseer and do give my said overseer
41 for a remembrance five shillings. **Item:** I give unto my said executor all
other household stuff, trugs, ??
42 and goods whatsoever not disposed of before in this my last will and
testament now remaining in the messuage or
43 tenement aforesaid to be taken and carried away at his pleasure after my
decease and also five pounds now
44 owing me by William Niccoll als Webb, brother to ?? . **Item:** I give unto
Mary Darker aforesaid a
45 sheet with a ?? ?? in the middle and unto Edward, John and Thomas
Darker, sons of the said John

46 ?? each of them a pair of sheets after my decease. In witness whereof I,
the said Margaret
47 have hereunto set my hand and seal dated the day and year first above
written ?? Carol, Roger ??
48 ?? ??

Sealed and delivered
als Webb
in the presence of

The mark **M** of Margaret Niccoll

 ?? the mark of Andrew Hoadly
?? ?? the mark of Thomas Larkin

John Niccoll al. Webb, husbandman of the Brooke

The list of household goods, etc. belonging to John Niccoll, husbandman, includes some interesting items: “all my bedsteads, all my tables, frames and trestles, all my cupboards, shelves and chairs, my hornmills, my powdering troughs, my kneading troughs and my bunting hutch”.

He left the bed whereon he lay “with all things thereto belonging except the bedstead”. What was meant by “bedstead” here?

Will of John Niccoll al. Webb of Tonbridge

written 7th September 1628

transcript of first page from original

- 1 In⁶⁸ the name of God Amen the seventh day of September in the
- 2 year of our Lord God one thousand six hundred, twenty and eight. I,
- 3 John Niccoll, als Webb, the elder of the Brooke in the parish of Tonbridge

68 slightly decorated “I”

4 in the county of Kent, **husbandman**, being⁶⁹ of good and perfect memory,
(praised
5 be God) and desirous that no contention about any my wordly goods might
arise after
6 my decease, do ordain and make this my testament and last will in manner
and form following.
7 **First:** I commit my sole to almighty God, my maker, with an assured hope
of salvation
8 through his mercy in the merit and mediation of Jesus Christ, my saviour,
my body
9 to the earth in decent manner to be buried at the equal charges of mine
executors⁷⁰
10 hereafter named. **Item:** I will and give to **Anne Rich, my daughter**, whom I
11 have preferred for a token of my love three shillings and four pence.
12 **Item:** I will and give to **Daniell, my brother**, ten shillings per anno. To be
paid him
13 by my wife during her natural life quarterly by equal portions. **Item:** I will
14 and give to **Thomas, my son**, all my wearing apparel. **Item:** I will and give
to

69 "beeing", "bee" throughout

70 a most unusual instruction

15 **John, my son**, and to **John, his son, my godson**, and to their executors and
assigns all those
16 parcels of my household stuff and goods, viz. All my bedsteads, all my
tables, frames and
17 trestles, all my cupboards, shelves and chairs, my hornmills, my powdering
troughs⁷¹,
18 my kneading troughs and my bunting hutch saving that my will is that
Alice, my wife,
19 shall have and may use the same as they now stand at all needful times
during her widowhood
20 after my decease. **Item:** I will and give unto the said Alice, my wife, the bed
whereon
21 I lie furnished with all things thereto belonging except the bedstead. And
also I give
22 unto the said Alice all my linen of all sorts.
23 The residue of my goods, cattell, chattells and crdits, I give to the said
Alice, my wife
24 and to the said John, my son, equally to be divided and shifted between
them

71 "troffs"

Richard Niccoll al. Webb of Tonbridge

Richard's will was written on 19th May 1634 and proved on 7th August. Only the last page has been transcribed but this includes a number of interesting points:

- the word "legatary" is used instead of the more usual legatee
- each legatary was to give an acquittance to Richard's executor when he received his legacy. In the case of a child, the father was to give the acquittance. Other wills include the giving of acquittance where a parent is to receive the gist and in other special circumstances but the blanket specification for all legacies has not been met with elsewhere.
- Richard asks for forty shillings to be spent on a winding sheet
- another forty shillings was to be spent on "wine and cakes and such like" for those that accompanied his "corpse to be buried"; corpse is another word which is rarely used.
- the four "bachelors" who carried his body to the grave were to share 20s between them. Other testators give money to the men carrying their body to the church but it is unusual for these men to be specified as bachelors.

- **Richard Parfey**, my godson, fifty shillings; to **John Hooper**⁷², scholar of
- **Cambridge**, twenty shillings; to **John Gilbert** of Tonbridge, my
- mourning cloak; to **John Beath** of Southborough, ten shillings.
- To **Mr Tooley**, forty shillings; to **Julian Norton**, twenty shillings.
- To **Mrs Mary Tarrey**, widow, forty shillings. And to **William**
- **Bartholomew**, servant and gardener to my said ho^{ble} ⁷³ Earley? & Mr.
- ten pounds of lawful English money. All my former legacies by
- me bequeathed, I will shalbee paid within six months next after my
- decease by the said William Bartholomew who I make and
- ordain the sole executor of this my testament and last will, to see the same
- paid and my body decently brought to the earth. **Item**: I will that
- every legatory herein named, upon request and payment of his, her
- and their legacies shall give an acquittance and several acquittances to my

72 John Hooper, notary publique (and writer of this will) had a son John baptised on 30th November 1613 who would thus have been twenty when this will was written. Was he the scholar at Cambridge?

73 honourable

- executor for the same. And where any legatary shall bee⁷⁴ within age,
- I will that the parent of such legatary shall give his acquittance upon
- payment of his child's legacy, whereupon my said executor shalbee
- discharged
- thereof. **Item:** I will that my executor shall bestow upon a winding sheet
- for me forty
- shillings. & shall give the minister that shall preach at my funeral, for his
- pains, twenty
- shillings. And shall bestow in wine and cakes and such like upon those
- that shall accompany
- my corpse to be buried forty shilling. And to four bachelors to carry me to
- my
- grave shall pay 20s equally between them.

- In witness whereof the said Richard Niccoll have to this my testament and
- last will set
- my hand and seal. Dated the day and year first above written.
- The mark of the said Richard Niccoll

Seal, subscribed , published
& declared in the presence of
Thom. Tarrey, Vic. de Tewdley⁷⁵
Walter Fathers &
John Hooper, notar. pbq.

The Nicols, alias Webb, of Seal

John Nicols, alias Webb (#3011⁷⁶) married Susan Kempe (#3009) on 19th September 1630.

John Nicols, alias Webb married Jane Parker, widow, (#3549) on 30th June 1642.

No children were recorded for either marriage.

⁷⁵ embellished sigbature of the viacr of Tudeley

⁷⁶ # indicates a reference in the Seal databse

The Webbs of Ightham

There were numerous small Webb families in the locality. Those whose names were often given as Niccoll alias Webb are described above - page 2.w.76 onwards. The first two children of John Webb of Seal were baptised in Ightham but otherwise there are no obvious connections between the Webbs of Ightham and those from Seal and Shipbourne and those from each parish are therefore described separately.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i1247 ⁷⁷	<u>WEBB, William</u> -----				1	6	1 Dec 1601
● i1392	<u>Webb, Joane</u>				0	0	6 Sep 1584
● i1249	<u>WEBB, Thomas</u>	21 Apr 1584			0	0	
● i1250	<u>Webb, Elizabeth</u>	19 Sep 1585			0	0	
● i1251	<u>Webb, Anne</u>	6 Oct 1588			0	0	
● i1252	<u>WEBB, William</u>	30 Jan 1592			0	0	
● i1253	<u>Webb, Marie</u>	20 Aug 1594			0	0	23 May 1596

An Anne Webb married **John Latter** (i2011) on 8th August 1602 but William's daughter would have been only thirteen at that time.

A **William Webb, miller**, was mentioned in the Court Records for 1553 to 1574; perhaps this was the father of #1247 above.

William Webb's Appearances Before the Court Baron

See *Excerpts from the Ightham Court Rolls* in **Section Z of Families & Transcripts** for details of how, in 1587, the wife of William Webb escaped punishment as a common brawler, quarreller and disturber of the peace. William Webb himself appears a number of times:

- On 4th April 1590 he was given till Michaelmas to "repair sufficiently his fence lying south-east opposite the land of **Richard Syflet**" under penalty 3s 4d. (CRI 1937, p.217)

- On 5th October 1593, **William Webb** was immediately fined 10s for receiving a number of strangers - **Agnes Bullinge, widow**, a **Thomas Baker** (i1452), **Samuel Mare** (or Meere, i1695) and **Christopher Budd** (i1599)⁷⁸ Baker, Mare and Budd were themselves to be fined 3s 4d if sureties were not found for them or they did not depart. (CRI 1938, p.18).
- The Court held on 11th April 1597 ordered William Webb to be fined £5 if the strangers - **Butt and his wife** (was this Budd?) - were not removed or sureties found for them. (CRI 1938, p.17)
- **William Webb** was one of the residents within the View of Frank-pledge in October 1597 who made default but was pardoned because he had not been sufficiently summoned to the Court. (CRI 1938, p.33)

Riotous Assembly & Unlawful Taking

At the July 1596 Assizes, four gentlemen and William Webb, labourer, were indicted for riotous assembly and unlawful taking, the latter being a term not met with elsewhere. The gentlemen were:

- John Davis of St. Dunstan in the West
- Anthony Bartlett, Thomas Guilliams and Thomas Powell.

On 2nd June 1596 they, “and many others unknown, assembled in a warlike manner at Ightham, broke into ‘Broadsears’ a close belonging to Robert Sleddall, gent., tore up 20 rails surrounding it and drove away 3 geldings, 12 rams and 11 lambs belonging to Sleddall.” The verdict is unknown.⁷⁹

No Sleddall appears in the parish registers.

The Webbs of Seal

There were numerous small Webb families in the locality. Those whose names were often given as Niccoll alias Webb are described above - page 2.w.76 onwards. Except for Thomas Webb who could have moved from Shipbourne to Seal, there are no obvious connections between the families of Webbs for the parishes Ightham, Seal and Shipbourne and they are therefore described separately.

The earliest Webb to be mentioned in the parish register was **Agnes Webb, widow** (#651⁸⁰) who was buried on 8th September 1571. In 1564, **Alice Geston** (#575) had left 6s 8d to Agnes, Webb, widow, and in 1570, **John Becket** (#634) left 4d to **Mother Webb** “of the almshouse”

On 29th December 1572 **William Webb** (#672) was buried; a month later, on 20th January 1573, **Agnes Webb, widow** (#298) was buried.

Thomas Webb's Family

Between 1606 and 1617, the baptisms of three children of Thomas Webb were recorded in Seal. Joan, wife of Thomas Webb, was buried in December 1630. There is a gap of over ten years between the baptisms Thomas's second and third child. Perhaps Joan, the mother of the third child, was Thomas's second wife.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#3513	<u>WEBB, Thomas</u> ----- 			Joan Webb(m)	1	3	1 Jun 1643
#3512	<u>his wife, Joan</u> -----				1	3	26 Dec 1630
•	#3550 <u>Webb, Dorothy</u>	6 Apr 1606			0	0	21 May 1606
•	#3551 <u>Webb, Mary</u>	5 Jul 1607			0	0	
•	#3552 <u>Webb, Ann</u>	30 Nov 1617			0	0	

Four Webbs, known from their marriages between 1632 and 1641, were probably born between 1608 and 1617 making it possible that they were Thomas's children. Thus, an alternative to Thomas having two wives is that the family moved away from Seal for most of the period 1607 to 1617 with Joan being the mother of all seven children. No children were recorded for Thomas Webb at this time in Ightham, Kemsing or Shipbourne but there were other neighbouring parishes which have not been investigated.

#3513's family could have been augmented in yet another way: In Shipbourne, Thomas Webb, a tailor, had three children between 1599 and 1604. It could be the tailor who moved to Seal after the birth of his third child. If Joan was the mother of all these ten children, she would have had them over a period of about twenty years which was not particularly unusual. The three Shipbourne baptisms are included with the other Webbs of Shipbourne.

Four Webb Marriages

No children were recorded for the two Webb women; perhaps, after marriage, they lived elsewhere:

#3554	Margaret Webb	married	Richard Hayward	#3562	18 Nov 1633
#3052	Hester Webb		Robert Masters	#3047	11 Oct 1635

Both the men had children and both would be expected to be in the **Knole MS of 1648**; John was but not Austin.

John married Mary Chary "[on Advent Sunday](#)" in 1632. Their first two children were baptised in Ightham; perhaps Mary came from Ightham and they initially lived there.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#3553	<u>WEBB, John</u> -----		1 Dec 1632	Mary Chary	1	4	
				#3557			
• #3964	<u>WEBB, John</u>	14 Sep 1634(I)			0	0	11 Dec 1634(I)
• #3965	<u>Webb, Elizabeth</u>	13 Feb 1637(I)			0	0	
• #3558	<u>Webb, Mary</u>	8 May 1642			0	0	
• #3559	<u>Webb, Ann</u>	26 Feb 1645			0	0	
• #3560	<u>WEBB, Thomas</u>	5 Sep 1647			0	0	
• #3561	<u>Webb, Dorothy</u>	31 May 1651			0	0	
#3556	<u>WEBB, Austin</u> -----		28 Nov 1641	Elizabeth Jones	1	3	
				#3563			
• #3564	<u>Webb, Anne</u>	25 Sep 1642			0	0	
• #3565	<u>WEBB, Austin</u>	1 Apr 1645			0	0	
• #3555	<u>Webb, Mary</u>	20 Feb 1649			0	0	

The Webbs of Shipbourne

There were numerous small Webb families in the locality. Those whose names were often given as Niccoll alias Webb are described above - page 2.w.76 onwards. Except for Thomas Webb, tailor, who could have moved fro Shipbourne to Seal, there are no obvious connections between the families of Webbs for the parishes Ightham, Seal and Shipbourne and they are therefore described separately.

Thomas Webb, tailor (\$461⁸¹), had three children in Shipbourne:

- Joane \$463 baptised 29 Jul 1599
- Mary \$666 buried 31 Aug 1600
- Margaret \$796 5 Aug 1604

It is likely that he moved to Seal between late 1604 and early 1606 - see the Webbs in Seal, above, for the rest of his family.

81 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

John Webb of Shipbourne

John Webb (\$1290) had four, possibly five, children:

-	William	\$1292 baptised	20 Feb 1620	buried	10 Oct 1624
-	Temperance	\$1293	31 Dec 1621		12 Feb 1622
-	Elizabeth	\$1294	24 Feb 1623		21 Jan 1630
-	daughter	\$1371	16 Oct 1624		

\$1290 could have been the John Webb whose will was proved in 1637. This has not been transcribed but see page 2.w.76. **John Webb** (\$1866) who married **Elizabeth Baker** (\$1867) on 5th March 1643 could have been his eldest son..

William Webb of Shipbourne

There was a William Webb (\$1869) whose first child, John (\$1871), was baptised on 21 May 1643. This William was most unlikely to have been the son of \$1290, since, if he had been, he could not have been born before the middle of 1624 and would have been under twenty when \$1871 was born.

\$1869 had two other children:

-	William	\$2044 baptised	15 Mar 1646
-	Avis	\$2045	25 Nov 1649.

Richard & Robert Webb of Shipbourne

Richard Webb (\$1334) married **Anne Turner** (\$13335) on 21st April 1623. No children were recorded but it would seem they lived in Shipbourne since "[Anna, wife of Richard Webb](#)" was buried there on 29th May 1639.

On 29th July 1650, **Robert Webb** (al. Nicolls, \$2197) married **Mary Patenden** (\$2198). No children were recorded.

Walter and William Wells of Hadlow

Extracts from the will of William Wells, yeoman of Hadlow, written in 1595 are given in **Families & Transcripts**. The relationship (if any) between this William and the two men whose wills are given below is not known. These are:

Walter Wells, weaver	10 Jun 1590	CKS: Drb/Pw 15; Drb/Pwr 17.434	page 2.w.135
William Wells, yeoman	19 Apr 1646	CKS: Drb/Pw 32; Drb/Pwr 23.34	page 2.w.141

Earlier, in 1578, the will of John Wells of Hadlow was written by Walter Tryce who could have been the Walter Tryce whose will, written in January 1588, has survived.

Walter's will was written by Nicholas Hooper who wrote a large number of wills from the 1570s to his death in 1618.

On 27th April 1629, the will of John Wells, another yeoman of Hadlow, was written by John Hooper, notary public and Nicholas's son. The "I" at the beginning of the will was slightly decorated.

William's will was written by George Hooper, Nicholas's grandson. William's complicated arrangements regarding the inheritance of his land are made more difficult to read because the latter part of the will is written so as to fit on to one page but these arrangements, whilst arising from the way the ownership of William's land was organised, seem to show George Hooper's liking for lengthy legal specifications.

There are other Wells wills from Hadlow which have not been investigated.

Walter Wells, weaver

This will has, at the top, a simple version of Nicholas Hooper's usual mark but the left hand side of the will has rotted so that it is not possible to see whether the initial "I" is decorated.

Words in brackets at the beginning of the lines are assumed from the context. the names of the witnesses at the bottom of the page are illegible, at least on the microfilm

Will of Walter Wells of Hadlow

written 10th June 1590
transcript from original

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

- 1 In the name of god Amen. the tenth day of June in the year of our lord god 1590. And
- 2 (in the two) and thirtieth year of the reign of our sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of god, Queen of

3 (England), France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. I, Walter Wells of
Hadlow in the county of Kent,
4 weaver, very sick of body but yet of perfect mind and remembrance, thanks
therefore be given to Almighty
5 (god, do make) this my present last will and testament in manner and form
following: And **First** I commend my
6 (soul into the) hands of Almighty god, my maker, and to Jesus Christ, his
dear son, my alone saviour, by whose
7 ?? passion, through a steadfast faith, I assure and seek to be saved. And
my body to the earth to be
8 (buried in the) churchyard of Hadlow aforesaid. **Item:** I will to the poor
people of the parish of Hadlow
9 (aforesaid,) 10s to be paid by mine executrix, or her assigns, at my funeral.
Item: I give and bequeath to
10 ?? Thomas ?? children, viz. **John, Thomas, Walter** and **William**, 20s to be
divided equally between
11 (them), 5s a piece, and to be paid within two whole years next after my
decease by mine executrix. **Item:**
12 (I give and) bequeath to **my daughter, Marie Wells**, the sum of forty pounds
lawful money to be paid to
13 (her with)in twelve months next after my decease by mine executrix. **The**
residue of all my

14 (goods) moveable and immoveable, my debts and legacies paid and
funeral discharged, I wholly, fully
15 ?? of intent and purpose, give and bequeath to **Marie Wells, my
wellbeloved wife**, which Marie, my wife,
16 (I make and) ordain my whole and sole executrix. And I make my loving
brother, Lewes Wells,
17 (my ??) supervisor and overseer of this my will whom I desire to take some
pains to see the same performed
18 ?? the true meaning thereof. **Provided** and my very will and mind is
that if the said Marie
19 ?? happen to marry again, then I will that my said daughter Marie shall
enter upon one half
20 ?? moveable goods (whatsoever within doors being) and the same half
shall enjoy to her as her proper goods
21 (anything) herein to the contrary notwithstanding.

22 **This is the last** will of me the said Walter Wells made and declared the day
and
23 year first above written concerning the order and disposition of all my land
and tenements
24 whatsoever. **Item:** I will and bequeath to the said Marie, my wife, all my
land, tenements and

25 hereditaments whatsoever, situated, lying and being within the parish of
Hadlow aforesaid with all and
26 singular th'appurtenances. To have and to hold the same with
th'appurtenances unto the said Marie
27 my wife, and her assigns, during the whole term of her natural life,
keeping the reparations
28 thereof well and sufficiently during the said time. And after the decease of
her, the said Marie,
29 I will and bequeath all the said land, tenement and hereditaments with all
and singular th'appurtenances
30 unto the said Marie, my daughter, and to the heirs of her body lawfully
begotten forever.
31 **In witness** whereof to this my present last will and testament I, the said
William Wells, have
32 set my hand and seal yeven the day and year first above written.

names of witnesses not legible

William Wells, yeoman

William appointed his two sons, William and John, to be his joint executors but whereas most testators on appointing joint executors may include a short phrase saying they are to share equally both the legacies and expenses involved, William emphasises that neither is to benefit at the expense of the other, all his goods, etc. are to be “[equally divided, held and enjoyed between them](#)” and neither son is to “[obtain greater benefit than the other by being nominated joint executors of this my will, neither shall the one of them be at greater deficit or less than the other by reason thereof](#)”.

Williams wishes regarding his lands start relatively simply with him leaving his son William:

- the messuage in which he was living which with it barn, edifices, buildings, and land was about 4 acres, and other parcels of land totalling nearly 30 acres together with “[their hereditaments, ways, waters and appurtenances](#)”.

But this legacy was on condition that he did “[quietly permit and suffer the said John Wells, my son, . . . to have and to hold and to his and their proper use and behoof](#)”:

- “all that messuage or tenement, . . . now in th’occupation of **George Castle** by virtue of an indenture of lease to him late made”
- “all that messuage or tenement wherein **William Tirrall, Robert Harris** and others now dwell and the gardens, orchards and backsides thereunto belonging”
- “one parcel of meadow”

John’s brother, William, seems to have had some interest in these lands since they were left to John on condition that if William claimed them, John, at his expense, was to “execute all, every and any such art and arts devises and assurances in the law to and for the executing, assuring, releasing and conveying of the said last mentioned messuages, . . . to th’only use and behoof of the said John Wells, my son, his heirs and assigns, for ever”.

If William would not agree to this then all the “lands and tenements whereof I am now seized in fee” were to be equally “divided, held and enjoyed between them”

1 In the name of god Amen. the nineteenth day of April
2 the year of our Lord Christ one thousand six hundred and forty and six. I,
William
3 Wells, the elder of Hadlow in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being at the
present sick and weak
4 in body but of sound and perfect mind and memory, for which I praise God,
for the ordering and disposing
5 of that temporal estate wherewith God hath blessed me here, do therefore
make and ordain this to be
6 my testament and last will in manner and form following, that is to say,
First and principally I
7 will and resign my soul to the gracious acceptance of Almighty god,
trusting to have the pardon and
8 remission of all my sins and eternal salvation by the only merits, death and
passion of his dearly
9 beloved son Jesus Christ. And my body to the earth in decent manner to
be buried. **I will**, ordain
10 and ?? that all my goods, household stuff, cattle and chattels whatsoever
shall be and remain to **William**

11 **Wells** and **John Wells, my two sons**, and shall be equally divided, held and
enjoyed between them. And
12 I do make and ordain the said William and John, my sons, to be⁸² the joint
executors of this my testament
13 and last will and I will and appoint that the one of my said sons shall not
obtain greater benefit than the other
14 by being nominated joint executors of this my will, neither shall the one of
them be at greater deficit or less
15 than the other by reason thereof.

16 **This is** also the last will of me the said William Wells, the elder, touching
the ordering and disposing of all and
17 singular my lands and tenements which I do will and dispose in manner
and form following, that is to say, **I will**
18 devise and give to the said William Wells, my son, all that messuage or
tenement wherein I now dwell and the barn,
19 edifices and buildings, closes, gardens, orchards and three parcels of land
thereto adjoining or⁸³ belonging, containing by

82 sometimes "me", "be", sometimes "bee", etc.; also "shalbee"

83 this "or" was originally "&" (and) indicating a subtle but important difference between the two phrases

20 estimation four acres and also all those my lands commonly called **Keeners**
containing by estimation sixteen acres,
21 one parcel of land commonly called **Knights field** containing by estimation
four acres, one other parcel of land commonly called
22 **The Herbers** containing by estimation one acre and an half and also three
other parcels of land commonly called **Croath?**
23 garden and **Ryecroft** containg by estimation seven acres with their, and
any of their, hereditaments, ways, waters and
24 appurtenances, situated, lying and being in Hadlow aforesaid and now in
my tenure or occupation. **To** hold to the only use ??
25 of the said William Wells, my son, his heirs and assigns, for ever. **Upon**
condition that the said William,
26 my son, and his heirs and all person and persons claiming and that shall,
or may, lawfully claim by, from or under him, do and
27 shall, at all times, forever quietly permit and suffer the said John Wells, my
son, his heirs and assigns, to have and to hold and
28 to his and their proper use and behoof all that messuage or tenement, barn,
edifices and buildings, closes, yards, gardens and four
29 parcels of land now in th'occupation of **George Castle** by virtue of an
indenture of lease to him late made and also all that
30 messuage or tenement wherein **William Tirrall, Robert Harris** and others
now dwell and the gardens, orchards and backsides thereunto

31 belonging and one parcel of meadow containing by estimation two acres ,
32 now in my occupation adjoining to **Hadlow Doorne**, with
33 their and any of their hereditaments and appurtenances, situated, lying
34 and being in Hadlow aforesaid. The which said last premises so much ??
35 me is I will and devise to the said John, my son, his heirs and assigns,
36 forever. And upon condition that the said William, my son,
37 and his heirs and the person or persons claiming by, from or under him,
38 shall upon any request and at the charges⁸⁴ in the law of the
39 John Wells, my son, his heirs and assigns, make, do, acknowledge, leavy,
suffer and execute all, every and any such art and arts
devises and assurances in the law to and for the executing, assuring,
releasing and conveying of the said last mentioned messuages, tenements,
lands and premises with th'appurtenances (intended to the said John, my
son)⁸⁵ to th'only use and behoof of the said John Wells, my son, his heirs
and assigns, for ever. And ??
counsell of the said John, his heirs or assigns, shalbe reasonably devised
and required. The which if the said William Wells, my son, or his
heirs and such person or persons as shall claim under him, shall deny or
refuse to do and perform, then I will, devise and give all and singular

84 "chardges"

85 phrase in brackets inserted

40 the lands and tenements whereof I am now seized in fee with
th'appurtenances to the said William Wells and John Wells, my sons, their
heirs and assigns,
41 for ever equally to be divided, held and enjoyed between them (anything in
this my will contained to the contrary thereof notwithstanding).
42 In witness whereof to this my testament and last will of the said William
Wells, senior, have set my hand and seal the day and year first above
written.

Read, sealed, published and declared in the presence of **John ??**

William Wells⁸⁶

**Richard Sommer
??**

**John Wells
Geo. Hooper**

86 looks like a signature

Thomas Wells, yeoman of Penhurst

The will of Thomas Wells (CKS: Prs/w/17/173) was written, in 1638, by Thomas Leddall who wrote a large number of wills for people from the Penhurst neighbourhood.

Thomas was a wealthy yeoman able to leave each of his five daughters £30 when they reached the age of twenty-one. He also had four sons with William, John and Thomas possibly being over twenty-one.

The Inheritance of his Land

As well as land in Penhurst, Thomas owned land in Fletching in East Sussex (about twelve miles south of Penhurst, just north of Uckfield) and possibly “[else where](#)” (see line 25). The inheritance of this land was complicated.

John was to have about 50 acres in Fletching in Sussex and the wood and timber from the land called Hookehame on condition that he:

- paid all Thomas's debts except for an annuity which “Thomas, my son, is to pay out of Caflens”

- paid the £30 left to Thomas's five daughters when each reached the age of twenty-one.

In addition, if Thomas's wife, Isabel, died before Susan and Sara (presumably the two youngest daughters) married or reached the age of 21, John was to educate and bring them up "in decent sort and order" at his own cost.

Thomas's son Thomas was to have some land "called Hookehame, except the wood and timber which I give to John, my son, towards paying my debts". Six years after his father's death Thomas was also to have "that messuage or tenement called Caflens (paying the annuity thereunto issuing)". During the intervening six years Isabell was to have the rents and profits from Caflens towards the bringing up of the three youngest children. If Isabell died during these six years, John and another son, William, were to have this money to use for the continued upbringing of the three children.

The "messuage or tenement" in which the family lived, which was in Penshurst, was to go to William provided that he paid £60 to his brother Edward. Half of this was to be paid within seven years of Thomas's death and the other £30 within twelve years. If Isabell died before her daughter Anne married or reached the age of 21, William was to be responsible for her education and bringing up.

If William died without heirs, his brother John was to take over his inheritance paying Edward another £60.

Will of Thomas Wells of Penshurst

written 1st November 1638

transcript from original

1 In the name of god Amen. the first day of November Ao dm. 1638 in
2 the fourteenth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord king Charles, etc.
3 I, Thomas Wells of Penshurst in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being
4 at this time not well in body but of a good and perfect memory (praised
5 be God) do make and declare this my last will and testament in
6 manner and form following: **First** yielding my soul to Almighty god,
7 my maker and creator and to Jesus Christ, my only saviour and redeemer,
by whose
8 death and passion I fully trust to have all my sins freely forgiven and to
9 attain to the joyful resurrection of eternal life committing my body to the
10 earth to be buried in decent sort in the churchyard of Penshurst.
11 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Joane, Elizabeth, Susan, Sara**
12 and **Anne Wells, my daughters**, to either of them thirty pounds a piece,
13 to be paid unto them when they shall attain unto their several age of

14 one and twenty years by **John Wells, my son**, out of his land. **Item:**
15 I give and bequeath unto **Isabell, my loving wife**, all my moveable goods
16 and household stuff, whom I do make the sole executrix of this my
17 last will and testament. And I do appoint my loving friends **John**
18 **Skynner of Fletching** and **John Waters** of Penshurst, supervisors hereof, to
19 whom I give ten groats⁸⁷ a piece over and above their charges⁸⁸ taken
herein.

20 This is the last will and testament of me, the said Thomas Wells,
21 made and declared the day and year aforesaid, concerning the disposing
22 of all my messuages, tenements, hereditaments and lands severally
23 situated, lying and being in the parish of Fletching in the county
24 of Sussex and the parish of Penshurst in the county
25 of Kent or else where.

page 2:

26 **Item:** I give, will and devise unto John Wells, my son, his heirs and assigns,
all

87 40 pence, 3s 4d

88 "charges" here; "discharge" on line 33 but "charges" on line 48

27 that message or tenement called **Widgers** with the barn, edifices and
buildings, closes,
28 orchard, gardens and all those lands with th'appurtenances thereunto
belonging. And also
29 one parcel of land with a barn standing thereon called **Huggets** and one
parcel of meadow
30 ground called **Flatford mead** or by what other names they have been called
or known, containing
31 in the whole by estimation, fifty acres, be it more or less. All which said
message
32 and premises are situated, lying and being in Fletching aforesaid.
Provided always, upon condition
33 that the said John, my son, his heirs and assigns, shall pay and discharge
all such debts
34 as I, the said Thomas Welles, do owe to any person and persons at the time
of my decease
35 (except one annuity which **Thomas, my son**, is to pay out of **Caflens**)⁸⁹.
36 And also upon condition that the said John, my son, his heirs and assigns,
shall

89 this line inserted

37 pay out of the tenement and lands before willed him, unto Joane,
Elizabeth, Susan,
38 Sara and Anne, my daughters, to either of them thirty pounds a piece of
lawful
39 money of England when they shall attain to their several ages of one and
twenty
40 years as aforesaid. And if any of my said daughters shall die before their
said ages, the survivors to have twenty pounds thereof⁹⁰. And in default of
payment, then it shall and may be
41 lawful unto and for any of my said daughters so unpaid to enter in upon
42 the said message, tenement and lands before willed unto John, my son, or
any part
43 thereof and the same to have, hold and enjoy until her or their said legacy
of
44 thirty pounds be fully satisfied and paid with all arrearages if any be.
45 And also upon condition that, if it shall happen that Isabel, my wife, shall
46 die and depart this life before Susan and Sara, two of my said daughters,
shall accomplish
47 their ages of one and twenty years, that then the said John, my son, his
heirs

48 or assigns, at his and their costs and charges shall educate and bring up, in
decent sort
49 and order, the said Susan and Sara, my daughters, until they shall
accomplish their
50 said ages of one and twenty years or days of marriage. **Item:** I give,
51 devise and will unto Thomas Wells, my son, and to the heirs male of his
52 body lawfully begotten, all that messuage or tenement called Caslens
(paying the
53 annuity thereunto issuing) with the barn, edifices and buildings, closes,
gardens, orchard,
54 lands thereunto belonging. And also one parcel of land with
th'appurtenances thereunto
55 belonging called **Hookehame**, except the wood and timber which I give to
John, my son, towards paying my debts⁹¹. And in default of such issue
male of his body lawfully begotten,
56 then I will and devise and give all the said messuage, tenement and lands
called Hookehame
57 and Caslens unto ⁹² my son, the? youngest, his heirs and assigns, forever.

91 this phrase inserted

92 name Edward Wells crossed out

page 3:

58 **Item:** my will is that Isabell, my wife, shall have all the rents and profits of
the messuage,
59 tenement and lands called Caslens (before given to Thomas, my son)
during the term of six
60 years next after my decease towards the bringing up of my three youngest
children. And
61 if my said wife do die before the said six years be expired, then my will is
that John and **William**⁹³,
62 my sons, or their heirs and assigns⁹⁴, shall have the profit and rent of the
said messuage and lands called Caf lens until the said six
63 years next after my decease shall be expired towards the bringing up of the
said three children any thing in this my will mentioned to the contrary
64 thereof not withstanding. **Item:** I give, devise and will unto William Wells,
my son, and his heirs
65 all the messuage or tenement wherein I now dwell, with the barn, edifices
and buildings, closes,
66 gardens, orchards and all those lands with th'appurtenances thereunto
belonging, situated and lying in

93 this is the first mention of William

94 this phrase ,and the one underlined in the next line, were inserted

67 Penshurst aforesaid. Provided always, upon condition that the said
William, my son, his heirs
68 or assigns, shall pay out of the said tenement and lands, unto Edward
Wells, my son. the sum of
69 three score pounds of good and lawful money of England in manner and
form following (that is to
70 say) thirty pounds within seven years next after my decease. And the other
thirty pounds
71 within twelve years next after my decease. And in default of payment it
shall and may be
72 lawful for the said Edward, my son, to enter in an upon the said tenement
and lands and the same
73 to have, hold and enjoy until the said three score pounds be fully paid with
all arrearages if any
74 be;⁹⁵ And also upon condition that if it shall happen that Isabell, my wife,
shall die and
75 decease before Anne, my daughter, shall accomplish her age of one and
twenty years or day
76 of marriage, that then the said William. my son, his heirs, executors or
assigns, shall educate

95 this definitely looks like a semi colon(which is most unusual but occurs in other wills written by Thomas Leddall); also on line 81

77 and bring up, at his or their cost and charges⁹⁶, in good sort and order, the
said Anne, my daughter,
78 until she shall accomplish her said age of one and twenty years or day of
marriage. And
79 moreover, my will is that if William, my son, shall happen to die without
heirs of his body
80 lawfully begotten, then I will, devise and give all the said tenement and
lands (before given to
81 William) unto John, my son, his heirs and assigns, forever; upon condition
that he, the
82 said John, my son, his heirs and assigns, shall pay out of the said tenement
and lands
83 unto Edward, my son, or his assigns, the sum of three score pounds of
lawful money of England
84 over and above the three score pounds before willed to be paid out of the
said tenement and lands.
85 And in default of payment, it shall and may be lawful for the said Edward,
his heirs or
86 assigns, to enter in and upon the said tenement and lands and the same to
have, hold and enjoy until

96 "charges"

87 the several legacies be fully paid withall arrearages if any be. In witness
where
88 of to this my present testament and last will, containing three sheets of
paper, revoking
89 all former and other wills, I, the said Thomas Wells, have set my hand and
seal in the
90 presence of Thomas Wells
John ⁹⁷ **Hallomby** his mark
his mark
Thomas Leddall scr.

97 an nverted "Y"

The Wests of Ightham & Shipbourne

In Ightham a number of small families which cannot be linked together were recorded. There are, however, no records of any Wests in Seal or Kemsing and just two marriages in Shipbourne.

John West (i549⁹⁸) married **Alice Marshall** (i550) on 10th October 1563 and their son, **John** (i551) was baptised on 19th July 1564. A John West was mentioned in the Court Records between 1553 and 1574 and also between 1586 and 1618; the references could, of course, refer to two different people. Alice Marshall, who could have been born no later than 1546, would have been too old to be the "Alice, wife of John West" buried on 3 Nov 1634.

Thomas West (i1364) was buried on 17th March 1574 and **Agnes, widow of Thomas West** (i1365) on 17th February 1580. A Thomas West was mentioned in the Court Records between 1553 and 1574.

Catherine West (i2770), wife of **Edward West, tailor** (i2769) was indicted as an accessory to the burglary of the house of Edward Thrupp in 1598 but was found not guilty - see [Thrupp in More Families & Transcripts](#).

Richard West

Richard West (i895) had three children:

- Agnes i897 baptised 31 Mar 1577
- Elizabeth i898 13 Mar 1580
- Steven i1270 25 Oct 1584 buried 26 Oct 1584

On 11th April 1589, **West, wife of Richard West and Bownde, wife of Robert Bownde** (i193) were found to be "common breakers and spoilers of hedges. Their husbands were fined 3s 4d." (CRI 1937, p.217). Higher penalties were to be introduced for future offences of the same type - see [Section Z in Families & Transcripts](#) and [Bownde in More Families & Transcripts](#).

On 10th December 1618, Agnes West married **Thomas Giles** (i2160) but i897, above, would have been forty-one in 1618.

John West

Two baptisms were recorded only as the sons of "-- West":

- **John** i1715 18 Jan 1596
- **Philipp** i1794 28 Jan 1600

If John above was the father of the family below he was forty-one when his first recorded child was born.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i1715	<u>WEST, John</u> -----			Anne West(m)	1	4	
• i2494	<u>WEST, John</u>	12 Jul 1637			0	0	
• i2495	<u>WEST, Thomas</u>	11 Aug 1639			0	0	10 Oct 1651
• i2496	<u>West, Marie</u>	16 Aug 1640			0	0	
• i2649	<u>WEST, Thomas</u>	22 Aug 1650			0	0	
				baptised same day as born			

The Shipbourne Marriages

On 29th June 1617 **Jean West of Meopham** (\$1203⁹⁹) married **Richard Knight** (\$1201) “being three times asked by a testimonial from Mr. Pigott”.

On 2nd April 1644 **John West** (\$1908) married **Alice Bourman** (\$1938).

99 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

The Wheelers of Shipbourne

George Wheeler (\$335) had two daughters:

- Dorothy \$337 baptised 2 May 1585 buried 5 May 1585
- Johane \$338 17 Jul 1586

George was buried on 12th April 1608 and **Alice Wheeler, widow** (\$336), who could have been George's widow, on 16th September 1612.

A generation later **John Wheeler** (\$966)'s wife gave birth to five children; he could have been George's son.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
\$966	<u>WHEELER, John</u>			Alice Wheeler(m)	1	5	
\$967	Wheeler(m), Alice				1	5	8 Mar 1614
	-----			"wife of John Wheeler" when buried			
•	\$968 <u>Wheeler, child</u>				0	0	17 Sep 1609
•	\$969 <u>Wheeler, child</u>				0	0	20 Mar 1610
•	\$970 <u>Wheeler, Dorothy</u>	24 Feb 1611			0	0	
•	\$971 <u>Wheeler, infant</u>				0	0	20 Dec 1612
•	\$984 <u>WHEELER, son</u>	10 Oct 1613			0	0	20 Oct 1613

John and his wife were very unfortunate with their children. The first two were recorded at their burials as “a child of John Wheeler not baptised”. There was only six months between these two burials. To be recorded thus it would be expected that the first child was buried very soon after birth in which case the second child must have been born three months prematurely.

Dorothy was baptised only eleven months after the burial of the second child but there was then a gap of nearly two years before “an infant of John Wheeler not baptised” was buried. Less than ten months after this third burial a son was born. Although he was baptised his name was not given and he was buried ten days later.

On 13th September 1641 **Anne Wheeler** (\$1813) married **Thomas Peckden** (\$1792). Anne could have been the daughter of George and Alice.

John Whellis of Leigh

John Whellis's will (CKS: Drb/Pw 11; Drb/Pwr 14.263) was written on 28th August 1575 and proved at the beginning of the next year (1575/6).

He had a married daughter, Agnes Drinknole whose husband was John Drinknole, senior. She had two sons, Thomas and John, the younger, and a daughter Mary. He made his wife Barbara his executrix and mentions his "old friend" George Lyllingporth?

His master was **David Willard** who witnessed the will and may have written it. The testator left 10s "for a remembrance" to each of the three sons of his master: John, Edmund and Abraham, who also witnessed the will.

The Whetenhalls of East Peckham

Five wills have survived for the Whetenhalls of East Peckham:

William Whetenhall ¹⁰⁰	1539	PCC: Dyngeley 34	gent.
Magdalen Whetenhall	1595	PCC: Scott 15	wife of Thomas Whetenhall, Esq.
Thomas Whetenhall	1617	PCC: Weldon 8	page 2.w.165
Henry Whetenhall	Nov 1617	PCC: Weldon 108	Sir, knight
Thomas Whetenhall	1630/1	PCC: St. John 9	proved by Sir Edward Hales, knight relict Mary

The Thomas, who had connections with St. Swithins, London, died in 1617 was in his early sixties. He was the son of Magdalen and her husband Thomas. His will is very long and only the preamble has been transcribed. Henry's will is also long and complicated. None of the others have been looked at.

- Our healpe¹⁰¹ standeth in the name of the lord or God who hath made
- both heaven and earth. In his name therefore I, Thomas Whetenhall (eldest son of
- Thomas Whetenhall deceased who signed himself Thomas Whetenhall of East Peckham
- al. Great Peckham in the county of Kent, Esquire) knowing that it is appointed unto
- men ?? to die and that as nothing is more sure than death so nothing is more
- uncertain than the hour and instant time of death. And considering that I am now
- in the three score and first? year of my age and very weak in body, yet nevertheless by
- good memory enjoying the powers and faculties of my soul and mind as formerly I
- have done and calling to mind the Lord's commandment to ?? heresies by

- the ministry of the prophet Isaiah to set his household affairs in order before his
- death (for whatsoever is written in holy scripture is written for our learning)
- I do this present twenty and two day of November in the year of the ??
- of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ one thousand six hundred and sixteen
-

Witnesses: **Thomas Hewson** **Thomas Wilkins**

The Whetleys of Seal

Thomas Whetley (#1390¹⁰²) had a son **Thomas** (#1392) baptised on 21st August 1586 but his first wife was buried on 1st July 1587. By his second wife he had eleven children including two sets of twins:

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
#1390	<u>WHETLEY, Thomas</u> -----		12 Oct 1590	Mary Baker	2 12	15 Jul 1628
#1539	<u>Baker, Mary</u> -----				1 11	2 Mar 1627
• #1622	<u>WHETLEY, James</u>	22 Aug 1591			0 0	
• #1809	<u>WHETLEY, John</u>	14 Oct 1593	see page 2.w.168		1 7	
• #1850	<u>WHETLEY, Alexander</u>	25 Jan 1596			0 0	31 May 1596
• #1889	<u>WHETLEY, Edmund</u>	11 May 1597			0 0	
• #1924	<u>Whetley, Ann</u>	15 Apr 1599			0 0	
• #3574	<u>Whetley, Margaret</u>	18 Jun 1601	twin		0 0	
• #3575	<u>Whetley, Alice</u>	18 Jun 1601	twin		0 0	
• #3576	<u>Whetley, Jane</u>	20 May 1604	twin		0 0	
• #3577	<u>Whetley, Elizabeth</u>	20 May 1604	twin		0 0	
• #3578	<u>Whetley, Jane</u>	1 Oct 1609			0 0	
• #3579	<u>Whetley, "infans puulus"</u>				0 0	20 Feb 1611

Alexander died at a few months old and the last child without being baptised. It is also likely that Jane, one of the second pair of twins died sometime before October 1609 when a younger daughter was baptised Jane. The only child for whom there is further information is John's son John:

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#1809	<u>WHETLEY, John</u> -----	14 Oct 1593	15 Jun 1618	Bennet Chart married at 25	1	7	
#3580	<u>Chart, Bennet</u> -----	29 Dec 1594			1	7	
			married at 23				
• #3581	<u>WHETLEY, John</u>	25 Apr 1619			0	0	27 Apr 1619
• #3582	<u>Whetley, Margaret</u>	28 Aug 1625			0	0	14 Mar 1629
• #3583	<u>WHETLEY, Edward</u>	31 Dec 1627			0	0	12 Sep 1634
• #3584	<u>WHETLEY, Thomas</u>	24 Jan 1630			0	0	5 Feb 1630
• #3585	<u>WHETLEY, Thomas</u>	21 Aug 1631			0	0	
• #3586	<u>WHETLEY, John</u>	12 Apr 1635			0	0	
• #3587	<u>WHETLEY, William</u>	4 Mar 1638			0	0	

John and William when they were baptised and Edward when he was buried were described as the sons of "[John and Bennet Whetley](#)"

Edward Atherfold in his will of 1642, refers to his daughter Bennet as the wife of John Whetley (or Wheatley) - see [Families & Transcripts](#). The marriage of John Wheatley on 15th June 1618 records his second wife as "Bennet Chart". Thus John must have been her second husband although she was only 23 when she married him.

John Wicking of Leigh

The will of the yeoman John Wicking the elder (CKS: Drb/Pw 31; Drb/Pwr 23.22) was written in November 1645 by George Hooper, a member of the Hooper family of scriptors.

One of the most interesting items left by John to his daughter Anne is one of his “safes or fly cupboards”. Until the introduction of fridges in the 1950s, most households had a “safe” where meat, etc. was stored, on a temporary basis, to keep it away from flies. Here we see that this use of “safe” goes back to at least the middle of the seventeenth century. Instead of the perforated metal door of the “modern” safe, a piece of cloth or some wicker work could have been used to allow the air in but not the flies.

In addition to other household items, Anne was left a “portion” of £100 to be paid in two £50 instalments. If she died before the second instalment was paid, it was to go to “to such child or children equally as the said Anne shall leave . . . lawfully begotten”. There is no mention of Anne’s husband; perhaps she was a widow with one or more children.

1 In the name of god Amen¹⁰³. the eighteenth day of
2 November in the year of our Lord Christ one thousand, six hundred
3 forty and five. I John Wicking, the elder, of Leigh next Tonbridge in
4 the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being at this present weak in body but of
5 sound and perfect memory for which I praise God, not knowing how soon it
6 please Almighty god to call me out of this mortal life to the intent that
7 where with God hath blessed me with her may be enjoyed in eace, love and
8 among those to whom I shall hereby dispose the same, do therefore make
9 and ordain
10 this to be my testament and last will in manner and form following, that is
11 to say: **First** and principally I will and resign my soul into the hands and
gracious
acceptance of Almighty god, my maker, hoping and assuredly trusting to
have the

103 This phrase in larger handwriting than the rest of the will with the "I" slightly decorated

12 pardon and remission of all my sins and eternal life by the only merits,
death and passion
13 of his dearly beloved son Jesus Christ, my saviour. And my body to the
earth in
14 decent manner to be buried as the discretion of my executor. **I will** and
give to
15 **Elizabeth, my loving wife**, all such household stuff now remaining and
being in my house which she
16 brought with her at the time of our intermarriage, to be delivered to her
within short
17 time after my decease. **Item:** I will and give to the said Elizabeth, my wife,
during her life
18 to be to her towards her maintenance, the yearly stipend or sum of six
pounds of
19 lawful money of England to be paid her yearly and every year at the feast of
the
20 Nativity of our Lord Christ, the Annunciation of the blessed virgin Mary, the
Nativity of St.
21 John the Baptist and St. Michael th'archangel in every year, by equal
portions, by my executor,
22 his executors and assigns, during my said wife's life, at or in the house or
messuage wherein I

23 now dwell, the first term or time of payment thereof to be made on the first
of those feasts
24 aforesaid that shall next happen to come and be after my decease. And to
the intent my will may
25 be performed in this particular, I will my said executor upon reasonable
request, shall make
26 seal and deliver one obligation and thereby shall bind himself, his heirs,
executors and administrators,
27 to my said wife, her executors, administrators and assigns, in the penal
sum of threescore
28 pounds of lawful money of England conditioned for the payment of the said
yearly stipend
29 of six pounds according to the true meaning of this my will. **Item:** I will and
give
30 to **Anne, my daughter**, the cupboard¹⁰⁴ standing in the hall of my dwelling
house, one of my safes
31 or fly cupboards, one chest which was her own mother's before my
intermarriage with her,
32 one dozen of my pewter which I have caused to be put into that chest. Also
two pairs of my

104 "cubbord", here and on the next line

33 hempen sheets, one diaper tablecloth, two diaper napkins and one dozen of
new coarse
34 napkins which linen is also put into the said chest. All which I appoint
shall be delivered to the
35 said Anne, my daughter, within short time after my decease. **Item:** I will
and give to the said
36 Anne, my daughter, for her portion, I mean to her the sum of one hundred
pounds of
37 lawful money of England, fifty pounds, the one half thereof, to be paid to
her at the end of one
38 half year next after my decease by my executor if the said Anne shall be
then living and
39 fifty pounds, the pther half thereof, to be paid her at the end of one year
next after my decease
40 by my executor if the said Anne shalbe¹⁰⁵ then living; or if the said Anne be
shalbe then deceased, then
41 shall pay the said last fifty pounds to such child or children equally as the
said Anne shall leave
42 and shalbe living at the end of the said year after my death lawfully
begotten.

105 "shall bee" on line 38, "shalbee" here; "bee" throughout

43 **The residue** and all other my goods, cattle, leases, ready money, household
stuff and chattels of
44 what name, nature or kind soever, I give and bequeath to **John Wicking, my**
son, and I make
45 and ordain the said John, my son, to be the sole executor of this my
testament and last will.

46 In witness whereof I, the said John Wicking, the elder, have to this my
testament and last will set my hand
47 and seal the day and year first above written.

John Wicking¹⁰⁶

Read, sealed, published and declared by the said John Wicking
the elder, to be his testament and last will in the presence of

William Lattart **John Turner**
Geo. Hooper

106 lokks like a signature

Wickley, well maker

In Seal, on 5th November 1578, "-- Wickley, wellmaker" was buried. This is the only entry for this name. Did he come to Seal to make a well and perhaps died as a result of an accident?

The Wigzells of Kemsing

On 5th November 1564 William Wigzell married Sylvester Watts and they had five children between 1566 and 1577 but their first two sons died fairly young. When William's will was written in 1604, his wife had already died but his surviving son, Thomas, whom he made his executor was married with a family. His eldest daughter Sylvester was married but no children are mentioned by William and we do not even know her husband's name.. His youngest daughter, Alice, appears not to have married before her father died when she would have been twenty-seven.

William's is the only Wigzell will to have survived:

CKS: Drb/Pw 19

written 18th May 1604

page w.180

It was written by Nicholas Hooper who wrote many wills between 1574 and 1618. Unfortunately only the original has survived and this is badly damaged at the right hand side of each page.

In **Seal, Margery** (#84), the daughter of **Richard Wigzell** (#82) was baptised on 16th March 1563. Sometime prior to 1570, Richard Wigzell had the tenure of **Higher Stonepitts** - see **Tebold in Families & Transcripts**.

William's Family

	k367 William - Sylvester Watts k368					
<i>will:</i>	18 May 1604					

	k369	k371	k370	k372	k373	
	Thomas	Richard	Thomas -	Sylvester	Alice	
<i>bap:</i>	27 Dec 1566		4 Nov 1570	10 Aug 1572	7 Apr 1577	
<i>bur:</i>		11 Apr 1571				

	k375	k376	k377	k378	k379	k380
	William ¹⁰⁷	Margery	Elizabeth	Margery ¹⁰⁸	Thomas	Nicholas
<i>bap:</i>	summer 1595	14 May 1596	19 Jul 1602	6 May 1604	12 Oct 1606	22 Dec 1610

Alice was left a large number of items including “2 bounded boxes which my late wife willed she should have” and “such raiment of my late wife's as my said wife gave her”. It might seem that although Alice’s mother had said she wished her daughter to have these items, including clothing, Alice’s father kept these until

107 William's date of baptism is given as 3 Oct 1595 but it was written between dates in March and September; given that Margery was baptised in May 1596, early summer is more likely for William's baptism than the autumn (assuming baptism followed fairly soon after birth). Margery probably died before May 1604 when a younger sister was baptised Margery

108 married Thomas Robinson, in Ightham, on 19th September 1630 when she was twenty-six. Nothing more is known of her,

his own death. He does, however, say “all such linen and other things she hath in her keeping” so perhaps she had had them since her mother’s death but William’s will gave her legal ownership of them.

In addition to the long list of items she already had, her father left her his “kneeding troughs and all such provisions as bacon as is mine in my house”.

An Alice Wigzell was buried in Shipbourne on 27th September 1628 when William’s daughter would have been fifty-one.

William left a number of unusual items “as standards and implements to my house wherein . . . in the hall a joined cupboard, the table and frame there and the form . there . . half a dozen of ?? stools there, . . in the Parlour, a table . . in the new buttery, a little cupboard. In the old kitchen, the table and forms . (and) a kneed trough. In the new kitchen, a pulvering¹⁰⁹ trough, . . .In the chamber where I lie, the bedstead joined and press there “.

Sylvester was left an iron kettle but she had probably received help from her father when she married. Thomas, the son, was made his father’s executor.

109 pulverising

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Nicolas Hooper's
mark

- 1 **In**¹¹⁰ **the name of god Amen.** the eighteenth day of May . . .
2 God one thousand and six hundredth and four and in the Second year of . . .
3 Lord James, by the grace of God, king of England, France and Ireland,
4 defender of the
5 faith. And of Scotland thirtieth. I, William Wigzell, of
6 Kemsing in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick and very much grieved
7 but of
8 perfect mind and remembrance, thanks be given to Almighty God,
9 make this my present Testament and last will in manner and form
10 following:
11 **First** and principally I give, commend and bequeath my soul into the hands
12 of almighty

9 God trusting by an assured faith which I have in the merits of his dear son
Jesus
10 Christ, my only Lord and Saviour, that the same shalbe presented, pure . . .
11 Throne of his majesty. And my body to the earth whence it came, in . . .
12 hope of a joyful resurrection. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Alice**¹¹¹
Wigzell, my
13 **daughter,** all such linen and other things she hath in her keeping with two
great joined chests and 2 bounded boxes which my late wife willed she
should have.
14 Also one flockbed whereon she useth to lie, with the bolster, blankets,
coverlet,
15 Bedstead and all other furniture thereto belonging. Also one other new
coverlet . . .
16 yellow and green. Also such raiment of my late wife's as my said wife gave
. . .
17 kettle and chafer ?? 4 brass chafers, a brazen mortar, a warming pan, 3 . . .
18 pewter dishes, a dozen and a half of spoons, one brass candlestick and . . .
19 chair and a woollen wheel and a linen wheel, a Beechen table and a pair of
trestles
20 . . .

111 his youngest recorded daughter, baptised April 1577 and therefore 27 when her father wrote his will; only the "W" of her surname remains so that she could have been married but this seems unlikely from the rest of the will

21 of Elm. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my daughter, Sylvester¹¹², now wife**
of . . .

22 one iron kettle. Also I will to my said daughter Alice ?? my kneeding
troughs in the . . . biggest ?? tub and the . . . all such provisions . . .

23 Bacon as is mine in my house. **Item:** I give to her, the said Alice, and .
24 daughter, equally between them half a hundred of Panel boards and . . .
25 mountains? and 10 short quarters. **Item:** I will that those ?? of g. .
26 shalbe and remain as implements to my house wherein . . .
27 in the hall a joined cupboard, the table and frame there and the form . . .
28 there not set up, half a dozen of ?? stools there, . . . in the Parlour a table . . .
29 In the new buttery, a little cupboard. In the old kitchen, the table and
forms . . .

30 a kneed trough there. In the new kitchen, a poulvering trough, there with .
.

31 In the chamber where I lie, the Bedstead joined and press there . . .

32 The residue of all my goods and cattells, debts, credits and Chattels (and)
33 moveable goods whatsoever, I wholly, fully and with good effect, intent and
purpose (give)

112 baptised August 1572, the only other daughter whose baptism is recorded

34 to **my son, Thomas Wigzell**¹¹³, which Thomas, my son, I ordain and make
my
35 whole executor, to see this my will proved, debts and legacies paid and my
body honestly and decently (buried in)
36 the churchyard of Kemsing aforesaid. And I ordain and make my . . .
37 **William Lawe** and my very good friend **William Cripps of Meopham** to (be
supervisors?)
38 and overseers of this my will, to sell such land as hereafter in this my will
shalbe . . .
39 and to see this my will performed as much as in them shall lie.

41 This is the last will of me, the said William Wigzell, made and . . .
42 day and year first above written, concerning the order and disposition of all
my . . .
43 and hereditaments whatsoever within the parish of Kemsing aforesaid.
Item: . . .
44 two Overseers before named, or one of them, the other refusing and being .

113 baptised November 1570; William's eldest son, baptised December 1566 was also Thomas; he presumably died before November 1570. William also had a son Richard buried in April 1571 who must have been born before 1570.

45 (so soon as conveniently they may after my decease) bargain and sell for
the best price he . . .
46 that my barn called the **Upperbarn** with the little Orchard . . .
47 of land lying in several places in the two Kemsing fields containing in the . . .
48 Twenty acres whether more or less thereof be had, severally situated, lying
and being in the parish of
49 Kemsing aforesaid which Barn, little orchard and parcels of land so sold . . .
50 thappurtenances, I will shalbe to him or them so buying the same his and
theirs
51 forever. With the money thereof so sold coming I will that they, my said
overseers (or one)
52 of them aforesaid, shall redeem all such Annuity or Annuities as I have . . .
53 of my land withall and likewise shall pay all other my debts . . .
54 and Overplus of the money thereof coming and whatsoever arising shall
pay . . .
55 son Thomas Wigzell, his executors and assigns, saving and deducting
notwithstanding out of the . . .
56 they, or any of them, shalbe at, about any thing concerning this my will . . .
57 which I give unto either of them as a token of my good will. **Item:** I give
58 the said Thomas Wigzell, my son, all that my mansion house wherein I now
dwell

59 withall the barns, stable and Edifice, closes, gardens, orchards and Th--¹¹⁴
60 and meadow thereto adjoining, called **Oldhaugh** ¹¹⁵ . . .
61 in the whole, by estimation, Seven acres whether more or less that be
situated,
62 lying and being in Kemsing, aforesaid, To have and to hold the same,
withall and singular ..
63 unto the said Thomas Wigzell, my son, for, by and during the whole term of
the . . .
64 life of him, the said Thomas Wigzell, my son. And after the decease of the .
. . .
65 my son, I will, give and bequeath all the said messuage and tenement,
barns . . .
66 closes, gardens, orchard and three parcels of land and meadow, withall and
singular . . .
67 unto **William Wigzell**¹¹⁶, **his son, my godson**. To him and to his heirs, the
same withall and

114 probably "Three parcels of land and" - see line 66

115 "nowlefillwise"??

116 baptised in the summer of 1595; Thomas had five younger children baptised in 1596 (a daughter who probably died young), 1602 and 1604 (two more daughters) and 1606 and 1610 (two sons, born after the death of their grandfather)

68 singular thappurtenances, unto the said William Wigzell, his heirs and
assigns, to the use
69 and behoof of the said William Wigzell, my godson, his heirs and assigns.
70 Notwithstanding my will and mind is that the said Thomas, my
71 son or the said William, his son, or the heirs and assigns of the said . . .
72 pay out of the said messuage or Tenement and other the premises . . .
73 unto my said daughter Alice, yearly, during the term and space of six
(years?)
74 after my decease, if she so long live, the sum of Twenty shillings . . .
75 at the feast of the nativity of St. John the Baptist, (St. Michael's
Th'archangel)
76 the nativity of our lord Jesus Christ and th'annunciation . . .
77 equal portions, quarterly to be paid, the first term of payment to begin
78 the feast aforesaid which shall next ensue, follow and be, next after my
decease.
79 I will that for lack of payment thereof, or any part thereof, after . . .
80 by the space of Ten days, That then, and so often, and at any time . . .
81 and may be lawful unto her, the said Alice, and her assigns, into all . . .
82 Tenements, Barns, stables, Edifice and building and all other the premises .
.
83 thappurtenances , to enter and distreign, and the distress, or distresses . . .

84 leefully¹¹⁷ from there to bear, lead, drive and carry away and the same . .
85 detain and keep until the said yearly sum of 20s, and all Arrearage, . .
86 be fully satisfied and paid during the said Six years. In witness, I the
87 said William Wigzell, to this my present last will and Testament, have set
my . .
88 yeven¹¹⁸ the day and year first above written.

Nicolas Hooper's
mark
with initials

Read, Sealed, pronounced and
declared the day and year
first above written by the above
said William Wigzell

presence of
Henry Collyer and
Nicholas Hooper, writer

the mark of William
Wigzell

117 legally/lawfully

118 given

The Willards of the Ightham Locality

There were a number of Willards in Ightham, Kemsing, Seal, Shipbourne and Chipsted but only isolated details have survived.

The Willards of Ightham seem to have lived there for at the most sixty years, from the 1560s to the 1620s page 2.w.189

Abraham Willard married **Joane Baker**, in Kemsing, on 7th August 1574 and their daughter, Elizabeth, was baptised on 12th April 1577. Abraham's will of 1594 has survived page 2.w.194

On 22nd February 1588, a **John Willard of Chepsted/Seal** was charged at Sevenoaks Assizes page 2.w.195

There were two marriages in Shipbourne page 2.w.196

The will of Vincent Willard, barber of West Malling has survived (page 2.w.198), there were also Willards in Tonbridge (page 2.w.201) and the will of Elinor Willard of Brenchley has survived (page 2.w.220)

John Willard of Ightham and his extended Family

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i777	<u>WILLARD, John</u> ----- 		15 Jun 1568	Alice Clifford 1778 ¹¹⁹	1	7	
i778	<u>Clifford, Alice</u> -----	<1548			1	7	21 Feb 1625
• i779	<u>WILLARD, Walter</u>	17 Jan 1574		see page 2.w.190	2	2	25 Mar 1606 aged 32
• i805	<u>WILLARD, John</u> ¹²⁰	22 Jul 1576			0	0	4 Mar 1599
• i806	<u>Willard, Agnes</u>	20 Apr 1579			0	0	1 Jun 1579 at 6 wks
• i807	<u>Willard, Joane</u>	5 Jun 1580			0	0	12 Nov 1580 at 5 mnths
• i808	<u>WILLARD, William</u>	11 Feb 1582			0	0	
• i809	<u>Willard, Helen</u>	14 Mar 1585	Nov/Dec 1611	Richard STUBBERNE married at 26 see page 2.w.192	1	1	
• • i2045	<u>Stubberne, Francis</u>	1 Mar 1612	(daughter)				0 0
• i810	<u>Willard, Anne</u>	1 Jun 1589					0 0

119 i indicates a reference in the Ightham database

120 "John, son of John Willard" when buried; if baptism and burial refer to the same John, he died aged 22

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i779	<u>WILLARD, Walter</u> -----	17 Jan 1574			2	2	25 Mar 1606 aged 32
	<i>Marriage 1</i>		28 Jun 1601	Anne Gilbert i1979	1	1	
i1979	<u>Gilbert, Anne</u> -----	<1581			1	1	
• i1980	<u>Willard, Alice</u> ¹²¹ -----	12 Jun 1603	16 Jan 1626	Pierce DUNMOLL ¹²² i2298			1 1
	<i>Marriage 2</i>			Margaret Willard(m)	1	1	
i2072	<u>Willard(m), Margaret</u> -----				1	1	31 Mar 1606
• i1981	<u>WILLARD, William</u> -----	16 Feb 1606					0 0

The reconstitution above assumes that John's son Walter (i779) married twice, first to **Anne Gilbert** who must have died before spring 1605; his second marriage was very short if it was he who was buried in March 1606, a week before his wife Margaret and 5 weeks after their son was baptised.

¹²¹ Alice and Pierce (Percy) Dunmoll daughter Anne was baptised, in Ightham, on 6th April 1628 but she died aged 4 being buried on 23rd May 1632. **Henry Dunmoll, son of Henry Dunmoll**, was buried on 26th February 1628 but these are the only Dunmoll records for Seal, Kemsing and Ightham.

¹²² Their only recorded child, a daughter, Anne Dunmoll, was baptised on 6th April 1628 and was buried, aged 4, on 23rd May 1632.

The Ightham Willards and the Court Records

The Ightham Willards were mentioned in the Court Records between 1586 and 1618. Three extracts are given for **John Willard** of Ightham, baker and brewer, (possibly i777 whose family is shown above), one of which also includes Walter, most likely i777's son:

- On 5th April 1594, the Court found that "**John Woodland and Walter Willard**, on 1 April last, assaulted each other in the village of Ightham. Fined 12d each. **John Willard, sen.**, on the same day assaulted **John Woodland** within the precincts of this Lete. Fined 12d." (CRI 1938, p.5) i777's son Walter was twenty at this time. i805, another John, was seventeen in April 1594 and could perhaps have been John Willard, junior.
- The Court held on 20th October 1600 fined **Stanley** 20d for having assaulted **John Willard**, drawing blood.

- On 16th October 1604, the item concerns an assault which took place, in 1602, "in the house of **John Willard**, lately of Ightham, deceased." See **Nicholas Barret in More Families & Transcripts** for details. No burial of a John Willard was recorded at the beginning of the seventeenth century.

Alice Willard, brewer, presumably John's wife, also appeared in the Court Records but no details are given by Harrison (CRI 1938, p.61). If the Alice Willard buried in 1625 was John's wife, she was about 80 when she died; the first child recorded was baptised six years after the marriage.

In 1614, three years after **Richard Stubborne** married Helen, he and **William Willard (i808)**, were mentioned in the same incident: On 30th December 1614, a number of men were involved in an "assault and affray" the victim of which was "one **Simon, gardener, to Sir William Selby**" whose surname appears to have been **Price**. **Richard Stubborne** assaulted him first, striking him "with a hanger, value 12d, drawing blood." "**William Willard, Stephen Mellis, Peter Mellis, Robert Launder and John Launder**¹²³ then and there took part in the assault and affray and Price was struck with a certain dagger, value 6d to the effusion of blood but by whom the jury are utterly ignorant." When this came before the Court on 2nd

123 see **Launder** and **Mellis** in **More Families & Transcripts** ; "Mellis" is a variation of the name "Millis"

October 1615 Stubborne was fined 3s 4d and the other attackers 12d each. (CRI 1938, p.8)

An Abraham Willard was buried on 3rd February 1589 but this is too early for it to be the burial of the testator. Unless one of these dates is incorrect, there were two Abraham Willards. The will was proved on 10th April 1590. Abraham's daughter was thirteen when her father died.

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 The second day of February 1589, I, Abraham
3 Willard of Kemsing, do make my last
4 will and testament. **First:** I bequeath my
5 soul unto god. Also I will to
6 **Elizabeth, my daughter**, three
7 score pounds and ?? of lawful money
8 of England to be paid by **Joane, my wife**,
9 at her day of marriage or at twenty
10 years of age which shall first happen.
11 All that rest of my worldly goods I give
12 to Joane, my wife, whom I make my
13 executrix. Witnesses **John Baker, junior**,

- 14 William Hills¹²⁴, Stephen Hadley,
15 William Watts¹²⁵ and Thomas Acorte¹²⁶.

John Willard of Seal and Chipsted

At Sevenoaks Assizes, on 22 February 1588, **John Willard of Chepsted, Robert Hunt of Broomfield and William Bird of Chepsted, labourer**, were indicted for grand larceny. They were charged with breaking into the house of **John Tylman at Alkham** and stealing 4 yards of russet cloth (valued at £4) on 28 April 1587. Alkham is about 4 miles inland from Dover, about fifty miles from Seal and Chipsted.

124 William Hills of Kemsing (k106) had children in Kemsing between 1573 and 1590

125 There were Watts in Kemsing throughout the period studied; the William who witnessed this will was probably the one who married in 1587 (k306)

126 John Akourt of Kemsing, who died in December 1588, had eight children between 1561 and 1583, Thomas (k241) being baptised on 15th October 1570

On 6 November 1586, **Willard of Seal** broke into the close of **John Rowse at Seal** and stole a grey gelding (£3). Willard was found not guilty, Hunt was dead and Bird at large. The trial jury included Robert Pelsett (#43) and a John Swaynland¹²⁷ ..

It looks as if just one Willard was involved here. Was this the John Willard who was one of a gang found guilty of the murder of William Pynden in March 1590 described in the [History of Sevenoaks?](#)

Willard Marriages in Shipbourne

On 20th October 1642 **Elizabeth Willard** (\$1849¹²⁸) married **Thomas Chepell** (\$1840).

On 20th July 1647 **John Willard** (\$2108) married **Rebekah Plane** (\$2109).

127 Cockburn, J.S. Cal. of Assize Records, Kent Indictments Eliz. I, HMSO 1979, p. 274, no. 1650

128 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

Vincent Willard, barber of West Malling

Vincent Willard (or Wyllard as it is written in the will) was a barber but, as with most wills, there is nothing concerning his occupation in his will. Most unusually, Vincent's house included a "Guest Chamber" in which was a joined bedstead which was left to one of his daughters. An usual item, which he left to one of his sons, was a "great iron bottle".

Vincent owned the moiety (one half) of a messuage in West Malling which he left to Arthur, one of his sons who was his executor, but whether or not this was the house with the guest chamber is not known.

The will was written by Hugh Willard whose relationship to Vincent is not known and this is the only will he is known to have written although not all the wills of the West Malling locality have been investigated.

1 In the name of god Amen. the second day of March in the year of our lord
god 1593
2 I, Vincent Wyllard of West Malling in the county of Kent, **barber**, being sick
3 in body yet of good remembrance, lauded be god, do ordain and make this
my present
4 testament and last will in manner and form following¹²⁹: **First** I give my
soul into the
5 hands of god, my heavenly father, assuredly trusting to be saved through
the
6 merits and righteousness of Christ Jesus, my saviour, and I will my body
7 to the earth from whence it was taken and to be buried in the church yard
8 of West Malling aforesaid. **Item**: I give unto **Katherine, my daughter**, the
joined
9 bedstead in the Guest Chamber with the bedding and furniture thereunto
as it
10 now standeth. **Item**: I give unto **Richard Wyllard, my son**, a great iron

129 "folowing"

11 bottle, 2 platters and my best hose and doublet. **Item:** I will and give unto
12 **Margery,**
13 **my daughter,** 20s to be paid unto her by mine executor within a year next
14 after
15 my decease. **Item:** I will and give unto **Anne, my daughter,** 3s 4d to be paid
16 to her within half a year after my decease. **Item:** I likewise give to
17 **Margaret, my daughter,** 3s 4d to be paid as aforesaid. The residue
18 of all my moveable goods whatsoever, my debts and legacies satisfied
19 and ??, I ?? and give to **Arthur, my son,** who I make my sole
executor to this my last will and testament and he to see me honestly
buried as is aforesaid.

20 This is the last will and testament of me the aforesaid Vincent
21 Wyllard made and declared the day and year above written, touching the
22 ?? of the moiety of one messuage
23 or tenement, barn, orchard and garden, with th'appurtenances. situated,
24 lying and
25 being in West Malling aforesaid. **Item:** I will and give the said
26 moiety of the said messuage or tenement, barn, orchard and garden with
27 all and singular th'appurtenances, unto the said Arthur Wyllard and to his
heirs
forever. **Item:** I ordain and appoint **Valentine Harrison** and **Hugh**
Wyllard to be mine overseers of this my last will and testament

28 and they to have for their pains, at the discretion of my said
29 executor. In witness whereby I, the said Vincent Wyllard,
30 to this my last will and testament have set my seal the day
31 and year first above written.

the mark V W¹³⁰ of the
said Vincent

Signed, sealed and ?? in the presence of us

Valentine Harrison

Hugh Wyllard, the writer.

130 mark looks like the initials "V W"

The Willards of Tonbridge

Three wills have survived for the Willards of Tonbridge from the seventeenth century (up to 1650):

William Willard	22 Apr 1621	gent.	PCC: Savile 47	page 2.w.204
Abraham Willard	23 Jan 1622	yeoman	CKS: Drb/Pw 25	page 2.w.209
David Willard	3 Apr 1633	broad weaver	CKS: Drb/Pw 29; Drb/Pwr 22.121	page 2.w.215

All three of these wills were written by John Hooper, notary public, who wrote many wills for people from the Tonbridge area. It is not known if the original of William's has survived, the transcript having been made from the probate copy. Many John Hooper's wills were decorated; the initial "I" of "In the name of god Amen" of Abraham's will is very slightly decorated but David's was not decorated at all..

Abraham was William's uncle but although William had two cousins called David (one of whom was Abraham's son), there is no way of deciding whether the David whose will has survived was one of these cousins.

twenty shillings whilst all his other godchildren were to be given half a crown which was a very unusual amount of money (£0.125) to be specified.

William owned two messuages in High Holborn in London which Mary was to have for the term of her natural life, the evidences for which “[or the most part thereof are in her keeping together with all my right estate, reversion and demand of, in and to the same](#)”. And if Mary should “[happen to be with child at the time of my decease](#)”, the child was to have these two messuages at the age of twenty-one. But, if Mary was not with child, then when she died they were to go to his cousin John, son of Abraham. It would appear that William and Mary did not have any children when the will was written.

But the exact meaning of the next sentence is difficult to interpret given the previous instructions: “[the which two messuages formerly by me devised, David Willard, my brother, is to hold and enjoy for term of his natural life by lawful conveyance between us heretofore made](#)”. Was David much older than William’s wife so that he was to have the messuages for what was expected to be a relatively short time and on his death they would go to Mary and John?

William also owned a house in Saint Nicholas Shambles in London. Here comes another apparent inconsistency since William leaves this house to the “[child which my wife now goeth withall](#)”. This apparent certainty compared with the earlier possibility could be just an abbreviation since the house had been assured

to Mary for “her jointure to hold to the said child, . . . and in default of such issue by my wife, I will the said house . . . to the said John Willard”.

Finally he left his message in Tonbridge to Mary to go, on her death, to her child if she had one or otherwise to William’s cousin John.

Will of William Willard of Tonbridge

written 22nd April 1621

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The two and twentieth
2 day of April in the year of our lord god one thousand, six hundred twenty
3 and one, I, William Wyllard of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **gent.** being
4 at this time sickly but of good and perfect remembrance (thanks be
5 to god) do make and ordain this my testament and last will in manner
6 and form following: **First** and principally, yielding my soul to god my maker
7 with an assured hope of salvation through his mercy in the merit and
8 mediation of his son Jesus Christ, my saviour, and my body to the earth
9 in decent manner to be buried. **Item:** I will to the poor of Tonbridge
10 forty shillings to be distributed amongst them either in the day of

11 my burial or within one month after at the discretion of my executrix.
12 **Item:** I will to my loving **uncle Abraham Willard** forty shillings. To
13 **John Willard, his son**, my best bed save one with blanket, coverlet,
14 bolster and bedstead thereto belonging. To **David Willard, his son**, ten
15 shillings and to **David, Nicholas and Edmond, sons of my uncle Edmond**
16 **Willard, deceased**, five shillings a piece. **Item:** I will to my godson **William**
17 **Terry** twenty shillings and to all the rest of my godchildren half
18 a crown a piece. **Item:** I will to my loving friend **William Bartles**, for a
19 remembrance of my love to him and to make him a ring, ten shillings.
20 **Item:** I will to **my brother David** other ten shillings to make him the like
21 ring. **Item:** I will to **Hester Lampard, daughter of John Lampard, my wife's**
22 **brother**, ten pounds to be paid unto her at her day of marriage by my
23 said wife or her assigns. The residue of all my goods, cattle and chattels
24 of what name or nature soever they be, I will, give and appoint to **Mary,**
25 **my loving wife**, whom I make the sole and only executrix of this my
26 testament and last will to see the same proved, my debts and legacies paid
27 and my body decently brought to the earth. This is also the last will of me
28 the said William Willard made and declared the day and year first above
29 written touching the ordering and disposing of all my lands and tenements.
30 **Item:** I will give and devise to Mary, my wife, for term of her natural
31 life all those two messuages or tenements with their appurtenances,
32 situated
in **High Holborne in London**. The evidences whereof, or the most part

33 thereof are in her keeping together with all my right estate, reversion
34 and demand of, in and to the same. To hold to the said Mary and her
assigns
35 during the whole term of her natural life. And if my said wife shall
36 happen to be with child at the time of my decease, then I will the said two
37 messuages or tenements and their appurtenances unto the said child and
to
38 the heirs of the said child for ever. And the said child to enjoy the
39 same at his age of twenty and one years. And my said wife to hold the
40 same only until the said age of the said child. And if my said wife shall
41 not be with child, then I will that, after the decease of my said wife,
42 the said two messuages and their appurtenances shalbe¹³² and remain unto
43 John Willard, son of my uncle Abraham Willard and to his heirs for
44 ever. Provided always if the said John Willard decease leaving no
45 issue of his body then living, I will the said two messuages with
46 their appurtenances shalbe and remain to my **cousin John Arden of St.
Leonards**
47 and to his heirs forever. The which two messuages formerly by me devised
48 David Willard, my brother, is to hold and enjoy for term of his natural
49 life by lawful conveyance between us heretofore made. **Item:** I will to the

page 2:

50 child which my wife now goeth withall all that my house in **Saint**
51 **Nicholas Shambles in London** which I have assured to my wife for her
52 jointure to hold to the said child, and to the heirs of the said
53 child for ever. And in default of such issue by my wife, I will the said
54 house with th'appurtenances shalbe and remain to the said John Willard
55 before named, his heirs and assigns forever. **Item:** I will, give and devise
57 to the said Mary, my wife, for term of her life, all that messuage or
58 tenement wherein I now dwell with the gardens, close and appurtenances
59 thereto belonging, situated in Tonbridge above written. And after her
60 decease, the said messuage or tenement, gardens, close and
appurtenances
61 to be and remain to the child which she now goeth withall for ever.
62 And in default of such issue, to the before named John Willard, his heirs
63 and assigns for ever. In witness whereof I have to this my testament
64 and last will set my hand and seal yeven the day and year first
65 above written. William Willard, sealed, published and declared
66 in the presence of **Thomas Everest, John Gilbert** and **John Hooper**
70 notary public.

Abraham Willard, yeoman

Abraham's wife had predeceased him but his "late wife, willed and appointed unto" three of their children a number of specified items. John was to have delivered to him a "stone pot covered and footed with silver which his mother, my late wife, willed and appointed unto him". Susan was to have the silver salt and Alice the silver cap which was "also her mother's gift to her". Had Abraham's wife left a will (if so, it has not survived) or just made known her wishes to Abraham? Whilst much is made of wives having no independence with regard to their own belongings, many wills show that husbands respected the wishes of their wives. Had Abraham's wife brought these items with her on her marriage?

Abraham left his daughter Alice £15 and a large number of household items. David, his son and executor, was to "have, hold and enjoy" these "for to keep, clothe, sustain and maintain (Alice) her during her natural life". But if David died before Alice or "Alice dislike to be kept by the said David" then Susan, her sister, or anyone else Alice chose who was willing "to keep, clothe, sustain and maintain" her was to have "her said portion of goods and money" and discharge David from this responsibility. It would seem from this legacy and the need for someone to maintain and sustain her that Alice was handicapped in some way.

1 In the name of god Amen. the three and twentieth
2 day of January in the year of our Lord God, according to the computation
3 of the Church of England, one thousand, six hundred, twenty and one, I,
4 Abraham Willard of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, do ordain
and
5 make this my testament and last will in manner and form following, that
is
6 to say: **First** yielding my soul to Almighty god, my maker, with an
assured
7 hope of salvation through his mercy in the merit and mediation of his
dear
8 son Jesus Christ, I give unto the poor of Tonbridge, aforesaid, ten
shillings.
9 **Item:** I give unto my **loving son John Wyllard** twenty shillings of lawful
10 english money and one pair of flaxen sheets. And to **Elizabeth** and
Frances his
11 **two daughters**, to either of them, a silver spoon. **Item:** I will unto my
daughter

12 **Susan** my featherbed and bolster in the new chamber and the
bedsteddle there, my white
13 rug, my carpet in the hall, five pewter platters, two pewter dishes. And
to **Elizabeth**,
14 **her daughter**, one silver spoon. **Item:** I will that my son John have
delivered to him the
15 stone pot covered and footed with silver which his mother, my late wife,
willed and appointed
16 unto him. And that Susan, my daughter, shall have the silver salt to her
likewise appointed
17 by her mother. And that **Alice, my daughter**, have the silver cap which
was also her
18 mother's gift to her. **Item:** I will unto Alice, my daughter, the joined
bedstead
19 with the flockbed, 2 bolsters, covering, 2 blankets and two pillows as
they now stand
20 and are next to the bedsteddle whereon I lie and also two pairs of sheets,
a pair of
21 pillow coats, a pair of brandirons in the hall, the two chests which she
now useth
22 and one great chest in the new chamber wherein the linen lyeth, three
pewter platters,

23 three pewter dishes, 1 salt, two saucers and two pottingers, one box
standing in a
24 frame and two small boxes and one chamber pot. And also the sum of
25 fifteen pounds of lawful english money. All which goods and money
formerly ??
26 to the said Alice, I will that **David Willard, my son**, shall have, hold and
enjoy for to
27 keep, clothe, sustain and maintain her during her natural life. And if the
said
28 David decease (living the said Alice) or if the said Alice dislike to be kept
by
29 the said David and that Susan, her sister, or any other whom the said
Alice shall make
30 choice of, will take upon her or them to keep, clothe, sustain and
maintain the said
31 Alice, during her natural life, for her portion in goods and money
aforesaid. Then I
32 will that the said David, my son, his executors or assigns, shall faithfully
and peaceably
33 deliver the said Alice, with her said portion of goods and money, to her
said sister or

34 such other person as shalbe chosen by the said Alice and will take upon
them to keep
35 and maintain her during her life and thereof will discharge¹³³ the said
David. And then the portion
36 of goods and money so appointed to the said Alice to be theirs in whose
keeping the said
37 Alice shall happen to decease (any gift or grant thereof made to the said
Aice to
38 the contrary notwithstanding). **Item:** I give to my three godchilren, viz.
Henry, the
39 **son of George Farleigh, Margaret, daughter of William Lyons and**
Abraham, the
40 **son of Samuel Ireland,** three shillings and four pence apiece of lawful
english money.
41 **Item:** I will unto **John Somerfall, my servant,** my doublet and venetians¹³⁴
42 which I now wear.

133 "dischardge" (usual Hooper spelling)

134 hose or breeches of a particular fashion introduced from Venice

page 2:

43 The residue of all and singular my goods, cattells, chattells and credits
44 I wholly and fully give and bequeath unto David Willard, my loving son,
45 who I make and ordain the sole executor of this my testament and last
will,
46 to see the same proved and all my debts and legacies faithfully and truly
47 paid and my body decently brought to the earth. In witness whereof
48 I have to this my testament and last will set my hand and seal yeven the
day
49 and year first above written

by me Abraham Wyllard¹³⁵

Sealed, subscribed, published
and declared in the presence of

Will Barttell

John Holmden

John Hooper, not. pub.

135 could be a signature; the witnesses could also have signed their names

David Willard, broadweaver

It seems probable from David's will that Mary was his second wife, with children from her first marriage but not the mother of Robert's children. Mary and John, one of Robert's sons, were to share all the "goods and cattell which she brought with her at our intermarriage" together with all his own goods, etc. He also hoped that after his death Mary and John (obviously not married) would

"lovingly continue housekeeping together" but, when either of them was "willing to give over housekeeping together", then they were to divide Mary's goods and his goods between them. Before the will was proved, both Mary and John were each to enter into a bond of £40 with David's overseers that they would "perform this my will so far forth as on (their) part the said ought to be performed" ..

1 In the name of god Amen. the third day of April in the year of
2 our lord god one thousand, six hundred, thirty and three, I, David Willard
3 of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **broadweaver**, being¹³⁶ at this time
sickly and
4 weak in body but of perfect and good understanding and memory, for
which I give praise
5 and thanks to god, do ordain and make this my testament and last will
in manner
6 as followeth: **First** recommending my soul to Almighty god, my maker,
and to
7 Christ Jesus, his son, my loving saviour and redeemer. And my body to
the earth in decent
8 manner to be buried with hope of a joyful resurrection to eternal life.
9 **Item:** I will to **David, mine eldest son**, (already preferred) one broad loom,
two sleyes,

136 "beeing", "bee", etc, throughout as is usual; with the Hoopers

10 four reeds and one winding handle.
11 **Item:** I will to my four daughters, viz. **Dorothy, Joane, Agnes and**
12 **Elizabeth,**
13 four pounds a piece of lawful English money to be paid in this manner,
14 viz. to each of them
15 within six months ¹³⁷ next after my decease.
16 **Item:** my will and desire is that **Mary, my wife,** do and shall suffer **John,**
17 **my son,** to
18 shift with her those goods and cattell which she brought with her at our
19 intermarriage,
the property? thereof not being altered nor being any of those goods
which her former husband
hath appointed to any of his children. And if she shall be content there
to do, then my
will is that she shall shift with my said son John all my goods and
chattells,

137 this originally read "to the eldest within six months, the second within one year, the third within a year and a half and the youngest of them within two years" but the rest of this line and most of the next have been crossed out, all of them being paid within six months

20 equally to be divided between them both, her goods and my goods. And
then I do
21 make the said Mary and John my joint executors to prove this my will
and to pay
22 my debts and legacies given away equally between them. To the which
Mary and
23 John I will and give the residue of my goods and chattells not before
given away to be
24 equally shifted as aforesaid. And my will is that the said Mary and John
shall after
25 my decease lovingly continue housekeeping together with such charge
and doing now I
26 myself do now maintain. And that when either of them shalbe willing
to
27 give over housekeeping together, then they shall make shift of my goods
and my wife's goods
28 as aforesaid. And farther, I will that my said wife shall become bound
before this my will
29 be proved, at such time as my overseers or either of them shall appoint,
to my said overseers
30 or one of them, in the sum of forty pounds to make shift as aforesaid and
to perform

31 this my will so far forth as on her part the said ought to be performed.
And that my said
32 son John shall become in the like bond to my said overseers, or one of
them, to make
33 shift and to perform this my will so far forth as on his part the same
might be done.
34 And if my said wife and son, or either of them, shall refuse thus to be
bound, I will and give power
35 to the ordinary before whom this my will is to be proved, by cross? or
otherwise to compel
36 them. And I do desire my good friends **Richard Day of Tudeley, clothier,**
and **William**
40 **Mylles of Tonbridge, yeoman,** that this my will may be proved and
performed
41 according to my mind herein declared, to whom for their pains herein to
be taken and to be
42 assisting when my goods shall be inventorised, I will five shillings a
piece, over and above

43 all their charges¹³⁸. Lastly I will to the poor of Tonbridge ten shillings to
be
44 distributed on the day of my burial. In witness whereof I have hereunto
set my hand
45 and seal dated the day and year first above written.

Read, sealed, published and
and declared with the words above
stricken out before the ensembling in
the presence of

¹³⁹ X David Willard

Henry ¹⁴⁰ Willard
and John Hooper, scr.

138 "chardges"; again usual with the Hoopers

139 David Willard's mark is an "X" with horizontal lines above and below but there are some words before it which cannot be interpreted

140 mark "H"

A number of Willard wills have survived from Brenchley; only that of Elinor Willard, widow, written by George Salmon, has been looked at. Its preamble includes:

“**First** and principally I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty god and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Brenchley aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the poor people of Brenchley aforesaid 3s 4d.”

John William of West Peckham

In his will of 1501 (CKS: Drb/Pwr 11.29, John William left to the parish church of West Peckham “a cow to fynde a years-mind with placebo and dirige and mass of requiem and to pray for me and for **Maude, my wife**, in bede roll”¹⁴¹.

141 Testamenta Cantiana, London 1906, A Series of Extracts from 15th and 16th Century Wills, p. 58

John Williams of Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i1413	<u>WILLIAMS, John</u> ----- 	<1569	22 Jan 1589	Joane Jessop i1414 ¹⁴²	1	2	
i1414	<u>Jessop, Joane</u> -----				1	2	
• i1415	<u>WILLIAMS, Richard</u>	12 Feb 1589				0	0
		Richard baptised 3 weeks after marriage					
• i1416	<u>WILLIAMS, John</u>	19 Sep 1591				0	0
		"son of -- Williams"					

There was a John Williams buried in 20 Mar 1625; this could have been i1413 in which case he would have been in his 50s; alternatively it could have been i1416 or some one completely different.

142 i indicates a reference in the Ightham database

John Williams's Appearances in the Court Records

In April 1592 **George Chownings** and **George Hawke** were presented to the Court for having received a number of strangers including a John Williams but this was unlikely to have been i1413 above. The John Williams who "persistently encroached on the common and, in spite of the fines imposed on him and the orders made by the courts, was not easily dislodged" could, however, have been i1413. This encroachment spread over at least twelve years:

- 5.4.1592 "**John Williams** has encroached upon the common of the lord of the manor with his hedge at Oldbury . . . Given till the next Court to remove the encroachment, under penalty 3s 4d."
- 26.4.1593 "**John Williams** has encroached upon the waste and common of the lord at **Oldbury**, at the foot of the hill there. Given till Michaelmas to remove the encroachment, under penalty 10s."

- 1.4.1602 "John Williams has encroached upon part of the common of the lord of the manor at Redwell, to the extent of two rods¹⁴³. Given till Michaelmas to remove the encroachment, under penalty 10s."
- 5.5.1603 "John Williams has encroached upon the lord's waste at Redwell to the extent of two 'les dayworks' of land. Given till Michaelmas to open out the land and remove the encroachment, under penalty 5s and a further penalty of 5s for every such offence in future."
- 19.4.1604 "John Williams has not entirely removed the encroachment made by him upon the lord's common at Redwell, to the extent of one half of a daywork taken into his garden there, contrary to the order and presentment made at the previous Court. He has therefore forfeited the fine of 5s imposed on him and has till the next Court to open out the encroachment under penalty 6s 8d."
(CRI 1937, p.210)

143 a rod as a linear measure was 16.5 feet - 2 rods would have been 33 feet, 11 yards

Also on 19th April 1604, **Robert Ward** was fined 3s 4d for having, "on 1 November last, assaulted **John Williams**, striking him with a stick and drawing blood." (CRI 1938, p.7).

The Williams of Seal & Shipbourne

In Seal, the only entries for Williams were the burials of two children of **Edward William**, gent. (#1865¹⁴⁴):

- | | | | | |
|---|---------------|-------|--------|------------|
| - | Elizabeth | #1867 | buried | 7 Aug 1594 |
| - | Francis (son) | #1869 | | 7 Dec 1595 |

There were a number of Williams families in Shipbourne with no obvious relationship between them.

William Williams (\$2217) married **Mary Knight** (\$2218) and they had a daughter, **Mary** - see [Knight in Families & Transcripts](#)

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

Andrew Williams (\$1274) had three children:

- Thomas \$1276 baptised 11 Jun 1620
- Reginald \$1359 15 Oct 1623 buried 19 Oct 1623
- James \$1390 18 Dec 1625 29 Jun 1626

Andrew Williams (\$1306) was buried on 26th September 1625; he could have been the father of \$1274 - or \$1274 himself.

On 18th Jun 1627 **John Williams** (\$1431¹⁴⁵) married **Katherine Russell** (\$1432) and they had two children:

- John \$1433 baptised 16 Mar 1628
- Anna \$1789 buried 13 Nov 1640

Henry Williams (\$1163) had three children between 1616 and 1622:

- Thomas \$1165 baptised 5 May 1616 buried 20 Oct 1617
- Thomas \$1277 8 Dec 1618
- Andrew \$1278 26 May 1622 27 Dec 1626

145 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

There were four more children of Henry Williams recorded between 1639 and 1650. Either \$1163 married twice or there was another Henry Williams:

- Thomas \$1756 baptised 7 Jul 1639 buried 19 Mar 1641
- Jane \$1802 10 Apr 1642
- Thomas \$2040 15 Feb 1646
- Andrew \$2187 24 Mar 1650

Henry Williams, senior, (\$1729) was buried on 19th April 1638. He could have been the father of \$1163.

Thomas Williams married **Frances Wood** (\$1818) on 23rd January 1642; this could have been Henry's son \$1277 who would have been twenty-four in 1642. They had a son **Henry** (\$1855) baptised on 22nd January 1643.

Of the twelve children recorded in these families, six died as infants or young children.

The Williamsons of Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
i383 ¹⁴⁶	<u>WILLIAMSON, Thomas</u> ----- 		6 May 1604	Margery Broade i379	1 4	19 Apr 1649
i379	<u>Broade, Margery</u> -----	5 Sep 1568			1 4	
• i1995	<u>WILLIAMSON, Thomas</u>		2 Sep 1604			0 0
• i1996	<u>WILLIAMSON, Nicholas</u>		1 Mar 1607			0 0
• i1997	<u>Williamson, Judith</u>		7 Oct 1610			0 0
• i2105	<u>WILLIAMSON, John</u>		23 Oct 1614			0 0
			no father given for John			

If it was **Nicholas Broade's daughter** who married Thomas Williamson in 1604, she was 35 which was rather old particularly since she had at least three children - see [Broade in More Families & Transcripts](#)

146 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

On 19th April 1604, **Thomas Williamson** was fined 3s 4d because he had, "on 30 December last, assaulted **John Emerson** and struck him on the head with his dagger, value 12d, drawing blood." (CRI 1938, p.7)

If #383 was "**Thomas Williamson alias Codde**" - who was buried in 1649, he was 70 or more when he died but it could have been his son #1995

The Willoughbys of Ightham

The Manor of Ightham

"The Manor of Ightham passed in 1545 to **Robert Willoughby**, son of **Sir Thomas Willoughby**, who had inherited it in right of his wife, one of the co-heirs of her father, **Sir Robert Read**. From Robert Willoughby the manor came to **Thomas Willoughby** who held it in 1570." Differences arose between him and **Robert Byng**, Lord of the Manor of Wrotham since about 1556, as to the rights of the respective Courts Leet (or Views of Frank-pledge)¹⁴⁷

"The timber and underwood were cut periodically and were a source of profit to the lord of the manor as records going back to 1586 show. In that year Thomas Willoughby who had 'lately felled' the woods on 'thother side' of Oldbury Hill (apparently the eastern side), granted a 21-year lease of 100 acres of woodland on the hill to '**Henry Bossevyle**' of **Bradborne, Kent, esquire**' at a rent of £20 per year and sold to him the 'wooddes, under wooddes and trees upon' Oldbury Hill

147 CRI 1937, p.179-183

for £540." The leaseholder of the woodland was presumably Henry Bosville of Bradbourne in Sevenoaks.

"In 1595 Thomas Willoughby let to '**Richard Wilkinson of Frenedesburie, Kent**' the Court Lodge of Ightham and 300 acres of land, also for 21 years, at a rent of £100 a year."¹⁴⁸

Richard Wilkinson's 300 Acres

Richard Wilkinson's "300 acres may have included part of the common but not Oldbury Hill. There was well-grown timber on the land which the lessee considered himself entitled to fell, a view that was not shared by the homage of the Court Baron as the following passage shows:

8.5.1598 **Richard Wilkinson**, or his servants by his order, since the death of Thomas Willoughby, esquire, deceased has cut down two 'quercos, anglice tellowes,' one great beech, two great oaks two fathoms about, divers trees cut down to the ground, three great

148 At least in 1937, the originals of both these leases were with the manor records. (CRI 1937, p.204)

beeches six shide about, three beeches four shide at the ground and sundry small trees, one great beech one fathom and a half 'by ground', one young oak 'of a fathom about at stubb' and twenty younger beeches, some of them being '4 shide by ground', two great beeches two fathom about at the stubb, one beech one fathom about at the stubb, four beeches six 'shide at stubb', twenty other smaller beeches, two beeches, the one four shide, the other two shide, to the disinheriting of the lord of the manor. Whereon the homage will consider what shall be done in this case. (a fathom, six feet, was originally the space reached by the extended arms; the word tellow is used in Sussex as meaning a young sapling; a shide, as a quantity, was a block of timber 12 by 12 by 6 inches or half a cubic foot).¹⁴⁹.

Percival Willoughby

Percival Willoughby, who inherited the manor in 1596 on the death of his father. He held his first court in April 1597 "and apparently found many indications of slackness. He was about to sell the manor but the profits from dues and fines were low and the saleable value of his seigneurial rights was likely to be correspondingly depressed. Steps to tighten the administration were accordingly taken at the October courts." A number of men, including **Richard Wilkinson, gent.**, (presumably the man who had leased the Court Lodge) who were residents within the View of Frank-pledge and owed suit at the Court made default but were pardoned because they had not been sufficiently summoned to the Court.

"The neglect was primarily that of the borsholder", **John Terry** who "was fined 40s for not giving a sufficient note in writing of the names of the inhabitants of this View of Frank-pledge". (see **John Terry of Ightham in More Families & Transcripts**) Similar circumstances were disclosed at the Court Baron held on the same day:

10.10.1597 The homage present that very many tenants of this manor, both free and customary, who owe suit at this Court have made default

this day but, because they were not sufficiently summoned by the bailiff of the manor, their defaults were remitted."

"What happened to the bailiff is not recorded. Defaulters were fined as usual at the 1598 courts"¹⁵⁰

Percival's Wife, Bridget, and the Turners

Percival's wife, Bridget, was mentioned in one item in 1597. At the Court Baron held on 11th April 1597, it was recorded that "**John Turner**, who held of the lord of the manor a messuage and orchard has died, whereupon there accrued to the lord for heriot a red cow, value 46s 8d which was seized and sold to the wife of the said John Turner: to whom **Bridget Willoughby**, wife of the lord of the manor, by her special grace, forgave 10s upon which there was paid to the lord

for heriot 36s 8d. The sons of the said John Turner are his next heirs by the custom of gavelkind.¹⁵¹

The burial of John Turner, who was described as a clerk¹⁵², is not recorded in the parish register, nor is the baptism of any sons although there were a number of Turners in Ightham - see [Turner in More Families & Transcripts](#).

Transfer of the Manor to John Roper

On 2nd December 1598, Thomas Willoughby, transferred the manor, together with the lord's demesnes and the advowson of Ightham to **Sir John Roper of Linsted** but the exact nature of the transfer is obscure. "That it was not an ordinary sale is clear, as [William James](#) indicates plainly in the letter and its

151 CRI 1938, p.41-42

152 CRI 1938, p.61

enclosure . . . that he bought the manor and estate from Percival Willoughby".¹⁵³

Edward Willoughby, gent.

Only the baptisms of **Edward Willoughby's** two children were recorded in the parish register:

Thomas	i1577	baptised on	26th October 1591
Elizabeth	i1578		8th May 1593

Edward and **Mary Willoughby** were mentioned in the Court Records between 1586 and 1618 but their relationship to the other Willoughbys is not known..

¹⁵³ CRI 1937, footnote, p.173 - 176; see CRI 1937 for more details which include particulars of the estate, acreage, rents, etc.

Thomas Willoughby of Chiddingstone

The probate copy of this will (Drake 53) gives the date this will was written as 17th April 1586 but the original (Prob 10/167) has survived and this gives the date as 17th April 1500 plus "four score and sixteen". Probate was obtained in August 1596 and wills recorded as Drake 4, 14, 71, etc were all dated 1596. It would thus appear that the date in the probate copy is an error.

The will was written by George Shaw but it has not been transcribed.

Christopher Willoughby of Penshurst

The will of Christopher Willoughby which has survived (CKS: Prs/w/17/152) is a copy of the original; it was made by **Christopher Thomas, notary publique**. It was written on 29th December 1630 and proved on 15th April 1631.

Although described as “[of Penshurst](#)”, Willoughby wished to be buried in the chapel belonging to Bore Place in the church of Chiddingstone, a neighbouring parish. He left 10s to Mr. Dale, the minister of Cowden, “[so as he be pleased to bestow his pains at my burial in preaching my funeral sermon](#)”. He also desired “[that, upon the day of my burial, the great bell be only rung for me till my body shall be brought to the church which I desire may be interred before the sermon begin](#)”.

His wife, Martha, was to have a bed and everything that went with it for her own use and another featherbed for the use of her servant but, if she remarried, these were to be returned to her executor.

He also left a bed and some sheets to his eldest son but all the rest of his “[goods, cattells, chatells, leases and household stuff](#)” were bequeathed to his

executor “towards the payment of my debts and legacies and . . . funeral expenses and the keeping of my house with convenient diet and other things for my wife, children and servants till the first of May next”. Does this mean all the contents of his house were to be sold? Surely not. But Christopher seems to have been heavily in debt and the arrangements in the will are very complex.

Christopher Willoughby's Debts

Although from his requests for his burial and the £4 left to the poor of the parishes of Peshurst and Chiddingstone, Christopher appears as a wealthy man, it seems that he was heavily in debt. In a deed dated 25th February 1625, he had made complex arrangements to pay of these debts with his second son, John, appearing to have taken on part of the responsibility.

In this deed Christopher Willoughby granted all the land and tenements in Peshurst and Chiddingstone of which he was then seized in fee simple to three brothers, his “[loving friends and kinsmen](#)”, Thomas Seyliard, Esq. of Brasted, John Seyliard and James Seyliard, gent. This deed had been made especially “[for the discharge of such bonds](#)” which his second son, John, had entered into, at his father’s request, apparently for the settling of some debts.

“which bonds in part are discharged but some of them are as yet of force and not satisfied by me, wherefore my desire is fully to free my son John Willoughby from the bonds and therefore do appoint that mine executor shall, out of my personal estate, pay thereof so much as the same will amount unto”.

But if his personal estate was not sufficient to pay his debts, legacies, etc. then the Seyliards were to “sell for the best price they can get . . . such part of my lands as shall be thought sufficient for the full discharge of my debts and legacies herein bequeathed”. Perhaps this implies that the land had been mortgaged to the Seyliards. The money so raised was to be used especially

- “for the discharge of the remainder of my debts due by bond for which my son John standeth engaged with me”
- for the payment of £16 to his “kinswoman Mrs John Seyliard which I, a good while since, borrowed of her”
- £40 to his son-in-law Alexander Randall “being the remainder of the portion I provided him in marriage with Elizabeth, my daughter”.
- to bind his son William Willoughby an apprentice if “mine executors and overseers shall think fit “

During her widowhood, the Seyliards were to allow Martha “to enjoy and receive, to her own use . . . the rents, issues and profits of all” of Christopher’s lands which had not been sold.

After the Death or Remarriage of Martha

After the decease or remarriage of Martha, Christopher's widow, the Seyliards with the consent of his "executors and overseers, or so many of them as shall be then living" were to sell for the best price they could get all the lands from which Martha had been receiving the rents, etc. They were to distribute the money they received to Christopher's children and grandchildren:

- £250 to his son Keneline Willoughby with £100 of this being given to his executors and overseers, "or one of them, by them to be, from time to time employed for the benefit of my said son Keneline, till his son Peregrine Willoughby" reached the age of twenty-one when it was to be given to Peregrine as a legacy from his grandfather. If Peregrine died before this, the money was to be given to Keneline for his own use.
- £200 to his son John
- £20 to John's son William payable at the age of twenty-one.
- £50 to his third son, Henry
- £40 to his second daughter, Bridgett
- 100 marks to his youngest daughter Christian
- £150 to his youngest son, William

But if the money raised was not sufficient then “every of my said children and grandchildren be proportionally abated and to receive only so much as my said goods and lands will amount unto in such portions as is before set down”.

Why was Christian’s legacy specified in marks when all the others were in £s?

His Executors and Overseer

Christopher appointed as his executors his “loving kinsman Christopher Thomas of Chepsted, gent.” and his son-in-law Alexander Randall, husband of his daughter Elizabeth. With four sons, why did he choose a kinsman and a son-in-law? His overseer, Walter Tye, was someone not otherwise mentioned.

Christopher Willoughby's Family

will:															
		p825	Christopher - Martha	p826 ¹⁵⁴											
			29 Dec 1630												

p827		p828		p829		p830		p834		p831		p838		p837	
Keneline	-	John	-	Henry	-	Elizabeth	-	Alexander Randall	-	William	-	Bridget	-	Christian	-
		p833		p836											
		Peregrine		William											(daug.)

“old Mrs. Margaret Willoughby, widow to Mr. Xpher Willoughby, the elder, deceased” was buried on 27th January 1604. By 1604, the testator must have been married and have started his family so that his mother would have been at least sixty.

154 “p” indicates a reference in the Penshurst database

1 In the name of God Amen. I, Christopher Willoughby of Penshurst
2 in the county of Kent, **gent.** being sick in body but of perfect
remembrance (thanks be given to God
3 therefore) do this nine and twentieth of December in the year of our lord
god 1630, make and
4 ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following:
First:I humbly bequeath my
5 soul into the hands of god, my maker, assuredly trusting and believing to
have full remission of all my
6 sins and to have salvation by the merits, death and passion of Jesus
Christ, my saviour and redeemer.
7 My body I commit to the earth to be buried in the parish church of
Chiddingstone in the county
8 of Kent in the chapel there belonging to **Bore Place** and under the stone
there where **Richard**
9 **Carell of Mareden, Esq.** lyeth buried. **Item:** I give to the poor of the
parishes of Penshurst and

10 Chiddingstone the sum of four pounds of lawful money of England to be
distributed upon the
11 day of my burial by the overseer of this my will according to his
discretion. **Item:** I give to
12 **Mr. Dale, the minister of Cowden**, the sum of ten shillings so as he be
pleased to bestow his
13 pains at my burial in preaching my funeral sermon. I desire that, upon
the day of my burial,
14 the great bell be only rung for me till my body shalbe brought to the
church which I desire
15 may be interred before the sermon begin. **Item:** I give to my **loving wife**
Martha the use
16 of a featherbed and bolster, two pillows, two blankets, four pairs of
sheets, two pillowberes,
17 a rug or coverlet, a bedstead and curtains and valence for the bed for
herself to use
18 and another featherbed and bolster and coverlet for her servant to use to
be chosen by her out of
19 the rest to use during the time she shall continue my widow and
afterwards, if she marry again or
20 decease, the same to be restored to my executor hereafter named. **Item:**
I give to mine

21 **eldest son, Keneline Willoughby**, two featherbeds and bolsters, two
pillows, four pairs of
22 hempen sheets and two pairs of coarser sheets such as mine executor
shall make a choice of for him.
23 The rest of my goods, cattells, chatells, leases and household stuff I do
equally will and bequeath to
24 mine executor hereafter named towards the payment of my debts and
legacies and the discharge
25 of my funeral expenses and the keeping of my house with convenient
diet and other things
26 for my wife, children and servants till the first of May next. **Item:**
whereas by my deed
27 under my hand and seal bearing date the 24th February in the year of our
lord
28 god 1625 I have thereby given and granted to my loving friends and
kinsmen, **Thomas**
29 **Seyliard of Delaware in the parish of Brasted** in the county of Kent, Esq.,
and **John**
30 **Seyliard and James Seyliard, gent.** his brothers, and to their heirs, all
those my
31 five parcels of land, meadow and pasture with th'appurtenances,
containing by estimation 32 acres

32 lying and being in Penshurst and Chiddingstone aforesaid, then in the
tenure of Richard
33 ?? , all that my croft called the **Ladies Croft** with th'appurtenances
34 in Penshurst aforesaid then in the tenure of **Edward Hamon**

page 2:

35 All those my parcels of land and pasture with th'appurtenances
containing by estimation 20 acres in
36 Penshurst and Chiddingstone aforesaid then in the tenure of **Richard**
Skynner, all those my
37 two acres of land with th'appurtenances in Penshurst aforesaid then in
mine own occupation and
38 all other my lands and tenements in the parishes of Penshurst and
Chiddingstone of which
39 I was at that time seized of an estate of fee simple which deed was made
specially in ??
40 for the discharge of such bonds wherein **John Willoughby, my second**
son, at my
41 request and for my debt was then to enter into which bonds in part are
discharged but
42 some of them are as yet of force and not satisfied by me, wherefore my
desire is fully

43 to free my son John Willoughby from the bonds and therefore do appoint
44 that mine executor shall, out of my personal estate, pay thereof so much
45 as the same will amount unto. And if my personal estate shall not fully pay my debts,
46 legacies and other payments, then my desire is and so I appoint that my loving friends and
47 kinsmen, Tho. Seyliard, John Seyliard and James Seyliard and their heirs do, with the
48 consent of mine executors and overseer hereafter named, sell for the best price
49 they can get for the same such part of my lands as shalbe thought sufficient for
50 the full discharge of my debts and legacies herein bequeathed especially in the
51 first place for the discharge of the remainder of my debts due by bond for which my son John standeth
52 engaged with me in the next place for the true payment of sixteen pounds of lawful money
53 of England to my said kinswoman **Mrs John Seyliard** which I, a good while since,
borrowed of her

54 and then afterwards to pay to my son-in-law **Alexander Randall** the sum
of
56 forty pounds of like lawful money being the remainder of the portion I
provided him
57 in marriage with **Elizabeth, my daughter**. And to bind **my son William**
Willoughby an
58 apprentice if mine executors and overseer shall think fit **Item:** I do direct
and
59 appoint that the said Thomas Seyliard, John Seyliard and James Seyliard
and their
60 heirs shall permit and suffer my said wife, Martha, to enjoy and receive,
to her own use
61 during her widowhood, the rents, issues and profits of all the remainder
of my said lands
62 which shall not be sold for the purposes aforesaid and after her decease
or her marriage, I then
63 appoint my said loving friends and kinsmen Thomas Seyliard, John
Seyliard and James
64 Seyliard and their heirs, with the consent of my executors and overseer,
or so many
65 of them as shalbe then living, to sell for the best price they can get for
the same all such

66 lands as I formerly appointed and limited my said wife to receive the
rents, issues

page 3:

67 thereof. And that the money thereof made shalbe, by the said Thomas
Seyliard, John
68 Seyliard and James Seyliard and their heirs received, and by them be
disposed of
69 in such manner and to such persons as hereafter I shall particularly set
down, viz. To my
70 said son Keneline Willoughby the sum of two hundred and fifty pounds
of lawful
71 money of England payable within one month after the sale aforesaid
whereof one
72 hundred pounds I desire may be delivered into the hands of mine
executors and overseer,
73 or one of them, by them to be from time to time employed for the benefit
of my said son
74 Keneline, till his **son Peregrine Willoughby** come to the age of twenty
and one
75 years and then the same to be paid over to the said Peregrine as a legacy
from me.

76 and if the said Peregrine die in the meantime then the same to be
delivered into the
77 hands of the said Keneline for his own use. To my said son John
Willoughby the sum of
78 two hundred pounds of like lawful money payable within one month
after the sale
79 aforesaid. To **William Willoughby, son of my said son John**, the sum of
twenty
80 pounds of like lawful money payable at his age of 21 years, to **Henry
Willoughby**,
81 my third son, the sum of fifty pounds payable within one month after the
82 sale aforesaid. to **Bridgett Willoughby, my second daughter**, the sum of
forty
83 marks of like lawful money payable within a month after the sale
aforesaid. To
84 **Christian Willoughby, my youngest daughter**, the sum of an hundred
marks of like
85 lawful money payable within a month after the sale aforesaid. And to
William
86 Willoughby, my youngest son, the sum of one hundred and fifty pounds
87 of like lawful money payable within one month after the sale aforesaid.
But my will and

88 meaning is that if so much shall not be raised by the sale of my lands,
then shall my executors
89 make up there to several portions if after my debts and legacies paid and
my funeral expenses borne,
90 they have any surplusage, and if they have no overplus or not sufficient,
then I appoint that
91 every of my said children and grandchildren be proportionally abated
and to receive only so
92 much as my said goods and lands will amount unto in such portions as is
before set down. And
93 I do appoint that all my said sons join in a conveyance, or several
conveyances (as
94 shall be required) with my said loving friends and kinsmen Thomas
Seyliard, John Seyliard and
95 James Seyliard, if the purchaser or purchasers, shall desire the same,
and if they, or any
96 or any of them, shall refuse so to do, then shall he or they so refusing, be
barred of receiving of any
97 sum of money formerly limited to them. And I do nominate and appoint
my loving
98 kinsman **Christopher Thomas of Chepsted, gent.** and my said son-in-law
Alexander

99 Randall to be executors of this my will and for their pains I give to each
of

page 4:

100 them 40s to make each of them a ring to wear as a remembrance of me.
And I desire
101 **Walter Tye**, my good neighbour, to be my overseer of this my will and, for
a token of my
102 love, I give him 10s. In witness whereof to these two sheets¹⁵⁵ I have set
mine hand and
103 seal the day and year first above written. Christopher Willoughby
Sealed and
104 published to be the last will and testament of the said Christopher
Willoughby in the presence
105 of John Willoughby, the mark of Walter Tye.

155 two pages in the original but this transcript is from the probate copy

John Winifred of Ightham

John Winifred (i575¹⁵⁶) married **Margaret Thrap** (i576) on 15th October 1565 and they had three children baptised in Ightham:

- Jane i577 baptised 25 Dec 1566
- Thomas i578 17 Oct 1568
- Joane i579 15 May 1572

John Windgate of Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#587 ¹⁵⁷	<u>WINDGATE, John</u> -----				2	6	
	<i>Marriage 1</i>			Elizabeth Windgate(m)	1	6	
#3588	<u>Windgate(m), Elizabeth</u> -----	<1614			1	6	
		died when or after her daughter was born in August 1647 but before May 1649 when her husband married again					
• #3589	<u>WINDGATE, John</u>	26 Apr 1635			0	0	
• #3590	<u>WINDGATE, Richard</u>	10 Apr 1637			0	0	
• #3591	<u>Windgate, Elisabeth</u>	17 Nov 1639			0	0	
• #3592	<u>Windgate, Margaret</u>	12 Jun 1642			0	0	
• #3593	<u>WINDGATE, James</u>	22 Dec 1644			0	0	
• #3594	<u>Windgate, Ann</u>	16 Aug 1647			0	0	
	<i>Marriage 2</i>		1 May 1649	Alice Browne(m)	1	0	
				#2732			

157 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

John Windgate was listed in the **Knole MS of 1648 for Seal village**. His second wife, Alice Browne, was a widow; Thomas Browne (#2724), whose wife was Alice, was also listed in the Knole MS for Seal village. If Thomas died at the end of 1648/beginning of 1649, it could have been his widow who married John Windgate - see [Browne in More Families & Transcripts](#)

Lawrence Winter of Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i1964 ¹⁵⁸	<u>WINTER, Lawrence</u> -----				1	3	20 Apr 1610
• i1966	<u>Winter, Anna</u>	17 Oct 1602				0	0
• i1999	<u>Winter, Sara</u>	23 Jun 1605	27 Oct 1623	Peter MILLIS married at 18		1	4
							<u>i1105</u> ¹⁵⁹
• i2000	<u>WINTER, Richard</u>	12 Aug 1610				0	0

A **Lawrence Winter** was buried on 20th April 1610, four months before the baptism of Richard who was recorded as the "[son of Lawrence Winter](#)". Perhaps the Lawrence who was buried was #1964's father.

158 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

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

On 19th April 1604, **Lawrence Winter** was before the Court for allowing "his maidservant to break and plunder the hedges of his neighbours, and particularly the hedges of **Greenshaw**, to the bad example of the other inhabitants. Fined 12d". (CRI 1937, p.218)

Edmond Winter, shoemaker of Sevenoaks

This will (CKS: Prs/w/17/138) has been found since transcripts of the surviving wills of Sevenoaks were assembled in Section 2 of the History of Sevenoaks. Only the original has survived and the end is missing.

In addition to the poor of Sevenoaks, Edmond left money (a total of £8) to the poor of a number of parishes between eight and twelve miles north of Sevenoaks: St. Mary Cray, Chiselhurst, Eltham, Fooks Cray, Pauls Cray, North Cray, Orpington and Croydon.

The end of the will has not survived so that we do not know the name of Edmond's executrix but, from her description, we do know she was a woman. He does mention his wife Margaret; perhaps towards the end of his will he designated her as his executrix.

After Margaret's death, his house, etc was to go to his sister on the condition that she paid £40 to various other people. It thus seems that Edmond and Margaret did not have any children who survived until 1627. Edmond had had an apprentice, Myles Everest who was, by 1627, established in Lewes which is

in Sussex. Although there were a number of Everest families in the Sevenoaks area, no Myles (or “Miles”) has been found but, even so, Edmond’s apprentice could have belonged to the Everests of the locality.

Will of Edmond Winter of Sevenoaks

written 31st January 1626/7

transcript from original

1 In the name of god Amen. The last day of January in the year of our Lord
god 1626 and
2 in the second year of the reign of our sovereign lord Charles, by the grace
of
3 god, king of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith,
etc. I
4 Edmond Winter of Sevenoaks in the county of Kent, **shoemaker**, some
what weak and
5 decayed in strength of body but, thanks be given to Almighty god, of
good and perfect
6 memory, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner
7 following, that is to say, I do first and above all things bequeath my soul
into the

8 hands of Almighty god, my creator and redeemer, and into the hands of
Christ Jesus, his
9 blessed son, god equal with the father, and my merciful saviour and
redeemer, reposing
10 and trusting wholly in his merits and death whereby I hope to have
eternal life.
11 And my body I will to the earth from whence it came, to be buried at the
discretion
12 of my executrix hereafter named. **Item:** I give to the poor people of the
parish of
13 Sevenoaks aforesaid twenty shillings in money. **Item:** I give to the poor
of the
14 parish of **St. Mary Cray** twenty shillings. **Item:** I give to the poor of the
parish of
15 **Chiselhurst** twenty shillings. **Item:** I give to the poor of the parish of
Eltham
16 twenty shillings. **Item:** I give to the poor of the parish of **Foots Cray**
twenty shillings.
17 **Item:** I give to the poor of the parish of **Pauls Cray** twenty shillings.
Item: I give
18 to the poor of the parish of **North Cray** twenty shillings. **Item:** I give to
the poor

19 people of **Orpington** and **Croydon** twenty shillings. All which said
several sums of
20 money before bequeathed to the poor people of the parishes aforesaid,
my will and
21 meaning is that my executrix hereafter named shall pay and distribute to
the poor
22 people of the parishes before mentioned within three months next after
my decease.
23 I give my house wherein I now do dwell, together with all the outhouses,
stables,
24 edifices, buildings, garden and yards thereunto belonging, withall and
singular their and
25 every of their appurtenances, situated and being in the Town of
Sevenoaks aforesaid
26 unto **Margaret, my loving wife**, during her natural life. And after her
decease,
27 I give and devise my said house wherein I now dwell together withall the
??
28 stables, edifices, buildings, garden and yards thereunto belonging,
withall and singular
29 their and every of their appurtenances, unto **my sister, Elizabeth Wimble**
of Sevenoaks aforesaid

30 and to her heirs and assigns for ever. Provided always and upon this
condition,
31 my will and meaning is that my said sister Elizabeth Wimble, her heirs or
assigns,
32 shall pay, or cause to be paid. within one year after the decease of
Margaret, my loving
33 wife, the sum of forty pounds of good and lawful money of England, in
manner and
34 form following, that is to say: unto **my sister Ellen West??** or her assigns
the
35 sum of ten pounds. And to my said sister Ellen West??, her children
which
36 shall then be living, the sum of ten pounds to be equally divided
between them.
37 to my cousin **Richard Hawse** of **Masons Hill** in the parish of **Brenchley**
??
38 ?? the sum of ten pounds to my **cousin Judith Sister**, to my said cousin
Richard ??
39 his heirs and assigns, the sum of five pounds; unto my **cousin Elizabeth**
??
40 ?? the sum of five pounds being the full ??
41 ?? the said several payments to be made ??

page 2:

42 ?? the parish of Sevenoaks aforesaid. And if it shall happen that my said
43 sister Elizabeth Wimble, her heirs or assigns, do not pay, or cause to be
paid
44 the said sum of forty pounds in manner and form aforesaid and
according
45 to the true meaning of this my will, that for default of such payment,
46 being lawfully demanded, I give and devise my house wherein
47 I now dwell unto my said cousin Richard Hawse and to his heirs and
48 assigns, for ever. Provided always, and my will is that my said cousin
Richard
49 Hawse, his heirs or assigns, do pay, or cause to be paid, the said sum of
50 forty pounds in manner and form aforesaid and to such persons as are
before
51 mentioned, within six months after that my said sister Elizabeth Wimble
52 shall happen to make default of payment of her said sum of forty pounds.
And
53 if it shall happen my cousin Richard Hawse do make default of payment
of the said
54 sum of forty pounds, or any part thereof, contrary to this my will, before
mentioned,
55 I then give my said house wherein I now dwell, withall and singular their

- 56 appurtenances, unto the poor of the parish of Sevenoaks aforesaid for
ever.
- 57 **Item:** I give unto **Myles Everest of Lewes, late my apprentice,** my black
??

the rest of the will has not survived

The Wisemans of Tudeley

There were three Wiseman wills from the end of the fifteenth, beginning of the sixteenth, century:

- John Wiseman x1390¹⁶⁰ 1460 CKS: Drb/Pwr 2.169
- John Wiseman x1392 1492 CKS: Drb/Pwr 5.202
- Thomas Wiseman yeoman x1394 1509 PCC: Bennett 22

These men could have been father, son and grandson. Nothing more is known about the will of 1460. In 1492, John left ten shillings towards a pair of latin candlesticks to be “[bought to the use of the said church and of God's divine service there](#)”.¹⁶¹

In 1509, Thomas left forty shillings (£2) to the making of a bell.

160 “x” indicates a reference in the database covering a number of parishes

161 Testamenta Cantiana, London 1906, A Series of Extracts from 15th and 16th Century Wills, p. 79 for the 1492 and 1509 bequests

The Withers of Kemsing

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
k513 ¹⁶²	<u>WITHERS, John</u> ----- 			Anna Withers(m) #514	1	7	
k514	<u>Withers(m), Anna</u> -----				1	7	16 Jul 1638
• k515	<u>Withers, Maria</u>	3 Jul 1611				0	0
		a Mary Withers was buried	9 Aug 1636				
• k516	<u>Withers, Anna</u>	7 Apr 1614				0	0
• k517	<u>Withers, Dorothy</u>	11 Mar 1616				7	Oct 1616
						0	0
• k518	<u>Withers, Lydia</u>	2 Apr 1618				0	0
• k519	<u>Withers, Tymotheny</u>	25 Aug 1620		daughter		0	0
						0	0
• k520	<u>WITHERS, Henry</u>	22 Jun 1626				0	0
• k521	<u>Withers, Sarah</u>	30 Aug 1629				0	0

John and Anne had seven children of which only one was a boy.

162 "k" indicates a reference in the Kemsing database

The Woods of Seal

Wood is a common name so that it is unlikely that all of the Woods recorded in Seal were related. There were also Woods in Ightham and Shipbourne but with no obvious connections.

There was one Wood baptism recorded in **Kemsing** - that of **Mary** (k683¹⁶³), daughter of **Robert** (k681) and **Sarah Wood** (k682) on 1st January 1650.

One of the larger families was that of Roger Wood who married into the Gardner family - see [Gardener in More Families & Transcripts](#). Woods were also connected with the Olyver family - see [Families & Transcripts..](#)

On 23rd July 1569, **Dorothy Wood** (#1220), “the daughter of Wood’s daughter of Sacres Grove” was buried.

163 “k” indicates a reference in the Kemsing database, # one in that for Seal

On 15th April 1585 **George Wood of Sevenoaks** (#1220) married **Johane Hadlow** (#1221) in Seal, by a licence from the faculties. It is not known how Johane was related to the Hadlows of Seal or Ightham (if she was related at all).

James Wood (#1308) had a son, **William** (#1310), baptised on 11th July 1585. At the Rochester Assizes, in 1585, **James Wood of Seal, labourer**, and **Thomas Wakelyn of Ightham** were charged with stealing. Although found guilty and sentenced to hang he was allowed benefit of clergy. He was buried on 13th December 1614. See [Wakelyn - Grand Larceny](#), page 2.w.19. for details of the charge.

William Wood (#1124) had four children baptised in Seal

-	John	#1126	baptised	Aug 1581	buried	Aug
					1581	
-	Margaret	#1193		7 Apr 1583		
-	Robert	#1334		7 Feb 1586		
-	William	#1524		5 Jan 1589		

On the night of 12th June 1609 **George Wood** (#4298), labourer, and **Edward Smyth** (#3869), yeoman, both from Seal broke into the warren of William James in Ightham and hunted rabbits there - see [Greentree in More Families & Transcripts](#)

The Woods of Ightham

Wood is a common name so that it is unlikely that all of the Woods recorded in Ightham were related. There were also Woods in Seal and Shipbourne but with no obvious connections. In Ightham there were two sixteenth century families. In the middle of the seventeenth century Edward and Elizabeth Wood had two children:

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i814 ¹⁶⁴	<u>WOOD, James</u> -----				1	4	
• i816	<u>WOOD, Harry</u>	15 Apr 1576				0 0	15 Apr 1576
				"was baptised and shortly buried"			
• i890	<u>Wood, Dorothy</u>	3 Aug 1578				0 0	
• i891	<u>Wood, Katherine</u>	30 Apr 1581				0 0	
• i2067	<u>WOOD, James</u>					1 1	
	i2067 is known only from his child but he could have been a son of #814						
• • i2069	<u>WOOD, George</u>	4 Dec 1608				0 0	

164 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
i884	<u>WOOD, Henry</u> -----					2 4
	<i>Marriage 1</i>					1 4
• i886	<u>Wood, Margery</u>		18 Nov 1576			0 0
• i887	<u>WOOD, John</u>		6 Mar 1580			0 0
• i888	<u>WOOD, Nicholas</u>		14 Oct 1582			0 0
• i889	<u>WOOD, Harry</u>		26 Sep 1585			0 0
				"son of Harry Wood"		
	<i>Marriage 2</i>		9 Oct 1587	Joyce Forde i1607		1 0
i2567	<u>WOOD, Edward</u> -----			Elizabeth Wood(m) i#2568		1 2
• i2569	<u>Wood, Anna</u>		2 Oct 1648			0 0
• i2640	<u>WOOD, Nicholas</u>		7 Jun 1650			0 0 3 Apr 1652
			baptised same day as born			

The Woods of Shipbourne

Wood is a common name so that it is unlikely that all of the Woods recorded in Shipbourne were related. There were also Woods in Seal and Ightham but with no obvious connections.

The first mention of Wood in the parish register is the burial of **Joane Wood** (\$759¹⁶⁵) on 4th April 1603.

Mary Wood (\$1162) married **William Philips** (\$1161) on 14th January 1616.

Judith Wood (\$1794) married **Nicholas Stapleton** (\$1790) on 26th November 1640.

Moses Wood (\$1689) married **Judith Stonard** (\$1690) on 2nd August 1636.
A Moses Wood was buried on 8th September 1640.

No children were recorded for any of these marriages.

165 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

Henry Wood (\$1556) and his wife **Anne** (\$1557) had seven children (six boys and only one girl) baptised in Shipbourne with no burials recorded:

- Elizabeth \$1558 baptised 27 Feb 1631
- Henry \$1665 24 Jan 1636
- Richard \$1666 29 Sep 1639
- John \$1667 25 Sep 1642
- William \$1668 10 Feb 1645
- James \$2126 26 Dec 1647
- Joseph \$2191 28 Apr 1650

The Woodens of Ightham

An alternative spelling is “Wooddyn”. See page 2.w.281 for Woodies.

The Woodens of the 1560s

There were two Wooden families in Ightham in the 1560s:

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i158 ¹⁶⁶	<u>WOODEN, Adrian</u> ----- buried in Shipbourne			Margerie Wooden(m)	1	2	11 Apr 1584
i159	<u>Wooden(m), Margerie</u> -----				1	2	19 Jun 1587
• i160	<u>WOODEN, John</u>	20 Oct 1560			0	0	
• i156	<u>WOODEN, James</u>	19 Feb 1565			0	0	

An Adrian Wooden (\$264) was buried, in Shipbourne, on 11th April 1584. Since Adrian is a very uncommon name this was probably i158. There is no

166 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

indication that Adrian's wife was called Margerie but it is feasible that "[Margerie Wooden, widow](#)" buried in 1587 was Adrian's widow. **Adrian Wodyn** was mentioned in the Court Records for 1553-74.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
i557	<u>WOODEN, William</u> ----- 		29 Jan 1564	Anne Byfleet i558	1 5	
i558	<u>Byfleet, Anne</u> -----				1 5	30 Jul 1587
• i559	<u>Wooden, Wenefrith</u>	29 Apr 1565			0 0	25 Mar 1573
• i560	<u>WOODEN, John</u>	24 Nov 1566			0 0	
• i561	<u>Wooden, Elizabeth</u>	7 Nov 1568			0 0	
• i562	<u>Wooden, Anne</u>	30 Jul 1570			0 0	
• i563	<u>Wooden, Cecile</u>	17 Jul 1573			0 0	

"[Agnes, wife of William Wooden](#)" was buried in July 1587; although "Anne" when she married, Anne and Agnes were often used, at different times, for the same woman. Her burial took place only six weeks after that of Margerie Wooden, widow.

William Woodden was mentioned in the Court Records for 1586-1618.

Launcelott Wooden

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i1339	<u>WOODEN, Launcelott</u> -----				2	3	
	<i>Marriage 1</i>		9 Oct 1587	Margaret Roverly(m) i1340	1	3	
i1340	<u>Roverly(m), Margaret</u> -----			"widow" when she married Launcelott	2	3	11 Mar 1595
• i1341	<u>Wooden, Margaret</u>	11 Aug 1588			0	0	
• i1342	<u>WOODEN, Martin</u>	12 Apr 1590			0	0	16 Mar 1591
• i1343	<u>WOODEN, Launcelott</u>	16 Oct 1592			0	0	
	<i>Marriage 2</i>		3 Nov 1595	Anne Hover i1837	1	0	

There are two extracts from the Court Records mentioning **Lancelot Woodden**:

- On 17th April 1588 he was presented to the Court for having "allowed his geese to disturb, dig in and defile a certain water or spring used for the necessary purposes of life by the inhabitants, called **Redwell**, to the grave inconvenience of the Queen's subjects. Fined 12d and ordered to abate the nuisance before the next Court, under penalty 3s 4d." (CRI 1938, p.11)
- On 24th April 1595, just after the death of his first wife, he was to be fined 10s if the "strangers", **William Bowes and his wife**, remained in Ightham without sureties being found for them. (CRI 1938, p.17)

The Woodens of Kemsing & Shipbourne

There was a small family of Woodens in Kemsing and other small families in Shipbourne. There is no obvious connection between these two families or with those of Ightham.

Thomas Wooden (k80¹⁶⁷) had three children baptised in Kemsing:

- Lettis k82 baptised 13 Jun 1563 buried 7 Mar 1567
- Margaret k83 25 Jul 1567
- Anne k84 18 Mar 1570

In Shipbourne **Helen Woodden** (\$563), the wife of **William Woodden** (\$562), was buried on 28th April 1582. A William Woodden had two children at the beginning of the seventeenth century; \$562 could have married again:

- Mary \$661 baptised 27 Jul 1600
- William \$761 4 Apr 1603

William (\$1607), son of **William Woodden**, was baptised on 11th February 1634; he could have been the son of \$761.

167 "k" indicates a reference in the Kemsing database and \$ in that for Shipbourne

In addition to Wooden and Woodden, Woodie could be a variation of the same name.

On 26th June 1615, **William Woodie** (\$1145) married **Marie Styll** (\$1149).

On 26th January 1649, **Olive** (\$2159), “**the bastard daughter**” **Elizabeth Woodie** (\$2158) was baptised.

Thomas Woodie of Ightham

Whilst Woodie was possibly a variation of Wooden, this family is given separately since there is no obvious connection between Thomas Woodie and the Woodens given above.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i1321 ¹⁶⁸	<u>WOODIE, Thomas</u> -----				1	9	
• i1325	<u>WOODIE, George</u>	29 Oct 1587				0	0
• i1323	<u>Woodie, Elizabeth</u>	14 Dec 1589				0	0
• i1346	<u>Woodie, Jane</u>	15 May 1592				0	0
• i1347	<u>Woodie, Joan</u>	21 Apr 1594				0	0
• i1348	<u>Woodie, Susanne</u>	23 May 1596				0	0 20 Jul 1597
• i1774	<u>Woodie, Sara</u>	2 Apr 1598				0	0
• i1886	<u>WOODIE, Hugh</u>	28 Mar 1601				0	0
• i1937	<u>Woodie, Marie</u>	24 May 1602				0	0
• i1938	<u>WOODIE, Thomas</u>	16 Sep 1604				0	0

168 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

Thomas Woodie (or Wooddy) was a **borsholder** sometime between 1586 and 1618 but he was also before the Court at least twice for misdemeanours:

- On 3rd October 1588, Thomas Wooddy was found to have "made a nuisance in the highway leading to **Ivy Hatch, towards Morsels**, by neglecting to repair and cleanse his ditch there. To be amended before the next Court, under penalty 3s 4d." (CRI 1937, p.199)
- On 17th October 1594, **Thomas Woodeye** was one of four men fined 3s 4d for overburdening "the common of Ightham with more sheep than they ought to keep there." (CRI 1937, p.209)

Over twenty years later, Jane Wooddye, widow, was before the Court:

- On 16th October 1616, she was there for having allowed "a certain foot-bridge between the church fields leading from Ightham to St. Cleres to be in a state of decay. Given till 25 March to repair it, under penalty 5s." (CRI 1937, p.194)
- On 26th October 1618 it was found that "a certain ditch is unscoured and flooded, leading from **Dockrell Bridge to Shadwell**, by the neglect of **William Cripps, William Flower and Jane Wooddye, widow**. Given till

the next Court to clean and drain it, under penalty 10s (CRI 1937, p.194)
See William Cripps (i2073) and William Flower (i2018) in [More Families & Transcripts](#)

Even if Thomas's wife had been 27 when their first child was born, she would still have been only 56 in 1616 so that it is possible that Jane was the widow of i1321 but, if so, she was occupying different land than in 1588.

Some Woodgate Wills

Sixteen wills have survived for Woodgates but this is a fairly common name and those from different parishes may not be related. The earliest ones are for Edward of East Peckham (1575) and William from Chiddingstone (1588). There are two from Lamberhurst (William 1558 and John 1598), two from Tonbridge (John 1634 and Edward 1646). Others not looked at are Peter from Bidborough (1621) and Sarah (1633) and Joan (1640) from Chiddingstone. References for these can be obtained from the [Database](#).

The will (**PCC: Parker 13**) of William Woodgate, the elder, from Hever was proved in 1619. The witnesses were:

Thomas Douglas, John Douglas, John Coombes

The four wills investigated are:

John Woodgate	Chiddingstone	1617d; 1620p	PCC: Soane 81; Prob 11/136	page 2.w.286
Alice Woodgate	Hadlow	27 Jan 1624/5	PCC: Clarke 15; Prob 10/419	page 2.w.288
John Woodgate	Brenchley	30 Mar 1632	CKS Drb/Pw 29; Drb/Pwr 22.23	page 2.w.292
William Woodgate	Chiddingstone	14 Aug 1638	CKS: Prs/w/17/172	page 2.w.299

The wills of John and William of Chiddingstone were written by Thomas Leddall who wrote a number of wills in this locality from about 1615 to 1644. When William's will was written, Thomas Leddall was living in a "[house and backside In Penshurst Town](#)" owned by William. Only an extract is given from John's will. Two other Woodgate wills which have not been investigated were also written by Leddall:

John Woodgate	Chiddingstone.	written 19 June 1643;	proved Nov 1646	PCC: Twisse 151, Prob 11/198
Fortunatus Woodgate	Penshurst	4 Dec 1643;	Jun 1645	PCC: Rivers 32, Prob11/193

Thomas Leddall's will was written and proved in November 1645, two years after these two wills were written but before they were proved.

Alice Woodgate's will was written by John Hooper and John Woodgate of Brenchley's by George Salmon.

Fortunatus Woodgate was buried in Penshurst on 5th January 1644 only a month after his will was written by Thomas Leddall. It was not, however, proved for another eighteen months. His wife, Elizabeth, died over two years before him being buried on 21st September 1641.

John Woodgate was a yeoman.

- **First** and principally I bequeath my soul to
- Almighty god, my maker, and to Jesus Christ, his only son, my redeemer by
- whose death and passion I trust to be saved, committing my body to the earth
- and to be buried in the church or churchyard of Chiddingstone aforesaid which
- my executor hereunder named shall think fitting. **Item:** I give to the poor of
- the said parish 40s on the day of my burial or otherwise as my executor shall think fitting.

witnesses: **Thomas Leddall, Anthony Combridge**

Anthony Combridge was probably the Anthony Combridge of Penshurst whose will of 1623 has survived - see [Combridge in More Families and Transcripts](#).

Alice Woodgate, widow, of Hadlow

Alice gives as the reason for writing her will the wish to avoid “such strife and quarrelling as shall or may arise after my death for or about my goods or effects”, She had two sons (one of whom, Gabriell, she made her executor) a son-in-law whose wife (her daughter) has died and another married daughter, Bridget. There is a hint of possible strife in that she says that when Bridget and her husband, John Woolf, have received their legacies, John is to “make and deliver to my executor a sufficient acquittance for the same”.

Alice's legacy to Bridget was “a petticoat cloth of that white woollen cloth that I have in my house and keeping” and one of her granddaughters was to have “a pair of new sheets to be made of the yarn in my house”.

Although her will was concerned only with household items, it was proved at the PCC in London.

1 In¹⁶⁹ the name of God Amen. The seven and twentieth day of January
2 in the year of our Lord God one thousand six hundred, twenty and four
3 And in the twentieth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord James by
4 the grace of God, king of England, France and Ireland, defender of the
faith, etc.
5 And of Scotland, the eight and fiftieth. I, Alice Woodgate, of Hadlow in
the county
6 of Kent, **widow**, being¹⁷⁰ in perfect and true memory, for the avoiding of
such strife
7 and quarrelling as shall or may arise after my death for or about my
goods or effects,
8 do ordain and make this my testament and last will in manner and form
following:

169 decorated "I"

170 "be", "being" throughout

9 **First** and principally, yielding my soul to Almighty God, my maker, with
an assured hope
10 of salvation through his merit in the merits and mediation of his dear son
Jesus Christ.
11 And my body to the earth in decent manner to be buried. **Item:** I will and
bequeath
12 to **Edward, my son**, three pairs of sheets and six pieces of pewter.
13 **Item:** I will unto **Alice, the daughter of the said Edward**, a brass pan.
14 **Item:** I will and give unto **Bridget, my daughter**, the wife of **John Woolf**, a
petticoat cloth
15 of that white woollen cloth that I have in my house and keeping. And six
pieces of
16 pewter. **Item:** I will unto the said John Woolf, her husband, five shillings.
17 **Item:** I will unto **Thomas Byllet, my son-in-law**, five shillings. And I will
that the
18 said John Woolf, upon payment of his said legacy of 5s, and the delivery
of his wife's
19 legacy aforesaid, shall make and deliver to my executor a sufficient
acquittance for the
20 same. **Item:** I will and give to **Hester, the daughter of the said Thomas
Byllet**, a little

21 brass pot, a brass pan, a brass kettle and a pair of new sheets to be made
of the yarn
22 in my house. **Item:** I give unto **Richard Byllet**, brother of the said Hester,
(both of them
23 being my grandchildren) a pair of sheets and six table napkins. **Item:** I
will
24 Hester and Richard Byllet shall have all such goods as I have which were
25 their mothers. **Item:**I will unto **Alice, my goddaughter, my son Gabriell
Woodgate's,**
26 **daughter,** my greatest brass pot.

27 The residue and all other any goods, cattell, chattells and credits I fully
and wholly give
28 and bequeath to the said Gabriell Woodgate, my son, whom I make the
sole and only
29 executor of this my testament and last will to see the same proved, my
debts and legacies
30 paid and my body decently buried. In witness whereof I have to this my
testament and
31 last will set my hand and seal, yeven the day and year first above
written.

The mark of the said Alice Woodgate

Read, sealed, published and declared

in the presence of



Robert Williamson R W William Walter

John Hooper, notar. pbqe

John Woodgate of Brenchley

John had a married daughter and three sons, one of whom, Edward, was to be his executor. Having given Edward all the residue of his goods, etc., there is an very unusual proviso: he was to reserve John's "silver cup and my desk with lock and key to it, to give to whom it shall please god to move me when I shall end my days". The four letter word interpreted as "move" is not a word which would be expected here but it definitely starts with "m" and looks very similar to the beginning of "moveables".

Some repairs were needed to the well or other parts of the land given to Walter which would need access through the land given to John who was therefore to allow Walter "free liberty for ladder . . . and for workmen" to come into John's land.

1 In the name of God Amen. The thirtieth day of March in the
2 eighth year of the reign of our most Gracious Sovereign, Lord King
Charles, by the
3 grace of god, King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of
the faith, etc.
4 Anno, dm. 1632. I, John Woodgat of Brenchley in the county of Kent,
yeoman,
5 being diseased in body but of good and perfect remembrance, thanks be
given unto
6 Almighty God, do make and ordain this my present testament and last
will in
7 in manner and form following, that is to say, **First:** I will my soul to
Almighty God, my
8 maker and redeemer, by whose death and passion of trust to be ???. And
my body to be buried
9 at the discretion of my executor herein named. **Item:** I give to the poor
people of Brenchley,

10 aforesaid, six shillings and eight pence to be given them, by the
discretion of my executor.

11 **Item:** I give unto **Thomas Woodgate, my son**, ten pounds of lawful money
of England

12 to be paid to him or his assigns by my executor, all those several
payments.. **The** first payment

13 thereof to be the day, month next after my decease, three pounds six
shillings, eight (pence).

14 Then that day twelve months, three pounds six shillings, eight pence.
And then that day twelve

15 months next after three pounds six shillings, eight pence in full payment
of the said sum of ten

16 pounds. And if it shall be thought an advantage? To my executor that it
will be to the preferment?

17 of him, then my will and mind is that he shall have it within one whole
yer next after

18 my decease. **Item:**I give unto **Francis Petter, my daughter**, two shillings
six pence. **Item:** I give to **John**

19 ?? , my godson, two shillings six pence. **Item:** I give tp **John Woodgate,**
my godson, three

20 shillings four pence. **The** residue of all my moveables, goods and
chattells, my debts and

21 legacies paid and funeral expenses discharged, I give unto **Edward**
22 **Woodgate, my son,**
23 whom I do ordain and make my sole executor of this my present last will
24 and
25 testament. **Provided** that he do ?? reserve out of my moveable goods, my
26 silver
27 cup and my desk with lock and key to it, to give to whom it shall please
28 god to ??
29 me when I shall end my days. And if I do ??? make **Fortune Woodgate**
30 **of Penshurst**
31 to be ??

32 **This is** the last will and testament of me the foresaid John Woodgate,
33 made, ordained
34 and declared the day and year above written, touching and concerning
35 the order and
36 disposing of all my messuages or tenements and lands situated, lying
37 and being in
38 Brenchley aforesaid. **Item:** I give unto John Woodgate, my son, the
39 mansion house

page 2:

31 house wherein **Mistress Mary Tilden**, widow, now dwelleth, with the
close, garden and well, which
32 she all now useth to the said house. And also the croft of land that I
have in my own possession?
33 adjoining thereunto. To have and to hold the same, withall and singular
th'appurtenances, unto
34 the said John Woodgate, my son, and to his heirs forever. **Item:** I give
unto **Walter**
35 **Woodgate, my son**, the house wherein **Richard Biggs, joiner**, late dwelled
in and the barn
36 thereunto adjoining, the orchard also to the same adjoining, and the little
house wherein
37 **George Gooding** now dwelleth with liberty to fetch, run and take water
at the well in my
38 son John Woodgate's close for both of my son Walter Woodgate's
dwelling houses herein given
39 unto him, if it may now be had. The ?? Some reparations toward the
well in
40 regard and consideration of the water. To have and to hold the said
message or tenement,
41 barn, orchard and arbortre of Walter with all and singular
th'appurtenances and grant unto the

42 said Walter, my son, and to his heirs and assigns for ever, free liberty for
ladder
43 ?? And for workmen for to come into the slope before given unto the
said John Woodgate,
44 my son, concerning the reparations of the premises herein by me given
unto the said Walter
45 Woodgate. **Item:**I give unto the foresaid Edward Woodgate, my son, all
my part of
46 the messuage wherein I now dwell and all the shops and stables with all
other buildings
47 to the same messuage with the garden and five pieces or parcels of land
with a barn, there
48 unto belonging containing by estimation fourteen acres, more or less,
withall the ?? and
49 ?? ?? Which I late bought and purchased of **John Sulliard**, one of
the sons and co-heirs
50 of **Mathew Sulliard**, late of Brenchley aforesaid, mercer? deceased. To
have and to hold all
51 the said ?? premises unto the said Edward Woodgate and to his heirs
forever.
52 **In witness** whereof I, the said John Woodgate, have hereunto set my
hand and

53 seal, the day and year above written.

Witnesses to the ensealing hereof

Stephen Willard and
George Salmon

by me John
Woodgate

William Woodgate of Chiddingstone

William was a rich yeoman with a number of “[messuages or tenements](#)” in Chiddingstone and Penshurst which he divided between his three sons, leaving Thomas, in addition, £150. To Andrew he left, amongst other items, a grey coulte (probably a colt), his “[wagons with the wheels, two drawing yokes, one cart with shaft, wheels and nob yoke](#)”. John, the son whom he made his executor, had already been given the messuage in which William lived by a “[deed in writing](#)”. He also had a married daughter with at least one child.

When he wrote his will in August 1638 he was “[not well in body](#)” and, since it was proved on 12th October, he cannot have lived very long afterwards. Even so he included an unusual clause apparently to cover any afterthoughts he might

have had: “And more over, any goods which I shall think good to dispose and give at any time hereafter to any person and persons which is not mentioned herein to be given, my will is that they shall quietly have and enjoy without any denial, interruption whatsoever by my said executor”.

William's wife was Joane, the daughter of Andrew Combridge and Joan Wallis. The wills of both Andrew and Joan have survived (see [Combridge in More Families and Transcripts](#); this includes details of the Wallis family) but William's wife died before her mother. From Andrew's will we know that William had a son William who died sometime between 1619 and 1634. William had a brother-in-law, William Wallis, who, since his wife was an only child, must have been a sister's husband.

In 1570 there was a Christopher Woodgate in Chiddingstone, his house being broken into in that year - see [Thomas Constable in More Families & Transcripts](#)

1 In¹⁷¹ the name of God Amen.. The fifteenth
2 day of August Ao. Dm. 1638 in the fourteenth year of the reign of our
3 Sovereign Lord king Charles, etc. I, William Woodgate, of Chiddingstone
4 in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being at this time not well in body but
5 of a good and perfect remembrance (praised be God) do make and
6 declare this my last
7 will and testament in manner and form following: **First:** I bequeath my
8 soul
9 to Almighty God (who gave it me¹⁷²) and to Jesus Christ, my only saviour
and redeemer, by whose death and passion I fully trust to have all my
sins
freely forgiven and to attain to the joyful resurrection of eternal life,
committing

171 slightly decorated I

172 "mee", "bee" and "shalbee" but not "beeing"

10 my body to the earth from whence it was taken and to be buried in the
church
11 of Chiddingstone aforesaid. **Item:** I give to the poor people of the said
parish
12 five pounds, the one half of it to be distributed to them on the day of my
burial
13 and the residue within the said year. **Item:** my will is that all my linen
shalbe
14 equally divided between my sons and daughter. **Item:** I give unto
Thomas
15 **Woodgate, my son,** all my goods and household stuff which I have
standing in **Frimden house**
16 and my gray coulte¹⁷³, my wagons with the wheels, two drawing yokes,
one cart
17 with shaft, wheels and nob yoke. **Item:**I give unto **Andrew Woodgate, my**
son,
18 one hundred and fifty pounds of lawful money of England to be paid unto
him within one year

19 next after my decease by mine executor hereafter named. And moreover,
I give to the said
20 Andrew, my son, one joined bedstead with the feather bed and bolsters
and two pillows, blanket
21 and covering. And one bedstead with a canopy with the bed, bolster,
blankets and covering
22 standing in the loft where I lie and lodge in, and one joined press and
chest and a boarded
23 chest. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Sara, my daughter, the now wife
of Robert**
24 **Streatfield**, my bald mare¹⁷⁴, one joined chest and a boarded chest. **Item:**
I
25 give unto **William Streatfield**, my godchild and daughter's son, five
pounds to be
26 paid him within two years next after my decease. **Item:** I give unto **my
cousin**
27 **Elizabeth Bennett** four shillings. **Item:** I give to my servant **Elizabeth
??lamby**

174 "bawld Meaare"

28 five shillings and to my godchild **William Winter** twenty shillings. And
more
29 over, any goods which I shall think good to dispose and give at any time
hereafter to any
30 person and persons which is not mentioned herein to be given, my will is
that they shall
31 quietly have and enjoy without any denial, interruption whatsoever by
my said executor
32 or his assigns. **Item:** I give unto my godchild, **William Trendler** five
shillings and
33 my godchild, **Thomas Fulman**, ten shillings and my servant, **Edward**
Bannister, four shillings.

page 2

34 **The residue** of all my moveable goods unbequeathed, my debts, legacies
and
35 funeral paid and discharged, I give unto **John Woodgate**, my son, whom I
do make the
36 full and sole executor of this my last will and testament. And I do make
my loving **brother-in-law**,
37 **William Wallis** and my son-in-law Robert Streatfield, supervisors hereof
to whom I
38 give twenty shillings a piece for their pains taken herein.

39 **This** is the last will and testament of me, the said William Woodgate,
made and
40 declared the day and year aforesaid concerning the disposing of all my
messuages,
41 tenements, hereditaments and lands whatsoever, situated, lying and
being in Penshurst and
42 Chiddingstone aforesaid. **Item:** I give, will and devise unto Thomas
Woodgate, my
43 said son and his heirs all that messuage or tenement called **Knights** with
the barn, buildings, orchard,
44 gardens and all the lands thereunto belonging now in the occupation of
William Wallis.
45 And all the lands commonly called **Great Muddings** and **Keysdenfield**,
the Ayland near
46 **Chafford bridge** and the little house and backside in Penshurst town now
in the occupation of
47 **Richard Winefrith** with all and every their appurtenances. **Item:** I give,
devise and will unto
48 Andrew Woodgate, my son, and his heirs, all that messuage or tenement
called **Skipreede**

49 where ¹⁷⁵
50 lands three acres and a half lying in **Boorne mead** and half an acre lying
in **Clause Mead**. And the
51 house and backside in Penshurst town now in the occupation of **Thomas**
Leddall with all and
52 every of their appurtenances. **Provided** always that, if it shall happen
that either
53 of my said sons, Thomas and Andrew, do die without heirs of their body
lawfully
54 begotten, then my will and meaning is that the survivor of them shalbe
the other's heir
55 to all those lands before willed to them. **Item:** Whereas I have formerly
given
56 unto John Woodgate, my son, by deed in writing all that messuage or
tenement wherein I
57 now dwell withall those lands thereunto belonging, yet moreover I give,
devise and
58 will unto the said John Woodgate, my son, and his heirs all that part of
messuage or

175 will folded here and line is unreadable (no probate copy for this will)

59 tenement wherein **Thomas Levett** now dwelleth with the orchard,
backside and appurtenances
60 thereunto belonging. **In witness** whereof to this my present testament
and
61 last will containing two sheets of paper, revoking all former and other
wills, I, the
62 said William Woodgate, have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and
year
63 aforesaid.

176

Read, sealed and declared to be the
last will of the said William Woodgate
in the presence of
Thomas Levett
Edward Bannister
his mark
Thomas Leddall

William Woodgate¹⁷⁷

176 memorandun inserted here: "Memorandun that those words ?? And his heirs (line 43) andd a half (line 50) were entered herein before the ensealing hereof"

177 looks like a signature

Woodgates in Ightham & Shipbourne

There was one mention of Woodgate in Ightham and three in Shipbourne but none in Seal or Kemsing.

In Ightham, on 12th July 1587, **Elizabeth** (i1328¹⁷⁸), daughter of **Mr. Woodgate** (i1326) was baptised.

In Shipbourne:

On 21st January 1610 **Richard Woodgate** (\$950) married **Mary Harris** (or Harrys - \$964). Seven years later, on 24th June 1617, **Edward** (\$1206), the son of **Richard Woodgate of Hadlow** was baptised. This is a long time between marriage and baptism but it is possible that Edward was the son of \$950 (who might have come from Hadlow) whilst Mary came from Shipbourne - see [Harris in More Families & Transcripts](#).

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

On 25th July 1614 **Thomas Woodgate** (\$1140) married **Mary Page** (\$1139); no children were recorded. It has not been possible to determine how Mary was related to the large Page family of Shipbourne.

The Woodyears of Ightham

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i2198 ¹⁷⁹	<u>WOODYEAR, John</u> -----			Maria Woodyear(m) i2199	1	5	
• i2200	<u>Woodyear, Anne</u>	-- Sep 1620			0	0	9 Sep 1620
• i2202	<u>Woodyear, Mary</u>	15 Sep 1621	30 Sep 1651 married at 30	Gregory CHURCH i2618	1	0	
• i2201	<u>Woodyear, Lucy</u>	02 May 1624			0	0	
• i2364	<u>Woodyear, Anne</u>	28 Nov 1630			0	0	
• i2492	<u>WOODYEAR, Thomas</u>	21 Nov 1636			0	0	

Maria's name was given at Thomas's baptism but there was a long gap between Anne and Thomas (there had also been six years between Lucy and Anne) so that Maria might not have been the mother of all John's children.

179 "i" indicates a reference in the Ightham database

In 1628 and 1629 a Mary Woodyer, described as a widow in 1629, was charged with keeping an unlicensed tippling house. She could not have been John's wife since he lived to at least 1636. She could, however, have been John's mother who would have been in her late fifties in 1629 and her late sixties when a writ was last issued against her - see the [Barrets of Ightham in More Families & Transcripts](#) for details.

The Worlingtons of Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#926 ¹⁸⁰	<u>WORLINGTON, William</u> -----		14 Feb 1579	Anne Watts(m) #927	1	4	4 Dec 1621
			Anne was a widow when she married William				
• #928	<u>Worlington, Margaret</u>	13 Dec 1579					0 0
• #1131	<u>WORLINGTON, Richard</u>	15 Oct 1581					0 0 30 Dec 1599
• #1251	<u>WORLINGTON, John</u>	1 Jan 1584					0 0
• #1505	<u>WORLINGTON, Hewh</u> (Hugh)	3 Mar 1588	3 Aug 1616	Elizabeth Griffin married at 28	1	2	#2051
• • #3595	<u>WORLINGTON, Griffin</u>	22 Apr 1617					0 0
• • #3596	<u>WORLINGTON, Richard</u>	26 Sep 1619					0 0

William Wybarn of Pembury

The will of William Wybarn (or Wiborne) of Pembury has survived (PCC: Fenner 23). Pembury was often written “Pepingbury” as it is here. Only the first part has been transcribed but the witnesses are also noted. Whilst rings were sometimes given to friends as tokens of friendship, William left the selection of these friends to his wife and the meaning of the phrase at the end of the extract is not known.

Will of William Wybarn of Pembury

written 1st January 1611/2
extract from probate copy

- 1 In the name of god Amen. I, William
- 2 Wybarn, of Pepingbury al. Pembury in the county of Kent, being (thanks
be to god)
- 3 of perfect and good remembrance though somewhat diseased in body, do
make
- 4 this my last will and testament as followeth. **First** I bequeath my soul

5 unto Almighty god and my body to be buried in Christian burial at the
6 discretion of my executor. **Item:** I give to the poor of the parish
7 of Pepingbury aforesaid forty shillings to be distributed at the discretion
8 of my executor within one moeth after my decease. **Item:** I give to the
9 poor of the parish where I shall happen to decease forty shillings¹⁸¹.
10 I will that my executor shall give unto ten of my good friends (to be
 named by
11 **Elizabeth my well beloved wife**) so many gold rings worth ten shillings, a
 ring besides
12 the fashion which this or such like poesie (ora pro Amins mea.)
. .

Witnesses: **Richard Taylor, Hugh Hill, John Davies, Gabriell Beckingham**

181 did William expect to die away from home?

The Wybarnes of Seal, Kemsing and Ightham

The wills which have survived for the Wybarns or Wybournes of Kemsing, Seal and Ightham are:

John Wybarne	Kemsing	15 Jul 1519d	CKS Drb/Pwr 7.166	page 2.w.315
William Wybarne	Kemsing	1524d	CKS Drb/Pwr 7.348	page 2.w.319
Juliane Wybarn	Seal	15 Sep 1542 1543p	CKS Drb/Pwr 10.7	page 2.w.331
John Wybourne	Seal	20 Mar 1607	CKS Drb/Pw 20	page 2.w.326

The Wybarnes of Kemsing

John Wybarne left to Thomas Smith two spoons which were already in Thomas's keeping. That they should be specified in this way shows that there was something special about them but there was something special about John's relationship with Thomas Smith and his family. Not only were all Thomas's debts to him forgiven but John gave two of his daughters a ewe and a lamb and the other five children a lamb each.

John's wife was still alive and they had two children, Sylvester and Thomas. Was Thomas named after Thomas Smith? He left Sylvester 10 marks and "[all her other goods that I had in my keeping](#)" were to be repaid.

John left money to the high altar, and to both Sant Catherine's and St. Margaret's altars. He asked for 6s 8d to be distributed to the poor on the day of his burial, 13s 4d his month's mind and at his year's mind "[after the discretion and disposition of mine executors](#)". (what was actually to be done with the money is difficult to decipher but this seems to be the will's meaning).

John also gave 9s reparations to the church, 5s of which was in the hands of Richard Poule. The other 4s was to come via Thomas Frenhe who had already sold one oxen for him with the other to be sold at the coming Michaelmas.

John's wife, Agnes, was to have his house, the description of which is interesting showing how a man such as Thomas, probably a reasonably well-off yeoman, had a hall house of considerable size in 1519. It had a "hall, kitchen and barn and 2 gardens lying between the hall and the kitchen with the close before the hall door".

William Wybarne's will was written in 1524. He was a husbandman but, even though his bequests are more modest than those of John, he still owned land and tenements which he left to his wife and then his son who was to pay each of his two sisters 20s within two years of coming into his inheritance. The probate copy of this will ends abruptly

Will of John Wybarne of Kemsing

written 15th July 1519

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The 15 day of July

2 in the year of our lord 1519, I, John Wybarne
3 of Kemsing, whole in mind, make my testament in
4 this wise. **First** I bequeath my soul to god almighty,
5 my body to be buried in the churchyard of Kemsing
6 **Item:** I bequeath to the high altar there 2s. **Item:** I
7 bequeath to Saint Catherine's altar and to Saint Margaret's
8 altar to buy two altar cloths and other things ??
9 unto the said altars 6s 8d. **Item:** I bequeath
10 to **Sylvester, my daughter**, 10 marks to be paid by mine
11 executors after my death immediately withall her other
12 goods that I had in my keeping repaid and
13 kept unto then use of the said Sylvester beside
14 the said 10 marks. **Item:** I bequeath to **Thomas**
15 **Smith** 2 spoons in his keeping. And I forgive him
16 all manner of debts that the said Thomas doth
17 owe to me in time past. **Item:** I bequeath unto
18 one child of the said Thomas Smith and
19 **Jone, his wife**, the which was with me in household,
20 that is to say, **Alice** and **Agnes**, a ewe and a
21 lamb to either of them. **Item:** I bequeath unto
22 **John, Thomas, William, Joone** and **Mary**, children
23 of the said Thomas Smith, to each one of them,

24 a ewe sheep. **Item:** I bequeath to **William Haselden**,
25 my servant, 6s 8d. **Item:** I will there be
26 ?? at the day of my burial 6s 8d.
27 And at my month's day 13s 4d. And at
28 my year's mind after the discretion and disposition
29 of mine executors in the church of Kemsing.
30 **Item:** I bequeath to the reparations of the said
31 church of Kemsing 4s? the which is in
32 the hands of **Thomas Frenche** for the sale?
33 of two oxen, one at Michaelmas next coming.
34 **Item:** to the reparations of the church 5s in the
35 hands of **Richard Poule**. **Item:** I will that
36 **Agnes, my wife**, have my house called **Fabians**
37 that is to say, all the housing of Fabians
38 hall, kitchen and barn and 2 gardens lying
39 between the hall and the kitchen with the close¹⁸²
40 before the hall door with free egress and regress to
41 the same. And the pasture for two kyne
42 feeding by hand with dry meat

182 could this have been "closet" which would seem to make more sense

43 with **Thomas, my son**, his heirs or assigns, during
44 the time of her life. And also an annuity of 40s
45 out of my tenements and land in the parish of
46 Kemsing, according to the tenor and effect of a
47 deed of annuity made to **John Endwyn**¹⁸³ and other, to
48 her use during her life. **Item:** I will there be
49 ?? for my soul and 2 trentelles by one honest
50 priest admitted by my ?? **Item:** all my move
51 able goods not bequeathed I give and bequeath unto
52 Agnes, my wife, and to Thomas, my son, whom
53 I make mine executors¹⁸⁴ and Thomas Barnes,
54 my supervisor of this my last will. witnesses
55 hereto **Sir Thomas Barnes**¹⁸⁵, jurat, Robert Myller
56 Robert Poule and others.

183 could be "Sunwyn"

184 or was this word "executor" with just Thomas the executor? Probate was granted to Thomas

185 probably the writer of the will; although "Sir" probably indicates a priest, Richard Sharpe was the vicar from 1517 to 1535 (Incumbents of Kemsin with Seal, A.C. Vol.20, p.266) but Barnes could have been a curate,

1 In the name of god Amen. The
2 25 day of May the year of our lord god 15
3 24, I, William Wybarne, of the parish of Kemsing
4 in the county of Kent, **husbandman**, whole of
5 mind and in good memory being, thanked be
6 Almighty god, make and ordain, this my present
7 testament containing my last will in this in manner
8 and form following, that is to say, **First** I
9 bequeath and recommend my soul to Almighty jo
10 -yful god, my creator and saviour, unto the blessed
11 lady saint Mary the virgin, his glorious
12 mother and to all the company of heaven, my
13 body to be buried in the churchyard of Kemsing
14 aforesaid. Also I bequeath unto the high altar
15 of the same church for my tithes forgotten and
16 negligently with holden 12d. **Item:** I bequeath
17 to the reparation of the church there 4d. **Item:**
18 I bequeath to the rood loft light there 4d, **Item:**

19 I give and bequeath unto **Ellen, my wife**, all
20 my land and tenements with th'appurtenances
21 which I have, set, lying and being in the
22 parish of Kemsing during the time of her
23 life and after her decease, I will all my
24 land and tenements aforesaid unto **Thomas,**
25 **Wibarn, my son**, to have and to hold to him, to his heirs
26 and to his assigns forever. The said Thomas.
27 my son, paying unto his 2 sisters 40s, that
28 is to say, to **Johane Wibarn** 20s and to
29 **Annis Wibarn** another 20s in 2 years span after his
30 entrance to the said land and tenements.
31 The residue of all my goods not bequeathed,
32 after my debts paid, my burying made and
33 this my present testament fulfilled, I give
34 and bequeath unto Ellen, my wife, there to

the probate copy ends here

The Wybarns of Seal

From the widow Johane's will we know that her husband was Richard and she made her son Edward her executor and main heir. With parish records starting only in 1563, it has not been possible to trace the relationship between Richard and Juliane and John who was a hempdresser.

In 1545, two years after Juliane's death, Thomas Wybourne had the tenure of Worther, the meade, (7 acres), which was owned by John(2) Tebold (#673). Thirty years later, in 1575, Richard Wyborne and Lawrence Porter (#278) had the tenure of a house called Waterden which was owned by John(3) Tebold (#1).

In 1570, William Wyborne, the older, was left 13s 4d yearly, during his natural life, by Richard Tebold (#352). Their relationship is not known; William could have been a servant of Richard Tebold.

1 In the name of god Amen. The 15th day of September
2 in the year of our lord god 1542, I, Juliane Wybarne.,
3 **widow**, of the parish of Seal in the County of Kent within
4 the Diocese of Rochester, in my good mind being and
5 of perfect remembrance, thanked be god, make and ordain this
6 my present testament and last will in manner and form
7 following: **First:** I bequeath my soul unto almighty god,
8 to our lady Saint Mary and unto all the Company of heaven
9 and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Seal
10 beside **Richard Wybarne, my husband.** **Item:** I will that
11 myne executor bestow at my burial, to priest and clerk,
12 and among poor people 10s. **Item:** at my month's day
13 after the same manner and form 10s. **Item:** I bequeath unto
14 **Thomas Dalton** 6s 8d. The residue of all my goods and
15 chatells not bequeathed, nor before assigned, my debts
16 paid and my will fulfilled, I give and bequeath unto
17 **Edward Wybarne, my son**, which Edward I make and
18 ordain to be mine executor of this my present testament

19 and last will. This is the last will of me, Johane
20 Wybarne, made the day and year above written. **First:**
21 I will that immediately after my decease Edward Wybarne,
22 my son, shall have my messuage that I now dwell in,
23 all the housing and land unto the said messuage belonging
24 or in any wise appertaining, lying and being in the said parish
25 of Seal, to him and to his heirs for ever more. Unto this
26 witnesseth **Thomas Kipping**¹⁸⁶, **John Shawnyland**¹⁸⁷,
27 **Thomas Dalton** and others.

186 the Kipps were a Seal/Kemsing family

187 the Swaynlands were a Seal family at least from the time parish records have survived

John Wybourne, hempdresser of Seal

John Wybourne, the hempdresser and ropemaker, could have been the John, son of Richard Wybarn, baptised on 16th June 1563. In this case he would have been thirty when his eldest daughter was born in 1593 and forty-four when he died in 1607. John's brother and sisters mentioned in his will agree with the other children recorded for Richard.

bur:		#91 ¹⁸⁸	Richard -								
		3 Jan 1604									

#93		#1796		#476		#1710		#535			
John	-	Alice		Clemence	-	Richard Perton ¹⁸⁹		Johane			
bap: 16 Jun 1563			Steven	5 Mar 1570		of Wrotham		1 Jun 1572			
will: 17 Mar 1607			10 Feb 1566								
bur: 20 Mar 1607											

#1797		#1429		#1866		#1923		#3144		#1909	
Elizabeth	-	Thomas Terry		Nicholas		Agnes	-	Solomon Parris		Margaret	
bap: 19 Aug 1593			13 Jun 1596	8 Apr 1599				17 Sep 1598			
		see Terry				see Parris					
			in More Families & Transcripts								

¹⁸⁸ # indicates a reference in the Seal database

¹⁸⁹ married 2 Oct 1597

On 16th March 1604, John Mychelborne, servant of John Wybourne was buried.

When John died three years later, he was wealthy enough to leave his son and two daughters £5 each. All three were underage when he wrote his will and his wife, Alice, who was to be his executrix, had to “[put in sufficient security to my said overseers to pay unto my said son and daughters their several portions at their said several ages](#)”. It was probably necessary for a wife to do this in case she married again when her money would then belong to her new husband who might not have been prepared to pay the legacies.

John also left his son his “[three hitchells and all other my working tools and implements which were used about my trade of hempdressing and rope making](#)” with his wife having the use of them until he came of age. It is not known what type of tool a hitchell was..

John left his brother and two sisters ten shillings each. Alice Wybourne (#624) who married John Raven could also have been his sister but he did not mention her and she is not included in the above tree. Clemence was already married when he wrote his will but it was not until six months after his death that Alice married. See [Raven in More Families & Transcripts](#) for more details. There was also a Mary Wybourne (#2001) who was buried on 11th May 1600; she could also have been John's sister.

John's daughter Elizabeth married on 11th June 1615 and Agnes (Ann in the parish records) on 9th April 1621.

Will of John Wybourne of Seal

written 17th March 1607

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The seventeenth day of March 1606. And in
the fourth
2 year of the reign of our sovereign Lord James, by the grace of god, King of
England,
3 France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. and of Scotland the
fortieth, I John Wybourne
4 of Seal in the county of Kent, **hempdresser**, being sick in body but of good
and perfect remembrance,
5 thanks be to Almighty god, therefore do make and ordain this my last
will and testament
6 in manner and form following: **First** I bequeath my soul unto Almighty
god, my creator,
7 hoping for my salvation through the merits of Christ Jesus, my only
saviour and redeemer.

8 And by body to be buried in the churchyard of Seal aforesaid. **Item:** I
give unto
9 **Nicholas Wybourne, my son,** the sum of five pounds of lawful money of
England to be
10 paid unto him by my executrix hereafter named at his full age of one and
twenty years.¹⁹⁰
11 **Item:** I give unto the said Nicholas Wybourne my three hitchells and all
other my working
12 tools and implements which were used about my trade of hempdressing
and rope making. **Item:** I
13 give and bequeath unto **Elizabeth Wybourne and Agnes Wybourne, my**
daughters, to either of them the sum
14 of five pounds of lawful money of England to be paid unto them at their
several
15 ages of eighteen years. And my will and mind is that if my son Nicholas
do happen
16 to die before his said age of 21 years or either of my daughters do happen
to die

190 Nicholas was seven when his father wrote his will; his daughters, Elizabeth and Agnes, ten and four respectively

17 before their said ages of 18 years then his or her portion so dying shalbe
divided
18 equally amongst them that shall survive. And if there happen another of
19 them to die before his or their said ages then their portions so dying shall
entirely
20 remain to him or her that shall survive. **Item:** I give unto my **brother**
Steven Wybourne
21 and to my **two sisters Clemence and Johane**, to every of them ten
shillings to be paid unto
22 every of them by my said executrix n the feast day of St. Michael the
Archangel next
23 ensuing. **Item:** I will that my said executrix shall have the use and ?? of
my said
24 hitchells, tools and implements aforesaid until my said son Nicholas
shall accomplish his said
25 age of 21 years. The residue of all my goods and chattells whatsoever
unbequeathed, my
26 debts and legacies being paid and my funeral expenses performed, I give
and bequeath unto
27 **Alice, my wife**, whom I make my sole executrix of this my last will and
testament.

28 And I do make my loving **friend, William Masters**¹⁹¹ of Seal, aforesaid,
and **John Beecher** of
29 Sevenoaks, the overseers of this my said will and testament. And further
I will that my
30 said executrix, within one whole year next after my decease, shall put in
sufficient
31 security to my said overseers to pay unto my said son and daughters
their several
32 portions at their said several ages as in manner and form as above in this
my said will is
33 expressed. And if she¹⁹² shall refuse so to do then I nominate my son
Nicholas to be said
34 executor of this my said will and to have ?? ?? my said goods and
chattels, as my said

191 could have been the William Masters whose will of 1628 has survived

192 whilst previously in the will the words "be", "me", etc. are written with only one "e" here it is "shee".

35 wife should and had if she had continued my executrix, {?? ?? charge?
with the payment of my legacies in manner and form as is previously
declared}¹⁹³. And this I do declare to
36 be may last will and testament and I do herein revoke all previous wills
whatsoever. These being
37 witnesses **Thomas Theobald¹⁹⁴**, **Edward Holman**
the mark
William Master of John **M¹⁹⁵**
John Becket Wybourne
mark

193 this phrase in {} was inserted

194 a stylised signature; could have written the will but William Masters also signed his own name

195 an inverted "W" due to handing the will to the testator "uostide down" to him?

Robert Wybarne of Wrotham

There is no obvious connection between Robert Wybarne of Wrotham and the earlier Wybournes from the neighbouring parishes. His will (CKS: Prs/w/17/157) was written by George Segars. In 1624 a Robert Wybarne witnessed the will of Thomas Britter which was also written by George Segars.

Will of Robert Wybourne of Wrotham

written 15th January 1632

transcript from original

- 1 In the name of god Amen. the fifteenth day of January Anno dm 1631.
And in the seventh
- 2 year of the reign of our sovereign lord Charles, by the grace of god of
England, Scotland, France and
- 3 Ireland king defender of the faith, etc. I, Robert Wybarne, the elder, of
Wrotham in the county of Kent,
- 4 **yeoman**, being sick in body but of good and perfect remembrance, laud
and praise be to Almighty

5 God, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form
following: **First** I bequeath
6 my soul to God, my creator, through whose mercy in Jesus Christ I trust
to be saved. And
7 I bequeath my body to the earth to¹⁹⁶ buried in the churchyard of
Wrotham aforesaid, **Item**:
8 I give to the poor of the borrowes¹⁹⁷ of Wrotham and **Nepicar** the sum of
twenty shillings.
9 **Item**: I give and bequeath to **my son George Wybarne** the sum of twenty
pounds
10 to be paid by my executor within half a year next after the moneys which
I am now
11 very shortly to lend to **Edward Best of Hartley** shalbe by the assurance
therefore to be
12 made, limited to be repaid. **Item**: I give and bequeath unto my said son
George
13 Wybarne one deal chest standing in his house and one oaken chest
there.

196 "be" omitted here

197 boroughs; Nepicar is to the south of the vilage of Wrotham

14 **Item:** I give and bequeath to my **son Robert Wybarne** the sum of twenty
15 shillings. I give and bequeath to my **son Edward Wybarne** the sum of six
16 pounds
17 out of the sixteen pounds which he oweth me by his bond. **Item:** I give
18 and bequeath
19 to my **daughter Elizabeth, the wife of Mr. Francis Jarman, clerk,** the sum
20 of
21 twenty shillings. And to her children, the sum of three pounds to be
22 equally
23 divided amongst them and to be paid by my executor at such time as the
24 twenty
25 pounds before bequeathed to my son George Wybarne is limited to be
paid.
All the residue of my goods, cattell, debts, money and chattells
whatsoever, my
debts and legacies being paid and funeral discharged, I do give and
bequeath
to my **son Mathew Wybarne** whom I do make whole and sole executor of
this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set
my
hand and seal the day and year first above written.

Sealed, subscribed, published
and declared in the presence
Geor: Segars
Thomas Lannce

Robert ¹⁹⁸ Wybarne mark of

198 this "mark", written above this line looks like an attempted signature; it consists of two words the first of which could easily be "Robert".

The Wynfreds of Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#828 ¹⁹⁹	<u>WYNFRED, John</u> -----				1	3	
• #830	<u>Wynfred, Jane</u>	10 Jun 1576			0	0	
• #904	<u>WYNFRED, John</u>	1 Mar 1579			0	0	15 Oct 1594
• #1148	<u>WYNFRED, Thomas</u>	15 Apr 1582	<1604	Jone Wynfred(m)	1	0	3 Aug 1609
			married at under 22				
• #3598	<u>his wife, Jone</u>				1	0	1 Feb 1604

199 # indicates a reference in the Seal database