

Transcripts & Families

Transcripts have been made of a number of wills from north-west Kent, mainly from the Sevenoaks/Tonbridge area.

The wills/families are arranged in alphabetical order. Microfilms held at CKS for wills proved at the Rochester Consistory Court include originals in many cases as well as the probate copies and it is noted as to which version of the will was taken as the source for the transcript.

For PCC wills it is nearly always the probate copy which was used for the transcript since the originals (if one has survived) are not readily available. The main reference is to the register and folio. When searching for the will within the folio, the "Prob 11" reference has to be looked up at the PCC; sometimes this extra reference is given with the transcript. Occasionally it has been possible to use the original and the PCC reference for these is Prob 10 followed by a reference to the box containing the will.

Many of the transcribed wills were written by a scribe from the Hooper family and the introductions to these wills often comment on the Hoopers and their style and also on other scribes. A separate report is to be produced on these scribes.

In some cases where reference is made to details of a particular family, these may not have been entered into the current version. It is hoped to add these at a later stage.

Sometimes, instead of using a traditional family tree, details of a family are given in a table format as described below. It should be noted that assumptions made about date of birth, age at marriage and number of children described below apply equally to data given in the family trees.

Where a source reference is given, more details can usually be found in the Bibliography (Appendix 19) of the History of Sevenoaks.

There are a number of general documents giving additional information and these, listed below, are given at the end in the **Z** section:

- Ightham some excerpts from:
The Court Rolls and Other Records of the Manor of Ightham:
Harrison, Edward 1937; A.C. Vol. 48; 1938; A.C. Vol. 49
with references to the families for which other details are given in
the appropriate sections.
- Seal A Knole Manuscript listing the male inhabitants (householders) of
Seal in 1648

Table Format for Family Details

The names and details are presented in a number of columns:

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
-----	------	------	---------	--------	-----	------

where:

- Num** the number for that person in the database for the location of the family; where these numbers are used for reference in the text, etc, they are prefixed with the symbol indicating this location, for example: "#" - Seal; "s" - Sevenoaks.
- Name** a surname in capitals indicates a male, lower case a female; (m) following a woman's surname indicates that only her married name is known.
- Born** the date of baptism from the register or, if only date of marriage is known, an estimated date assuming that the person was at least 20 when they married

- Married the date of marriage from the register or, if only date of baptism of a child is known, it is assumed that the marriage occurred at least about a year previous to this
- Spouse name of spouse, if known; sometimes only the first name of a wife is known.
- M C number of known marriages and number of recorded children; since marriages and baptisms could have occurred outside the family village, entries of "0 0" need not mean that a person did not marry - only that their marriage has not been found in a parish register. Equally an entry of "1 0" could mean that someone married, had a first child baptised in their village of origin and then went to live outside the parish.
- Died date of burial

Entries for the "first generation" of a particular family are entered directly beneath the headings. Each subsequent generation is inset four places with an " ● " at the beginning of the line - see the next page for an example.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Died
2274	<u>BRYAN, John</u>	<1598		Alice Bryan(m)	1	1
2270	<u>Alice, his wife</u>					17 May 1652 in her 50s
						When #2262 married in 1643, he was described as "John Bryan, junior"; it is therefore assumed that his father was also John Bryan. The Alice, wife of John Bryant, who died in 1652 is taken as #2274's wife.
• 2262	<u>BRYAN, John</u>	<1619			2	7
	<i>Marriage 1</i>		24 Feb 1639	Ann Adlington	1	2
• 2256	<u>Adlington, Ann</u>				1	2 24 Feb 1643 in her 20s
• • 2263	<u>BRYAN, John</u>	14 Mar 1640			0	0 26 Mar 1640 <2 wks
• • 2264	<u>Bryan, Judith</u>	4 Jul 1641			0	0
	<i>Marriage 2</i>		23 Nov 1643	Joane Style #2265	1	5
• • 2266	<u>Bryan, Anne</u>	12 Dec 1644			0	0
• • 2267	<u>Bryan, Rachel</u>	3 Mar 1646			0	0
• • 2268	<u>BRYAN, John</u>	30 Jan 1648			0	0
• • 2269	<u>Bryan, Margaret</u>	14 Apr 1650			0	0
• • 2271	<u>Bryan, Elizabeth</u>				0	0 11 May 1653

The son of John Bryan, the elder, married twice and had two children by his first wife and five by his second. Two of these seven children are known to have died young. Nothing is known about the others but, since the study finishes in 1652, one or more of them could have married and raised families.

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John Alen alias Smith, son of Alen Smith of Seal; first part in Latin. This extract is from the second part.

executors: **Thomas Smith and John Hale**

witnesses: William ??, **William Olyver, William Frenche** and others

1 This is the last will of me John Alen, son of Alen Smith
2 ?? the day and year aforesaid. **First:** I will that **John Hale, my godson**
3 shall buy and lease my house and lands lying in **Godden** in the parish of
4 Seal aforesaid for £10 of lawful money of England. That is to say,
5 paying in the first year 4 marks and every year following 20s until
6 the sum of £10 be fully content, into the hands of **John Thebolde**¹, my
7 overseer, to content and pay my debts and legacies. Also I will that my

1 John(1) Tebold (#3774 - # indicates reference in Seal database) whose will is dated September 1501

8 feoffees John Thebolde, Henry Swaynsland², Richard Blegge and John
Pelsaute³
9 shall deliver a lawful ?? unto the said John Hale or his assigns of
10 all such house and lands as he ?? to have and ??
11 ?? a sufficient surety of him to pay, or make to be paid, the
12 said sums of money into the hands of John Thebolde, my overseer,
13 aforesaid. Also I will that the residue of all the money after my debts
14 and legacies paid and content shalbe ?? for the health of my soul, my
15 father and mother's souls and . . . in the chapel of the ??
16 . . . and other alms . . . and to poor people at the discretion of my
executors and overseer. As for . . .

2 difficult to read, could be Swaynsland in that there were Swaynsland/Swaynlands in Seal from at east the early 1500s

3 the Pelsetts were another Seal family going back to the fifteenth century

The Allens of Ightham

Ightham Mote

Sir Christopher Allen owned **Ightham Mote** at the beginning of Elizabeth's reign. The Court Rolls record, on 4th October 1586, that "Sir Christopher Allen has died seised of certain lands and tenements held of the lord of the manor and advantage accrued to the lord thereby but the homage are at present ignorant as to this. They were given till the next Court to consider the matter."

There were two entries for the Court held on 27th April 1587:

- "Sir Christopher Allen was lately a tenant of certain lands held of this manor but what the lands were and at what rent held the jury are ignorant. There accrued to the lord an ox, seized as heriot, and a relief of one fourth part of the rent."
- "The lady Audrey Allen, wife of Sir Christopher Allen, deceased, has died since the last Court. She held certain lands of this manor. A heriot of a white cow was seized. **Charles Allen** is the heir of the said Sir Christopher Allen." (CRI 1938, p.39)

Ightham Mote would have passed to Charles Allen on his father's death and at the Court on 1st October 1589 it was recorded that "the hedge of **Charles Allen**, between **Ivy Hatch and the Mote**, has not been cut, to the inconvenience of travellers. Given till Christmas to cut the hedge and over-hanging branches of trees, under penalty 10s." (CRI 1937, p.199)

The Mote was sold to **William Selby** a few years after Charles had inherited it. At the same time Charles sold **Chaltons** (a farm lying some two miles north of the Mote) to **Humphrey Berwicke, Esquire**. Details of the lands belonging to the Mote and Chaltons are given in CRI 1938, p.40.

The Family of Christopher Allen

The will of Christopher Allen's wife, Lady (or Dame) Audrey Allen has survived. It was written on 2nd January 1586/7 and proved later in the same month. Besides Charles, who was the heir. Dame Audrey mentions a daughter and four sons not recorded in the parish register: Anne, Gerard who, with **Edward Dodge**⁴, was her executor, Henry, William and John.

⁴ of Wrotham; he died in 1598 and his will has survived,

Charles, Gerard, Henry and William were probably born before the date of the earliest surviving register of baptisms. However, the baptism of John Allen was recorded on 20th January 1569 and the death of John Allen, son of Christopher Allen, on 13th January 1576. It thus looks as if the John mentioned by Dame Audrey was a son born after January 1576. The average interval between the six children whose baptisms were recorded is only twenty months, possibly so short because the Allens employed a wet nurse⁵.

		i 495 Christopher - Audrey		i 496																			
<i>wil:</i>																							
<i>bur:</i>				20 May 1586		2 Jan 1587																	

i 2699		i 2714		i 2715		i 2716		i 497		i 498		i 499		i 500		i 501		i 502		i 2718		i 2717	
Charles		Gerard		Henry		William		Francis		Dorothy		Richard		John		Christopher		Elizabeth		Anne		John	
<i>bap:</i>								23 Feb 1564		7 May 1565		16 Nov 1567		20 Jan 1569		6 Aug 1579		20 Oct 1572					
<i>bur:</i>										16 Dec 1582		12 Feb 1568		13 Jan 1576									

The **Elizabeth Allen (i1839)** who married **William Aldridge (i1838)** in 1596 could have been the youngest daughter of Christopher and Lady Audrey (i502 above).

At the March 1566 Assizes, Thomas Cooke, labourer, son of Robert Cooke of Meopham, smith, was indicted for assault. On 2nd April 1565 he assaulted Sir Christopher Allen, JP, with a cudgel (4d) in the highway at Ightham. He confessed but the sentence is unknown.*

⁵ see Fox, J., Seal, Kemsing and Ightham - 1560 to 1650, A.C. Vol. 112, 1993, p.247

* Cockburn (Eliz.I), 377

Leases on the Allen Land

Dame Audrey's will appears, in effect, to be two different wills. She first leaves complicated leases, etc. to various of her children as given in Table A.1. BUT, if her son Charles would not allow her daughter, Anne, "to enjoy and take the said woods in the county of Derby in such manner and form as I before have willed", then the arrangements were to be as given in the third column.

Dame Audrey's son Gerard and Gerard's wife, Mary, had three leases from her sons Charles, William and Henry of certain meadows and pastures in **Romney Marsh and Wallen Marsh** and these were to be to Dame Audrey's use who could dispose of them as should "seem good" to her. These had probably been set up as a result of her husband's will and, although they seem complicated, presumably there were reasons at the time for such involved agreements, these of the Allen family being by no means unusual. Perhaps it was because of the need for the complications that Charles, his father's heir, was to be allowed to vary his mother's bequests.

In the first arrangement, the lease left to Henry was in recompense of £100 which his mother owed him but, in return, Henry, was to pay £80 to be divided:

- £40 to the poor
- £10 to her two maids

- £10 for the payment of her servants' wages
- £20 to her executors.

In the second case, Henry did not receive his lease but neither did he have to pay £80. Instead, the £80 was to be found by the sale of the lease made by William with the rest of the money so obtained going to John and Charles.

William does not appear to get anything in either case.

Table A.1: The Allen Leases

To:	first part of will	second part
daughter, Anne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the woods and underwoods in Derbyshire "until such time as she shall make thereof the sum of four hundred pounds". - woods in Kent called Scatches and Scrutchis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lease from Charles Allen of certain meadows and pastures in Romney Marsh and Wallen Marsh owned by her son Gerard and his wife Mary

<p>daughter, Elizabeth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lease from Charles Allen of certain meadows and pastures in Romney Marsh and Wallen Marsh owned by her son Gerard and his wife Mary - the term of years which was "yet to come" in the parsonage of Rumswell. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - woods in Kent called Scatches and Scrutchis - the term of years which was "yet to come" in the parsonage of Rumswell - £100 to be paid by Henry who was discharged of the £80 previously required.
<p>sons John and Charles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lease from William Allen of certain meadows and pastures in Romney Marsh and Wallen Marsh owned by her son Gerard and his wife Mary equally divided between them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - money obtained from sale of lease from William less £80 to be used as described above, equally divided between them.

son Henry	- lease made by him of certain meadows and pastures in Romney Marsh and Wallen Marsh owned by her son Gerard and his wife Mary	
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The Will of Dame Audrey Allen of Ightham

written 2nd January 1586/7

transcript from probate copy; PCC Spencer 5

1 In the name of god Amen. The second day of January
2 in the year of our lord god 1586, I, Dame Audrey Allen, widow, sick in body
3 yet of perfect mind and remembrance, thanks be to Almighty god, do
ordain and make
4 this my last will and testament in manner and form following: **First:** I
bequeath my

5 soul unto the holy and undivided⁶ trinity. And my body to be buried in the
parish church
6 of **Drayton in the county of Middlesex** in such decent order as shall seem
convenient and mete
7 unto mine executor. **Item:** I will that **my daughter, Anne Allyen⁷**, shall
have all the woods
8 and underwoods which I have within the county of Derby until such time
as she shall make
9 thereof the sum of four hundred pounds. And also all those my woods in
Kent called **Scatches** and
10 **Scrutchis**. **Item:** whereas **my son Gerard and my daughter Mary, his wife,**
are possessed of three
11 several leases made from **my sons Charles Alleyn and William Alleyn and**
Henry Alleyn of certain
12 meadows and pastures in **Romney Marsh and Wallen Marsh** within the
said county of Kent, to my use

6 spelt "undevided"

7 although the baptisms of seven children were recorded in Ightham, these do not include Anne (nor Henry, William and John mentioned later in the will).

13 and to be disposed as shall seem good unto me, I will that **my daughter,**
14 **Elizabeth Alleyn**⁸, shall have
15 the lease made from the said Charles Alleyn for and during all the residue
16 of the term of years
17 therein to come and also the term of years which I have yet to come in the
18 parsonage of **Rumswell**.
19 **Item:** I will that **my sons John and Charles Alleyn** shall have the said lease
20 and term of
21 years yet to come made and granted by my said son William Alleyn equally
22 to be divided between
23 them. **Item:** I will that my son **Henry Alleyn** shall have the said lease made
24 by him in recompense
25 of the hundred pounds which I do owe him if he, the said son Henry, will
26 pay unto my executors
27 the sum of fourscore pounds to be distributed in manner and form
28 following, viz: unto the poor
29 forty pounds and unto **my two maids, Mary and Anne**, and another ten
30 pounds
31 for the payment of my servants' wages. And the rest, being twenty pounds,
32 I do give unto my

8 baptised 20 October 1572 in Ightham and therefore thirteen when her mother wrote her will

23 executors for their pains to be taken in and about the execution of this my
last will and testament.

24 All the residue of my goods and cattells which I have at **the Mote** and
elsewhere, not before conveyed

25 and assured unto my son Gerard, I will shalbe bestowed in and about my
funeral and payment

26 of my debts. **Item:** I do ordain and make my said son Gerard, and my trusty
and wellbeloved

27 **friend Mr. Edward Dodge**, my executors of this my last will and testament.
Provided

28 always and yet nevertheless, my will and intent is that, if my said son
Charles will not

29 permit and suffer my said daughter Anne to enjoy and take the said woods
in the county of

30 Derby in such manner and form as I before have willed, then my will is that
my said daughter,

31 Anne Alleyn, shall have the said lease for years made by the said Charles
as is aforesaid. And then

32 also I will that my daughter Elizabeth Alleyn shall have my said woods
called Scatches and

33 Scrutches and my said lease of the parsonage of Rumswell and also the
sum of one hundred

34 pounds to be paid by my son Henry Alleyn out of the said lease before
bequeathed unto him.

35 And that he shall thereupon be discharged of the said sum of fourscore
pounds before appointed

36 to be paid unto my said executors as is aforesaid. And furthermore, I will
that then the said

37 lease made by my said son William Alleyn shalbe sold by my said
executors and the money there

38 upon received to be distributed in manner and form following, viz: unto the
said maids and for

39 servants' wages twenty pounds as is before limited. And forty pounds
among the poor people.

40 And the rest of the said money to be bestowed to the benefit of my said
sons John Alleyn and

41 Charles Alleyn. All the residue of my goods and chattells I will shalbe
bestowed in such sort

42 as before I have declared. In witness whereof, to this my last will and
testament, I have

43 subscribed with mine own hand, the day and year above written.
Awdry Alleyn. Published

44 as her last will and testament in the presence of **George Arundell, Erken**
Willoughby, Christopher

45 **Isham, Thomas Newlyn.**

Other Allen Families

In addition to the Allens (or Alleyn) of Ightham Mote, there were a number of other families who may, or may not, have been connected with the Mote family. The prefixed with "i" shows that the numbers are in the Ightham database.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i1	<u>ALLEN, Henry</u>	<1541	2 Nov 1561	Joane Colten i2	1	2	16 Jan 1620 in his 60s
• i3	<u>ALLEN, Henry</u>	26 Feb 1576			1	5	
• •	1480 <u>ALLEN, Thomas^o</u>					0	0 17 Apr 1639
• •	1476 <u>ALLEN, Henry</u>	29 Mar 1618				0	0
• •	1477 <u>ALLEN, William</u>	07 Jul 1622				0	0
• •	1478 <u>Allen, Anne</u>	27 Feb 1625				0	0
• •	1479 <u>ALLEN, Steven</u>	09 Jan 1631				0	0
• i4	<u>Allen, Marie</u>	29 Mar 1579				0	0

If Henry (i3) and Marie were the children of the Henry Allen who married in 1561, there was a long gap between the marriage and the first recorded baptism. If i3 was the father of the children born 1618 to 1631, he was 42 when the eldest was born and 55 at the birth of the Steven.

The Henry Allen who died at the beginning of 1620 is taken as the one who married in 1561. He was also likely to be the Henry Allen who, in 1586, was the **borsholder** and was fined 12d on 4th October that year for setting a bad example by playing "bowls once unlawfully." (CRI 1938, p.13)

At the October Court in 1618, "**Henry Allen, borsholder, duly attended the View but made in open Court contempt in the execution of his office. Fined 3s 4d.**" (CRI 1938, p.31). This could have been i1, i3 or a different Henry Allen.

Thomas (i481) and **Robert** (i485) - see below - could have been the sons of i1.

Matthew Allen (i483), son of **Thomas Allen** (i481) was baptised on 18th March 1610. A Thomas Allen was mentioned in the Court Records for 1586-1618.

Robert Allen (i485) married **Abigail Matthies** (i486) on 20th October 1611. Both husband and wife were mentioned in the Court Records for 1586-1618.

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
i484	<u>ALLEN, Thomas</u> -----	<1610			2	3	
	<i>Marriage 1</i>		30 Sep 1630	Rachel Lindesdale i487			
i487	<u>Lindesdale, Rachel</u> -----	<1610			1	3	23 Oct 1648 about 40
• i488	<u>ALLEN, Steven</u>	14 Aug 1631			0	0	
• i489	<u>Allen, Margaret</u>	16 Feb 1634			0	0	
• i490	<u>Allen, Elizabeth</u>	06 Sep 1640			0	0	
				"daughter of Thomas and Rachel"			
	<i>Marriage 2</i>		11 Aug 1651	Alice Cheeseman i2617	1	0	

Sarah Allen, daughter of Thomas and Sarah Allen, was baptised in **Kemsing** on 18th September 1646.

A **James Allen (i493)** was buried on 16th October 1636 and **Theophilus Allen (i494)**, who died on 19th December 1650, was buried on 21st December.

A **Steven Allen** was mentioned in the Records for 1586-1618.

The Allinghams of Seal

A number of Allinghams appear in the Seal parish register but many of them cannot be fitted into families. Two wills have survived:

John Allingham	1593	CKS: Drb/Pw 17; Drb/Pwr 18.369	see below
Robert Allingham	5 Nov 1625	PCC: Hele 19; Prob 11/148	page a.22

John Allingham, will 1593

A John Allingham who occupied land at Stonestreet and Bitchet in 1575 is mentioned in the will of **John(3) Tebold**.

The original of the nuncupative will of the John Allingham (#1963) who died in 1593, proved in 1594, is very difficult to read but the names of the witnesses, **John Olyver** and **John Walker/Walter**¹⁰ look like signatures. John "[being visited with](#)

¹⁰ John Olyver could have been the elder, of Fawke (#70) who died in 1596 or his son, John Olyver, the younger, of Absoloms (#1627) or John Olyver of Bitchet (#1200) who could write. No John Walker is known in Seal at this time; there was, however, a John Walter (#1218) who had children in 1590s

sickness. did utter and pronounce the words following or the like in effect . . . I give to my wife for her to dispose at her pleasure. And if she leave any thing after her, then her children may have part."

A John Allingham (#320) was buried on 10th March 1565; he could have been the testator's father.

Two children whose father was a John Allingham were buried in 1562:

William Allingham (#322) on 29 Jun 1562

John Allingham (#323) on 16 Sep 1562

Alice Allingham (#345) married William Sherewood (#344), in Seal, on 11th June 1570 - see Sherewood in More Families & Transcripts.

Robert Allingham, will 1625

Although described in his will as a labourer, Robert's will was proved at the PCC; the will itself shows no reason why this should have happened. Robert married Johane White on 9th July 1581 and was therefore, probably, about seventy when he died. Johane had died four years earlier but they had been married for forty years.

	#1030 Robert - Johane White #1031					
<i>will:</i>	5 Nov 1625					
<i>bur:</i>	14 Dec 1625 8 Apr 1621					

	#2079	#2080	#2134	#1275	#2140	
	Johane ¹¹ - Henry Webb		Elizabeth -	William - Ann AnnBaker		
<i>bap:</i>	1582/3			6 Sep 1584		
<i>mar:</i>	22 May 1609					
<i>bur:</i>			13 Nov 1628			

	#2141	#2135	#2136	#2139	#2137	#2138
	?? ¹²	Elizabeth	Johane	Robert ¹³	Ann	Alice
<i>bap:</i>	27 Jan 1615	26 Oct 1617	5 Dec 1619	<1625	1 Aug 1623	8 Jan 1626
<i>bur:</i>	27 Jan 1615			17 Mar 1637	<1625	2 Feb 1637

Robert's son William witnessed the will of **Thomas Olyver**, widow (#1868) in 1642.

“**Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Allingham**” was baptised on 14th February 1613. She could not have been the daughter of #1030 above since Johane would have been at least fifty in 1613. Perhaps #1030 had a son Robert who had died before

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- 11 Johane's baptism not recorded in Seal; she could have been born after 1584 but, if she is the eldest daughter and her mother did not come from Seal, she may have been born in her mother's parish.
 - 12 an infant not baptized; father's first name not given but fits in as first child of this marriage
 - 13 Robert was mentioned in his grandfather's will and was probably about sixteen when he died

1625. It could have been this Elizabeth or William's daughter (#2135) who married **William Walters** (#2152) on 20th October 1642.

A William Allingham was buried on 3rd August 1610. Another William Allingham, probably #1275, was listed (and described as "Esquire") in the Knole MS of 1648.

Will of Robert Allingham of Seal

written 5th November 1625
transcript from probate copy

- 1 In the name of god Amen.
- 2 The fifth day of November in the year of our lord god one thousand six hundred, twenty
- 3 five in the year of the reign of king Charles the first of England and of Scotland, France
- 4 and Ireland, I, Robert Allingham of the parish of Seal in the county of Kent, **labourer,**
- 5 being of perfect remembrance and sick of body, god be thanked, therefore do make and
- 6 ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following: **First** and principally, I

7 bequeath my soul unto Almighty god, my maker and redeemer and to
Jesus Christ, my only
8 Saviour by whose death and passion I hope to be saved, I bequeath my
body to be buried in the
9 churchyard of Seal parish. **Item:** I will and bequeath to **Joane Webb, my
daughter**, one chest that
10 was her mother's. **Item:** I will and bequeath to **Robert Allingham, my son's
son**, one chest. **Item:**
11 I will and bequeath to **my son's two daughters, Elizabeth and Joane**, each
of them one chest.
12 **Item:** I will and bequeath to my son's three children five pounds a piece of
good and lawful
13 money to be paid them, by my executor. **Item:** I will and bequeath to my
daughter Joane Webb
14 five pounds to be paid her within one month after **Henry Webb, her
husband**, do decease¹⁴. **Item:** I will
15 and bequeath all the residue of my goods and chattels which is ungiven to
my son William
16 **Allingham** whom I make my full and sole executor. In witness whereof, I,
the aforesaid Robert Allingham

14 was the purpose of this delay to give something to Joane as a widow or because her father wanted to make sure Joane and not her husband had the benefit of the legacy?

17 have set unto my hand and seal, the mark of Robert Allingham.
18 Sealed and delivered in the presence of:
the mark of **John Draynor**¹⁵
Pynden French¹⁶

15 John Draynor, gent. (#2515) had children in Seal 1627 onwards

16 #1870; had children in Seal in the 1620s

The Arnolds of West Kent

Wills have survived for the following Arnolds who lived in West Kent:

		dated	proved		
John Arnold	Tonbridge	16 Jan 1537/8		CKS: Drb/Pwr 9.252	page a26
Robert Arnold	Wrotham	27 Jan 1561	8 Oct 1575	PCC: Pyckering 36	page a.33
John Arnold	Edenbridge	30?Feb 1591	1591	PCC: Sainberbe 53	page a.29
Stephen Arnold	East Peckham	4 Jun 1603	6 Jan 1608/9	PCC: Windebanck 62	page a.38
Elizabeth Arnold	East Peckham	2 Oct 1612	1612	PCC: Fenner 113	page a.11
Stephen Arnold	Shipbourne	14 Jul 1628	8 Jan 1634/5	PCC: Sadler 4	page a.58

The people mentioned in the will of John Arnold of Edenbridge seem to be different from those mentioned in the other wills; this is not surprising given the distance between Edenbridge and the other villages.

Robert Arnold's will was written, by John Hooper, over fourteen years before it was proved. That of his son, Stephen of East Peckham, was written by Nicholas Hooper, over five years before he died. The Hoopers wrote many wills in this area of Kent and the will of Elizabeth, the widow of Stephen of East Peckham, was written by Nicholas's son Robert. Henry Dennis, whose will was written by an earlier Robert Hooper in 1598, appointed Stephen Arnold as his supervisor.

Stephen Arnold of Shipbourne, the son of Stephen Arnold of East Peckham, wrote his own will but it was not proved until six and a half years later.

John Arnold of Tonbridge

Except for 6s 8d to each of six godchildren, John Arnold of Tonbridge left all his possessions to the church, repair of highways and for doweries for poor maidens and to help poor pupils. He also requests masses at his burial, his month's and year's day and for seven years following.

The Will of John Arnold of Tonbridge

written 16th January 1537/8
transcript from probate copy

- 1 In die nom. Amen. The 16th day of January 1537
- 2 I, John Arnold of Tonbridge, make my will in this wise.
- 3 **First:** my soul to god, my body to be buried in the
- 4 churchyard of Tonbridge. **Item:** to the high altar 12d.
- 5 **Item:** to the reparations of the church 3s 4d. **Item:** to the high
- 6 altar of **Speldhurst** 8d. **Item:** to the reparations of the same
- 7 church 6s 8d. **Item:** to the reparations of **Bidborough** church

8 20d. **Item:** to spend at my burial for 5 masses,
9 at my month's day 5 masses and at my year's day
10 5 masses. Also I will that 7 years after, every
11 year to have one obit of 3 masses of this
12 be done following the said years in Tonbridge church.
13 All my goods, moveable and unmoveable, I pass
14 to the dispersion of **Henry Curde of Speldhurst**,
15 my executor, to dispose them to the pleasure of god.
16 And to him for every of the seven years 3s 4d.
17 And I make **Robert Butler** my supervisor and he to
18 have for his pains every of said years 12d.
19 **Item:** to **Richard Piltness, Henry Curde the younger, John**
20 **. . Rolfe, the son of William Rolfe, one of the**
21 **daughters of Robert Nicholas, John Arnold, my godchildren,**
22 to each of them 6s 8d. **Item:** to the **daughter of Nicholas Arnold**
23 **. . . 10s. Item:** to a priest to sing for . . .
24 Tonbridge church one quarter of a year 34d. **Item:**
25 to the mending of the highway between Speldhurst
26 church and **Benthy Brook** 20s and the highway
27 between Benthy Brook and the town of Tonbridge¹⁷
28 40s. **Item:** to **Sir John Preston, curate** of Tonbridge 6s 8d.

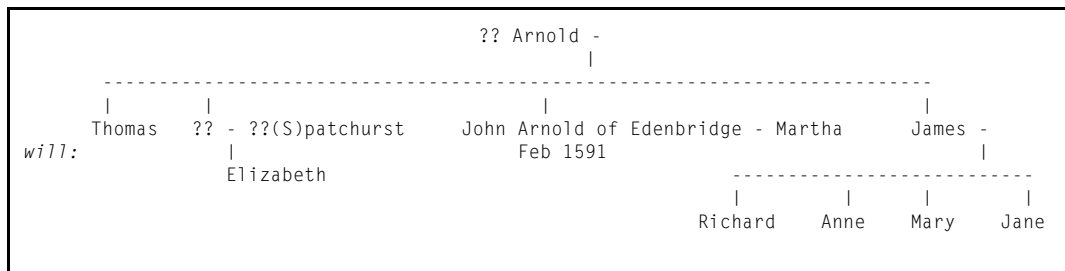
17 Speldurst and Tonbridge churches are about five miles apart

29 The residue of all my goods I give to the marriage
30 of honest poor maidens in Tonbridge and Speldhurst
31 parishes as the discretion of mine executor thinketh
32 best. Also to poor pupils where he thinketh most need.
33 Witness: **Sir John Preston**¹⁸, **Nicholas Oxley**, ??
34 and **Henry Curde**. Also I will that these bequests be
35 paid by the said Henry Curde as he doth receive
36 the money of this my will yearly. Moreover I
37 will that **Nicholas Oxley** pay to Henry Curde, my
38 executor, 20 marks of good money for certain
39 land he bought of me at the day of making
40 this my last will within the space of 5 years.
41 At the feast of the Annunciation of our lady
42 next 4 marks and so for every year after,
43 at the said feast, 4 marks until the sum
44 of 20 marks be paid which money shall be
45 paid upon Saint Thomas altar in Tonbridge
46 church unto the said Henry Curde, mine executor
47 or his assigns. Written at . . . the 29th year
48 of king Henry the 8th.

18 perhaps the writer of the will

John Arnold of Edenbridge

John of Edenbridge mentions the following relations in his will:



The Will of John Arnold of Edenbridge

written 30th? February 1591

transcript from probate copy

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The 30th
- 2 day of February in the 33rd year of the reign of sovereign lady
- 3 Elizabeth, by the grace of God, queen of England, France and Ireland,
defender of the faith,

4 etc., I, John Arnold of Edenbridge in the county of Kent, **husbandman**,
being sick in
5 body but of good and perfect remembrance, do ordain and make this my
last
6 will and testament in manner and form following: **First:** I bequeath my
soul
7 into the hands of Almighty god and my body to the earth from whence it
8 came. **Item:** I give unto the poor of Edenbridge ten shillings. **Item:** I give
unto
9 **Richard, the son of my brother James Arnold**, a bullock which is in the
keeping
10 of **my brother Thomas Arnold**. And my will is that my brother James shall
11 have the keeping of the said bullock to the use of his son. **Item:** I give and
bequeath
12 unto **Anne, Mary and James, the children of my brother James** and to
Elizabeth¹⁹
13 the **children of my sister Patchurst** fifty shillings which **my brother-in-law**
14 **John Spatchurst**²⁰ oweth me to be equally divided amongst them. Also my
will

19 must be another name missing from here

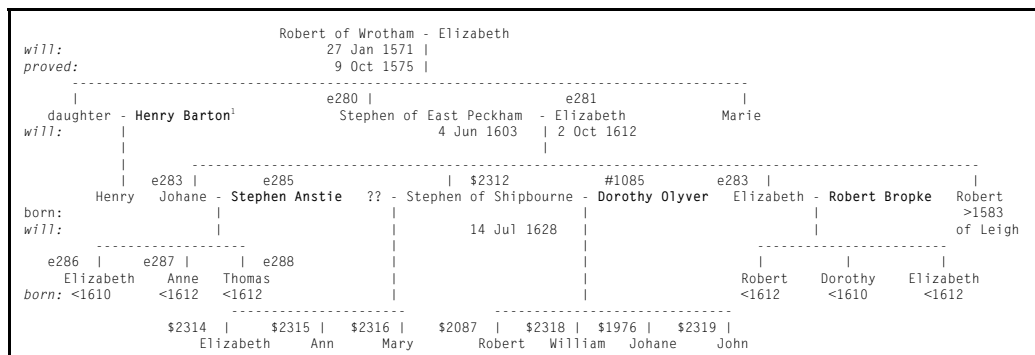
20 Spatchurst here, Patchurst in the line above

15 is that my brother James and my brother-in-law Spatchurst shall have the
keeping
16 of the said legacies to the use of their children. **Item:** I give unto the child
that my
17 wife is now with child withall, if it live to the day of marriage or to the age
of
18 one and twenty years, which shall come first, twenty pounds. The rest of
my goods
19 unbequeathed I give unto **Martha, my wife**, whom I do make my whole
executor.

Witness: Beda Goodaker, minister; Mathew Homeden.

The Arnolds of Wrotham, East Peckham and Shipbourne

Robert of Wrotham was the father of Stephen of East Peckham whose son was Stephen of Shipbourne. All three were yeomen. Elizabeth was the wife of Stephen of East Peckham.



An Elizabeth Arnold (\$361), widow of Robert Arnold, was buried in Shipbourne on 17th July 1586. She could have been the widow of Robert of Wrotham.

¹ a Henry Barton witnessed the will of John Barton, the elder, of Hadlow in 1597

1 In the name of god Amen. The 27th day of January in the year of
2 our lord god a thousand, five hundred, three score and one and in the
3 fourth year of the reign of our sovereign
4 Lady Queen Elizabeth, I, Robert Arnold of Wrotham within the County of
5 Kent and deanery of
6 Shoreham, yeoman, being sick and weak of body but yet whole and perfect
7 of mind and good memory,
8 thanked therefore be god almighty, do constitute, ordain and make this my
9 last will and testament in
10 manner and form following, that is to say, **First:** and principally I give and
bequeath my soul into the hands of
Almighty god, my maker, saviour and redeemer, Jesus Christ, and my body
to be buried in the churchyard
of Wrotham aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the box of the poor
at Wrotham aforesaid to the
relief of the same 6s 8d. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my daughter, Marie
Arnold**, the sum of twenty
pounds good and lawful money of England to be paid to the said Marie
Arnold on the day of her marriage.

11 And if it fortune my said daughter Marie to decease before the above
limited day that then I will
12 and Bequeath the said sum of £20 unto **my son, Steven Arnold**, to his use
and behoof. **Item:** I give and
13 bequeath unto the same Steven, my son, the sum of twenty pounds good
and lawful money of England.
14 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Henry Barton, the son of Henry Barton my
son-in-law**, one cow bullock.
15 The residue of all my goods, moveables and unmoveables, I wholly, fully
with special intent and effect
16 I give and bequeath unto **Elizabeth, my wife**, whom I do constitute, ordain
and make my whole, only and
17 sole executrix of this my last will and testament.

18 This is the last will of me the above named Robert Arnold as concerning
the
19 disposition of all my lands, tenements and houses whatsoever with
thappertenances, set, lying and being
20 within the parishes of **Barming, Loose and Wateringbury** or elsewhere
within the County of Kent. **First:** I
21 will, give and bequeath all my said lands, tenements and houses withall
and singular thappertenances

22 whatsoever within the said county unto the abovesaid Elizabeth, my wife
and executrix, to have and
23 to hold all and singular the premises with thappertenances unto the said
Elizabeth, and to her assigns,
24 during the term and time of her widowhood or so long as she shall live sole
widow and
25 not be married. And after the decease of the said Elizabeth, my wife, or if it
shall fortune the said
26 Elizabeth to be married, that then I will, give and bequeath the premises
with the appertenances unto the said Steven,
27 my son, To have and to hold unto the said Steven, his heirs and assigns for
evermore. In witness
28 whereof I, the said Robert Arnold, as well by this present last will, and also
to my abovesaid testament,
29 and last will, have set both my sign and seal and have delivered the same
to my said executrix as my
30 proper act and last will in the presence of **John Hooper, Richard Balden,
William Mille and Edward Johnson** with others. Yeven the day and year
above written.

Stephen Arnold of East Peckham

Stephen Arnold of East Peckham left land in Shipbourne to his eldest son Stephen, his youngest son being Robert. Stephen Arnold of Shipbourne had a brother Robert and parts of his will are practically an exact copy of the will of Stephen of East Peckham. Thus Stephen of Shipbourne was most probably the son of Stephen of East Peckham and, as his father's executor, he would be likely to have a copy of his father's will if not the original. Those parts which could not be copied directly show a considerable amount of repetition (over and above the standard repeats which occur in so many wills). No witnesses are given at the end of the Shipbourne will but, after the name Stephen Arnold, the words "[This is my own hand](#)" are written.

The will of Stephen of East Peckham is interesting for a number of other reasons. His bequest of twenty pounds of lawful money to his youngest daughter is not unusual even though she is already married and presumably had had a portion at that time but his eldest daughter, who was also married, was to receive a "[french crown in gold](#)" and his two sons "[forty shillings in gold](#)" in addition to the other goods left to them.

All his corn, "[as well on the ground as other](#)", all his cattle, implements of husbandry, hay and fodder and all his other moveable goods were to be "[equally](#)

shifted and divided into three equal parts by three honest neighbours", one to be chosen by his wife Elizabeth, another by his son Stephen and the third by his son Robert who were each to receive one third. But Robert was underage when his father wrote his will and the executors (who were Elizabeth and Stephen) were "in the mean season to use and occupy the same . . . free without any allowance" delivering it, when Robert was twenty-one "in as good case as the same was at the time of the said shift or the true value to be set down by the said three neighbours without fraud or further delay". How was allowance to be made for the perishable items such as the corn and hay; even the implements which would be in use would deteriorate over time.

In addition, provided she did not remarry, Elizabeth was to enjoy the parlour and buttery of Stephen's mansion house, with the lofts over them and have free liberty to bake, brew and carry out other necessities in the kitchen with free "ingress, egress and regress into and from the same rooms and commodities and to, from and at any fire in the said mansion house". She was also to have each year one half of the fruit in the orchard without paying any thing for it.

1 In the name of god Amen. The fourth day of
2 June in the year of our lord god one thousand six hundred and three. And
in the
3 first year of the reign of our sovereign lord James the first, by the grace of
God, king
4 of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, I, Stephen
Arnold of
5 East Peckham in the county of Kent and deanery of Shoreham, **yeoman**,
being at the time of
6 making hereof in good and perfect health, both of body and mind (thanks
be given to Almighty
7 god, notwithstanding aged and thereby put in mind of my last end and of
the sudden change
8 and alteration of this life. Therefore I do ordain and make this my present
last will and testament
9 in manner and form following: And **First** and principally I give, commend
and bequeath my soul
10 into the hands of Almighty god (who gave it) trusting by an assured faith
which I have in the

11 merits of his dear and only son, my only saviour, Jesus Christ, that the
same shalbe presented
12 pure and without spot before the throne of his majesty. And my body to be
buried in the earth
13 in sure and certain hope of a joyful resurrection. **Item:** I will there shalbe
given and distributed
14 amongst the poor of that parish where I shall happen to be buried six
shillings eight pence to be
15 given and distributed at the discretion of mine executors hereafter named.
Item: I give and bequeath
16 to **Elizabeth Brooke, my youngest daughter**, the sum of twenty pounds of
lawful money to be paid
17 to her, her executors, administrators or assigns, within one whole year next
after my decease.
18 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Johane Anstie, my eldest daughter**, a french
crown in gold. **Item:**
19 I give and bequeath to **Steven Arnold, my eldest son**, over and above the
shift of goods here=²²
20 after to him appointed, forty shillings in gold. **Item:** I give and bequeath to
Robert Arnold, my

21 **youngest son**, the like sum of forty shillings in gold over and above his shift
of goods hereafter to
22 him appointed. **Item:** I will that all my corn, as well on the ground as other,
all my cattle²³,
23 implements of husbandry, hay and fodder and all other my moveable goods
whatsoever shalbe
24 equally shifted and divided into three equal parts by three honest
neighbours, one to be chosen
25 by my wife, another by my said son Stephen and the third by my said son
Robert. And
26 the same being so shifted, I will one part thereof to my said son Robert and
to him to be
27 paid at his age of one and twenty years by mine executors hereafter
named. And they in
28 the mean season to use and occupy the same until the said age, free
without any allowance
29 therefore. And at the said age to be delivered in as good case as the same
was at the time of
30 the said shift or the true value to be set down by the said three neighbours
without

23 spelt "cattell"

31 fraud or further delay. And the other two parts of the same goods so
shifted whatsoever, I will
32 and wholly give unto **Elizabeth Arnold, my wellbeloved wife** and Stephen
Arnold, my eldest
33 son equally between them, which Elizabeth, my wife, and Stephen, my
son, I ordain and
34 make my joint executors, to see my debts and legacies paid and my body
honestly buried. And
35 I further will that, if my said son Robert Arnold happen to decease before
his said age of one and
36 twenty years, then his said portion and shift of goods aforesaid shall
remain to my said son
37 Stephen Arnold. Provided always, and my meaning is, that such sum and
sums of money as
38 my legacies in this my will given shall amount unto shalbe deducted and
kept out of the said
39 cattle and all other my goods whatsoever to be shifted as beforesaid any
thing herein before mentioned
40 to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding. This is the last will of me, the
said Stephen
41 Arnold, the father, made and declared the day and year first above written
concerning the order

42 and disposition of all my lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever
in **Shipbourne and Loose**²⁴
43 within the county of Kent or elsewhere. First I will and bequeath unto the
said Stephen
44 Arnold, my eldest son, all that my message or tenement, lying, situated
and being in within the parish of
45 Shipbourne in the said county of Kent and all the barns, houses and
buildings, ??, lands, meadows and pastures thereunto
46 belonging and all other my lands lying and being in Shipbourne aforesaid
withall and singular the appurtenances unto the said Stephen Arnold, my
son, his heirs
47 and assigns forever. Notwithstanding my will and meaning is that he, the
said Stephen
48 Arnold, my son, his heirs and assigns shall pay out of my said land,
tenements and premises to
49 him willed, unto the said Elizabeth, my wife or her assigns, yearly during
her widowhood, the sum of
50 eight pounds of good and lawful money of England at the feasts of the
Nativity of St. John the
51 Baptist, Saint Michael the Archangel, the nativity of our lord Christ and the
Annunciation

24 spelt "Looze"

52 by equal portions quarterly to be paid. Also I will that she, my said wife, in
her own person shall have, hold
53 and enjoy during the whole term of her said widowhood the parlour of my
said mansion house,
54 the loft over the same, the buttery with the loft over the same, free liberty to
bake and brew in the
55 kitchen there and to do such necessaries as unto her shall appertain. Also
one half of the fruit
56 growing and renewing from time to time during her said widowhood in the
orchard there with
57 which free liberty, ingress, egress and regress into and from the same
rooms and commodities
58 and to, from and at any fire in the said mansion house. As also to gather
and take the said one half
59 of the said fruit yearly during the time aforesaid without paying any thing
for the same.
60 And if it shall happen my said wife to marry again, then I will she shall
forgo all her commodities
61 before in this my will given her out of my said land and tenements. And
then I will that my said
62 son, Stephen, his heirs and assigns, shall pay out of my said land and
tenements to him willed

63 unto her, my said wife, only forty shillings yearly of lawful money, during
her natural life,
64 at the feasts before mentioned, to be paid by equal portions, the first
payment thereof to begin
65 at the next of the said feasts which shall next follow after her such
marriage. **Item:** I give
66 and bequeath unto Robert Arnold, my son, after he shall attain to his age of
twenty and
67 one years, or presently after the next marriage of the said Elizabeth, my
wife, which shall first
68 happen (if she marry before his said age of twenty one years) all my land,
tenements and heredit=
69 aments in the parish of Loose in the said county of Kent withall and
singular thappurtenances
70 unto my said son, Robert Arnold, his heirs and assigns forever.
Notwithstanding my will
71 and meaning is that the said Robert Arnold, my son, his heirs and assigns
shall pay out
72 of my said land and tenements to him willed, unto the said Elizabeth, my
wife or her assigns,
73 yearly during her widowhood, the sum of three pounds of good and lawful
money of England

74 at the feasts of the Annunciation of the blessed virgin Mary, the Nativity of
St. John the
75 Baptist, Saint Michael the Archangel and the nativity of our lord Jesus
Christ by
76 equal portions, the first term of payment thereof to begin at the first of the
feasts aforesaid
77 which shall next come and be next after that the said Robert, my son, shall
accomplish his age of
78 one and twenty years. And if it shall happen my said wife to marry again,
then I will
79 she shall have only twenty shillings a year afterwards during her natural
life, out of
80 my said land and tenements in Loose, at the feasts aforesaid, by equal
portions, the first payment
81 thereof to begin at the next of the said feasts which shall next come after
her such marriage.
82 And I further will that the said Elizabeth, my wife, shall have the
occupancy or receive the issues and
83 profits of my said land and tenements in Loose aforesaid withall and
singular the appurtenances
84 until my said son Robert shall accomplish his full age of one and twenty
years or until

85 her said next marriage which shall first happen. She keeping all
reparations, paying the lord's
86 rent and making no strip or waste in and upon the same other than in
necessary hedgeboot
87 for the needful fencing thereof. Furthermore, my will and meaning is that
if my said wife
88 shall happen to be unpaid

12 lines, take distress, etc.

- Provided always that if either of my said sons Stephen or Robert
Arnold happen
- to decease without heirs of their bodies lawfully begotten that either of
them shalbe each other's heir
- anything in this my will contained to the contrary hereof in any wise
notwithstanding. In
- witness whereof I, the said Stephen Arnold, to this my present last will
and testament have set
- my hand and seal. And I do hereby revoke all other wills heretofore by me
made and do
- declare, allow and acknowledge this only to be my last and true will yeven
the day and

- year first above written, in the presence of **me, Nicholas Hooper, writer hereof** and of **Henry Barton²⁵ Stephen Arnold**

Elizabeth Arnold, Wife of Stephen of East Peckham

The will of Stephen's widow, Elizabeth, gives the names of her grandchildren to whom she left money, in varying amounts - see Table A.2. The £25 to Elizabeth Brooke, which was then in the hands of Stephen Butler, was to be paid on 28th March 1614; was this when Elizabeth was twenty-one or when Stephen Butler was due to pay it back?

²⁵ presumably his son-in-law mentioned earlier in the will

Table A.2: Elizabeth's Bequests to her Grandchildren

Elizabeth Anstie	40s and one pair of sheets
Anne Anstie	40s
Thomas Anstie	20s
Elizabeth Arnold, goddaughter	40s
Anne Arnold	10s
Robert Brooke	40s
Dorothy Brooke	20s
Elizabeth Brooke	£25 the best coverlet and a pair of hempen sheets

1 In¹ the name of god Amen. the second day of October in the tenth year
2 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 six
4 and fortieth. And in the year of our Lord God one thousand, six
5 hundred and twelve. I, Elizabeth Arnold of East Peckham in
6 the county of Kent, widow, being at the time of making hereof aged
7 and very sickly and thereby, as by many other examples, put in mind of my
8 last end and being desirous that those goods and moveables which god
hath
9 endowed me with should be² quietly enjoyed after my decease by those to
whom
10 I have willed and meant the same unto: Therefore I do ordain and make this
my
11 Testament and last will in manner and form following: And **first**:
12 and principally I give, commend and bequeath my soul into the hands of

1 "I" slightly decorated

2 "be" spelt "bee" throughout

13 Almighty God, my Creator, trusting by a most assured faith which I have
14 in the Merits, death and passion of his dear son Christ Jesus, my
15 only Saviour, that the same shalbe presented, pure and unblameable,
16 before the throne of his Majesty at the general day of judgement. And
17 my body to the earth to be buried in the Church yard of East Peckham
18 aforesaid. **Item:** I give to the poor of the same parish Thirteen shillings and
19 four pence to be distributed among them in the day of my burial by my executor. **Item:** I give and bequeath
20 unto the poor of the parish of **Shipbourne** five shillings to be distributed among them
21 within one month after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
Elizabeth Arnold
22 **my goddaughter, daughter of Stephen Arnold, my son,** forty shillings to be
23 paid unto her by mine executor within twelve months next after my
decease. **Item:**
24 I give and bequeath unto **Anne Arnold, her sister,** ten shillings to be
likewise
25 paid unto her within twelve months after my decease.

26 **Item:** I give
27 and bequeath unto **Robert Brooke, son of Robert Brooke, my son-in-law,**
forty shillings

28 to be paid unto him by my said executor within the half year next after my
decease. **Item:** I give and
29 bequeath unto **Dorothy Brooke, daughter of the said Robert, the father,**
twenty shillings to be
30 paid unto her by my said executor within the half year next after my
decease. **Item:** I give and
29 bequeath unto **Elizabeth Brooke, daughter also of the said Robert, the**
father, the sum of five and
30 twenty pound lawful money now being in the hands of **Stephen Butler** to
be paid unto her,
31 by my said executor, upon the eighth and twenty day of March which
shalbe in the year
32 of our lord god one thousand six hundred and fourteen. **Item:** I likewise
give and bequeath
33 unto the said Elizabeth my best coverlet and one pair of hempen sheets.
Item: I give and
34 bequeath unto **Elizabeth Anstie, daughter of Stephen Anstie, my son-in-**
law, forty
35 shillings to be paid unto her within twelve months next after my decease
and also one
36 pair of sheets. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Anne Anstie, daughter also**
of the said

37 **Stephen**, the like sum of forty shillings to be likewise paid within twelve
months next
38 after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Thomas Anstie, son of**
the said Stephen,
39 twenty shillings to be likewise paid unto him within twelve months next
after my decease.
40 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Johane Anstie, my daughter,** an angel²⁸ of
gold. **Item:** I give
41 and bequeath unto **Stephen Arnold, my son,** ten shillings. **Item:** I give and
bequeath
42 unto **Elizabeth Brooke, my daughter,** the sum of twenty pounds of lawful
money to be
43 paid unto her within two years next after my decease by my executor
hereafter named.
44 The residue of all my goods and moveables whatsoever, I fully and wholly
give and bequeath
45 unto **my natural and loving son Robert Arnold** which Robert I make
executor of
46 this my will, to see my debts paid, my bequests and legacies herein
bequeathed and given

28 an Elizabethan coin worth ten shillings

47 well and truly paid and discharged and my body honestly and decently
buried according
48 to the true intent and meaning of this my will. In witness whereof I, the
said Elizabeth
49 Arnold, to this my present testament and last will have set my hand and
seal and do
50 acknowledge the same to be my true and last will yeven the day and year
first above written.
51 The mark of Elizabeth Arnold. Read, sealed, pronounced and declared to
be the true
52 will of the said Elizabeth Arnold in the presence of **William Raynes** and
Robert Hooper
53 **writer hereof.** The mark of William Raynes.

Stephen Arnold of Shipbourne

Elizabeth and Anne, the daughters of Stephen Arnold of Shipbourne, were mentioned in their grandmother's will of October 1612 but not Mary who was therefore, most likely, to have been born after that date. Stephen refers to Elizabeth, Anne and Mary as the daughters that "[I had by my first wife](#)". (see tree on page a.32)

Stephen's second wife was probably the **Dorothy Olyver** (#1085²⁹) who is known, from her mother's will written in 1622, to have married an Arnold but no children of Dorothy are mentioned. #1085 was born in 1580 and therefore would have been forty-two when her mother died and forty-eight when Stephen died. It is known from Stephen's will that all his children by Dorothy were under twenty-one in 1628 but if his wife was #1085 she would have had to have had some of her four children before 1622 - see [Olyvers](#) for more details

Stephen refers to his "[cousin, Robert Olyver of Fawke in Seal](#)". Robert could have been #1773, the son of Dorothy's eldest brother; he was thirty-six when Stephen wrote his will but his nephew rather than cousin. See [Olyvers](#)

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

Two of Stephen and Dorothy's children may have been two of the Arnolds who appeared in the Shipbourne parish records:

Joane Arnold (\$1976) married **William Pattenden** (\$1974) on 21st December 1643.

Robert Arnold (\$2087) had a son Thomas (\$2089) baptised on 9th April 1647

A Stephen Arnold of Shipbourne was recorded as one of the Constables for the March 1626 Assizes but he paid a fine of 40s (£2) so as not to have to attend*.

Stephen left a wide variety of items to his children - see Table A.3.

*

Cockburn (Chas.I) 50

Table A,3: Items Left by Stephen Arnold of Shipbourne to his Children in 1628

<ul style="list-style-type: none">- the table in the parlour,- the table in the hall- the table in the kitchen with the frames and four forms thereunto belonging.- the joined bedstead standing in the parlour loft with the featherbed, coverlet and blankets and other furniture thereunto belonging.	Robert, eldest son
all the christening things that were her own mother's, one shawl mantel and one launt cloth to lay upon the child with a face cloth and other things to put over the child's head	Elizabeth, eldest daughter

pewter platters	6 6 3 6 6 6 6	Robert, eldest son William, second son John, youngest son Elizabeth, eldest dau. Ann, second daughter Mary, third daughter Johane, youngest dau.
pairs of good sheets	2 2 2 3 3 3	Robert, eldest son William, second son John, youngest son Ann, second daughter Mary, third daughter Johane, youngest dau.
three pairs of good and strong sheets.		Elizabeth, eldest dau.
silver spoon - with testator's name on it - with no letters but a plain roundel at th'end. - with S, A and I on it - with one roundel at the end		Elizabeth, eldest dau. Ann, second daughter Mary, third daughter Johane, youngest dau.
one joined chest that was her own mother's		Elizabeth, eldest dau.

plain great chest that was testator's before second marriage	Ann, second daughter
one joined chest	Johane, youngest dau.
residue of all goods, household stuff and plate	Dorothy, wife

The Will of Stephen Arnold of Shipbourne

written 14th July 1628; proved 8th January 1634/5

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The
2 fourteenth day of July in the year of our lord god 1628 and in the fourth
3 year of the reign of our sovereign lord Charles, by the grace of God
4 King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith.
5 I, Stephen Arnold of Shipbourne in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being at
the time
6 of the making hereof in good and perfect health, both of body and mind,
thanks be
7 given to Almighty god, yet notwithstanding put in mind of my last end and
of

8 the sudden change and alteration of this life. Therefore I do ordain and
make
9 this my present last will and testament in manner and form following: And
First
10 and principally I give, commend and bequeath my soul into the hands of
Almighty
11 god, who gave it me, trusting by an assured faith which I have in the merits
of
12 his dear and only son, Jesus Christ, that the same shalbe presented pure
and
13 without spot before the throne of his majesty. And my body to be buried in
the earth
14 in sure and certain hope of a joyful resurrection. **Item:** I will there shalbe
15 given and distributed amongst the poor of Shipbourne 6s 8d³⁰. **Item:** I will
that all
16 my corn, as well on the ground as corn in the barn or in the house and all
my

30 This is practically word for word the same as the introduction to the will of Stephen Arnold written in 1603, the only differences (other than change of date) being the omission of the deanery of Shoreham (Shipbourne not being in the deanery), "aged" and "my only saviour" in front of "Jesus Christ".

17 cattle, implements of husbandry³¹ I have and for them to be praised and
sold at the true
18 value towards the payment of my debts whom I do put in authority to sell
corn
19 and cattle and hay and all implements of husbandry, **my brother Robert
Arnold**
20 of **Leigh** in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, and **my cousin, Robert Olyver of
Fawke in Seal**³²,
21 **yeoman**, except five quarters of wheat I give and bequeath unto **Dorothy,**
my
22 **wellbeloved wife**, and five quarters of oats likewise I give unto the foresaid
23 Dorothy, my wife, to be deducted out of my corn, and two of the best kine
that she
24 can choose out of my kine and all the residue of all my corn and cattle, corn
25 on the ground and corn in the barn or in the house to be sold, and hay and
implements of husbandry, by my brother
26 Robert Arnold and my cousin Robert Olyver or their assigns, to the true
value and

31 this is also similar to the will of Stephen Arnold of East Peckham

32 written "Fakinsel", probably the Robert Olyver of Fawke who was born in October 1592 (#1773)

27 for and towards the payment of my debts and the overplus thereof to be
equally
28 divided amongst all my children, as well daughters as sons, upon equal
portions,
29 all my four daughters and three sons. **Item:** My will and meaning is that all
my
30 household stuff and plate shalbe excepted which is yet to be disposed of.
Item: I give
31 and bequeath unto **Robert Arnold, my eldest son**, the table in the parlour,
the
32 table in the hall, the table in the kitchen with the frames and four forms
33 thereunto belonging. **Item:** likewise I give and bequeath unto him six
pewter platters.
34 Likewise I give and bequeath unto Robert Arnold, my eldest son, the joined
35 bedstead standing in the parlour loft and two pairs of good sheets, which
was
36 mine before I married this woman³³, with the featherbed, coverlet and
blankets and
37 other furniture thereunto belonging. **Item:** my mind is that all the said
tables and
38 forms and bedstead shall stand as standers unto the house to the use as

33 Dorothy was his second wife with his three eldest daughters being by his first wife - see page 54 for more details

39 aforesaid and Dorothy, my said wife, to have the use of them till my son
Robert come
40 to his age of 21 years. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **William Arnold,**
41 **my second son,** two pairs of good sheets and six pewter platters. **Item:** I
give
42 unto **John Arnold, my youngest son,** two pairs of good sheets and three
pewter
43 platters to be delivered to their use within one month after my decease.
Item: I give
44 and bequeath unto **Elizabeth Arnold, my eldest daughter,** that I had by my
first wife,
45 all the christening things that were her own mother's, one shawl mantel
and one
46 launt cloth to lay upon the child with a face cloth and other things to put
over
47 the child's head, all which things to be delivered within one month after my
decease.
48 **Item:** I give likewise to her three pairs of sheets, good and strong sheets.
Item: likewise
49 I give unto her one silver spoon which hath my name on it. **Item:** likewise I
give unto her
50 six pewter platters, one joined chest that was her own mother's which now
standeth in

51 the parlour loft, the letters that are upon the silver spoon is S and I³⁴. All
which
52 I will shalbe delivered within one month after my decease. **Item:** I give and
bequeath unto
53 **Ann Arnold, my second daughter**, three pairs of good sheets and six pewter
platters.
54 **Item:** likewise I give unto her one silver spoon that hath no letters but a
plain
55 roundel at th'end. **Item:** likewise I give to her the plain great chest that
standeth
56 in the long loft where we lie that was mine before I married this woman.
57 All which goods so given to be delivered within one month after my
decease. **Item:**
58 likewise I give and bequeath unto **Mary Arnold, my third daughter**, three
pairs of
59 good sheets and six pewter platters and one silver spoon which hath three
letters upon
60 the end, S, A and I. All which goods shalbe delivered within one month
after my
61 decease by mine executrix hereafter mentioned. **Item:** I give unto **Johane
Arnold, my**

34 this is definitely "I"

62 **youngest daughter**, one joined chest standing in the parlour loft at the beds
feet.

63 **Item:** I give likewise unto her three pairs of good sheets and one silver
spoon

64 with one roundel at the end and six pewter platters to be delivered to her
when she

65 comes to 21 or at the day of her marriage which shall first happen. The
residue

66 of all my goods and household stuff and plate I give unto Dorothy, my
wellbeloved

67 wife whom I make my whole and sole executrix to see all my legacies paid
68 and discharged and my body decently buried. This is the last will of me the
said

69 Stephen Arnold made and declared the day and year first above written
70 concerning the order and disposition of all my lands, tenements and
hereditaments

71 whatsoever in **Shipbourne** in the county of Kent or elsewhere³⁵. First I will
72 and bequeath unto the said Robert Arnold, my eldest son, all that
message or

73 tenement wherein I now dwell, situated lying and being in Shipbourne in
the

35 this sentence is again practically a direct copy of the one in the will of Stephen Arnold of East Peckham

74 county of Kent and all the barns, stables and buildings, closes, garden
75 and orchards and two parcels or pieces of lands, meadows or arable
thereunto
76 adjoining, containing by estimation, five acres, more or less. And also other
two parcels of
77 land containing by estimation, seven acres, more or less, to be had
commonly called
78 or known by the name of **Bumayles** or by what other name that hath
79 been called. All those houses and buildings, gardens and orchards, closes
and six
80 parcels of land to the said Robert Arnold, my eldest son, called **Great**
Gurdons,
81 containing by estimation, seven acres, more or less out of which said parcel
of
82 land I will that he, the said Robert Arnold, shall pay his sister Johane
Arnold,
83 my youngest daughter, three score pounds of good and lawful money of
England
84 when she shall come to the age of 21 years. Always provided that, if the
85 said threescore pounds be not paid at her said age of 21 years, it shalbe
86 lawful for her, the said Johane, my daughter, or her assigns, to enter upon
the said

87 parcel of land called Great Gurdons and hold that to her and her heirs
forever.

88 Always provided that, if my son Robert Arnold pay the said three score
pounds

89 then my will and meaning is that the said parcel called Great Gurdons
90 to him and his heirs forever. Also which parcel of land lyeth in
Shipbourne³⁶.

91 **Item:** my will and meaning is that Dorothy, my wife, shall have the
occupation of

92 **Sunderlands** till Robert Arnold, my son, cometh to his age of 21 years and
93 that she, the said Dorothy, shall have the occupation of Great Gurdons till
the

94 said Robert shall come to his age aforesaid all owing nothing therefore.

Item:

95 I give and bequeath unto William Arnold, my second son, two parcels of
land

96 called **Northfields** lying in Shipbourne aforesaid which two parcels or
pieces of

97 land I give and bequeath unto my said son William Arnold and his heirs
forever. **Item:** I give

36 should this read "Also that parcel of land which lyeth in Shipbourne?"

98 and bequeath unto to my youngest son, John Arnold, two parcels or pieces
of land
99 called **Woodrocks** lying and being in Shipbourne aforesaid which two
parcels of
100 land I give to him and his heirs forever. Always provided that my will and
101 meaning is that Dorothy, my wife, shall have the occupation of all my lands
yet
102 bequeathed during her natural life, Sunderlands and Great Gurdons only
103 excepted. Always provided whereas Robert Arnold of **Leigh**, my Brother,
standeth
104 bounden with me to **Robert Hunt of Leigh** aforesaid in one obligation for
the
105 payment of one hundred and seven pounds ten shillings which is for my
own
106 proper debt. Always provided that if he, the said Robert Arnold, be
damnified³⁷ by
107 the said bond of one hundred and seven pounds ten shillings that he, the
said
108 Robert Arnold, his heirs or assigns, shall have full power and authority by
109 virtue of this my last will and testament to enter into one messuage or
tenement

37 caused loss

110 in Shipbourne situated at **Bodes plain** with the barns and stables thereunto
111 adjoining and gardens with the closes and orchards and five parcels of land
112 which I lately purchased of **Thomas Blatcher**³⁸ being the last of my
purchases. **Item:** my
113 will and meaning is that my brother Robert shall have full power and
authority
114 to make sale of all these five parcels of land with the dwelling house, barns,
115 stables, orchards and closes and gardens thereunto next adjoining and the
five several
116 parcels or pieces of land next thereunto adjacent and make a perfect and
117 good state in law of the same if he be anyways damnified by the foresaid
bond
118 that he standeth bound to Robert Hunt with me, he shall have full power
and
119 authority to sell all the foresaid described premises, containing, by
estimation, 26 acres
120 more or less. **Item:** my will and meaning is that my cousin, Robert Olyver
aforesaid,
121 shalbe overseer to see that the same be sold to the true value thereof and
the

38 In 1611 Thomas Blatcher (\$108) left his house at Buds Plain to his nephew, Thomas Blatcher (\$684). Great Budds and Little Budds are about one mile east of Shipbourne village.

122 remainder thereof to go to the payment of my debts and the overplus after
my
123 debts be paid and discharged, my will is as well the overplus of all my
goods
124 set to be sold as lands by you, you or either of you, shall make a perfect and
true account
125 of all the overpluses. And my will is all the overpluses shalbe equally
divided
126 between all my said children as well daughters as sons, equally alike by
equal
127 portions. **Item:** I give and bequeath to Elizabeth Arnold and Ann Arnold
and
128 Mary Arnold, my three daughters that I had by my first wife, all those five
129 parcels of land to be equally divided between them which I first purchased
of
130 Thomas Blatcher, the which five parcels of land I give and bequeath to
them
131 and their heirs forever, one parcel of land called **Stone Croft** containing by
132 estimation seven acres, more or less, one parcel of land called **Dirkfield**
133 containing by estimation seven acres, more or less, one parcel of meadow
called
134 the high meadow containing by estimation five acres, more or less, and one
other

135 parcel of land called the further lands, newly divided into two, containing
by
136 estimation seven acres. These are the names of the five parcels of land that
I do give and bequeath to Elizabeth Arnold and Ann Arnold and Mary
Arnold,
137 to them and their heirs forever. In witness whereof, I the said Stephen
Arnold of Shipbourne, this is my own hand³⁹.

This will (CKS Drb/Pw 17; Drb/Pwr 18.357) looks to be written by Nicholas Hooper since it includes the mark which seems to be characteristic of Hooper at the top, the writing looks like that of NH and it includes "folowing" (always used instead of following by NH). Other similar nuncupative wills also thought to have been written by Nicholas Hooper have survived.

Nicolas Hooper's
mark

1 **Memorandum** that upon the seventh day
2 of February in the year of our lord god one thousand, five hundredth,
3 four score and fourteen and in the seven and thirtieth year of
4 the Reign of our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, Miles
5 Assburner of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **Blacksmith**, did
6 speak and utter these words hereafter following⁴⁰, touching his

40 "folowing"

7 last will and disposition of his goods in the presence of **John Jeffrey**
8 **of Tonbridge** aforesaid, **yeoman**, viz: The said John Jeffrey,
9 upon the said seventh day, came to the said Miles and seeing
10 him very sick (among other things) said that he⁴¹ had heard that
11 he, the said Miles, had certain money and therefore demanded
12 of him who should have it, who answered that he had owing
13 him by **Thomas Marshall** five pounds. And that his
14 **brother Edward** should have forty shillings of the same and his master
15 **Cuthbert Parker of Tonbridge, Blacksmith**, with whom he
16 wrought, should have other forty shillings of the same and
17 **Johane Taylor** should have the other 20s residue thereof. And
18 that his said master and Johane Taylor should see him honestly
19 buried out of the portions he gave them. Furthermore he
20 willed that his said Master⁴² should have 9s which one **Parker** owed
21 him. Also 5s which one **Clarke** did owe him, also 20s which he
22 lent to **one of his Countrymen** when he dwelt at **Lewes**
23 for the which he had a bill of his hand but he had lost it, he

41 "hee" throughout

42 abbreviated to Mr

24 knew not how, rules⁴³ **old Cuthbert** had got it from him. Also
25 he willed to the said Cuthbert, his master, 5s which one **Patrick**
26 did owe him. All which words, or the like in effect,
27 were spoken the day and year above said in the presence of
28 the said John Jeffrey. In testimony of all which to be true
29 the said John Jeffrey hereunto subscribed his name.

John Jeffrey⁴⁴

43 or "vules"? perhaps "rules" used in the sense of "says"

44 this looks like a signature

John Asshbye of Shipbourne

This will (CKS: Drb/Pw 26; Pwr 21.40) was written by Richard Hooper one of the family of Hoopers who wrote a large number of wills from 1558 until at least the end of the period studied (1650). It was written on 28th April 1623 and John was buried on 1st May 1623.

Additional information about John Asshbye can be gained from the parish register. He married Marion Lucke on 1st October 1609, the Luckes being a large Shipbourne family. Their first daughter was baptised on 6th January 1611 but died on 27th June 1616. A second daughter, also Elizabeth, was baptised on 5th January 1617 and Marion herself was buried on 20th July 1621, perhaps as the result of another pregnancy. John appointed his daughter his executrix although she was only four when her father died. Marion's brother Nicholas would thus, presumably, have taken on the duties of executor. Although John mentions Nicholas's children, no baptisms were recorded for them in Shipbourne.

John's sister had married into another large Shipbourne family - the Pages. She was probably the wife of Robert Page who had two sons who both died young in 1613 and 1614 and a daughter Jeane/Jane baptised on 6th October 1615.

The above reconstruction gives:

		Asshbye			Lucke		
\$894 ⁴⁵			\$895	\$948		\$956	\$2271
Robert Page -	Thomazine			John	-	Marion Lucke	Nicholas -
will:				28 Apr 1623			
bur:				1 May 1623		20 Jul 1621	
							children
\$1001	\$1134	\$1159	\$1007		\$1188		
John	John	Jane	Elizabeth	Elizabeth			
bap: 11 Nov 1610		6 Oct 1615	6 Jan 1611	5 Jan 1617			
bur: 18 Feb 1613	4 Apr 1614		27 Jun 1616				

See More Families & Transcripts for Marion Lucke's family

Will of John Asshbye of Shipbourne

written 28th April 1623

Although the original has survived, the microfilm of it is very faint and the transcript, although basically from the original, has been supplemented from the probate copy with the end of the will being taken completely from the probate copy.

1 In⁴⁶ the name of god Amen. The eight and twentieth
2 day of April in the one and twentieth year of the reign of our sovereign
3 Lord James, by the grace of God king of England, France and Ireland,
4 defender of the faith, etc. And of Scotland the six and fiftieth, in the
5 year of our Lord God one thousand, six hundred, twenty and three.
6 I, John Asshbye, of Shipbourne in the county of Kent, **tailor**, being at
7 the time of making hereof sick in body but of perfect memory (praised be
8 God) do therefore make and ordain this my testament and last will in
9 manner
10 and form following: **First** and above all things, I do most willingly
11 resign and surrender my soul unto Almighty God, my most merciful
12 Creator.
13 And my body to the earth whereof it was made to be buried in the
14 Churchyard of Shipbourne aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the
15 poor of Shipbourne
16 aforesaid five shillings. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Minister Mr. Bowls**,
17 or some other preacher, to preach
18 at my burial six shillings and eight pence. The residue and all other my
19 moveable goods and household stuff
20 I fully and wholly give and bequeath unto **Elizabeth Asshbye, my daughter**,
21 whom I make

16 my whole and sole executrix to see this my will proved and my debts and
legacies paid and my
17 body decently buried. **Item:** my will and mind is that **Nicholas Lucke, my
loving**
18 **brother-in-law** shall be guardian unto my said daughter and shall have the
19 education and bringing up of her until her age of one and twenty years.
20 **Item:** I make and ordain my very loving friend, **William Double, yeoman,**
21 and my said brother-in-law Nicholas Lucke overseers of this my will whom
I
22 entreat what in them lieth to be aiding and assisting to see all things
23 herein contained and done to be faithfully performed according to this my
will
24 and meaning. Provided always that if the said Elizabeth, my daughter,
shall
25 decease before her said age of one and twenty years and without issue of
her
26 body lawfully begotten, then my will and meaning is I do hereby give and
27 bequeath all and every my goods whatsoever before given unto my said
daughter (except
- twenty shillings which I give unto **Jane Page, the daughter of**
- **Thomazine Asshbye, my sister,** equally among the children
- of my said brother-in-law, Nicholas Luck, any thing herein
- before mentioned to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

- In witness whereof I, the said, John Asshbye, to this my last
- will and testament have put my hand and seal the day and year
- before dated, acknowledging the same to be my very true will
- and meaning. The mark of John Asshbye. Read, sealed and
- declared to be the true and last will and testament of the said John
- Asshbye in the presence of **Nicholas Lucke** above named, **Johane**
- **Dresser, widow**, her mark and **Robert Hooper**, writer hereof.

The Atherfolds of Seal

The name is given as Aderfold/Adderfold in the wills, Atherfold in the parish registers. Three wills have survived; those of Lawrence, his eldest son, William, and his youngest son, Edward.

	# ⁴⁷	written	buried	CKS: Drb/Pw; Pwr	
Lawrence Atherfold	#449	9 Nov 1593	26 Feb 1602	19; 19I.220	page a.81
William Atherfold	#451	13 Oct 1606	16 Oct 1606	20;	page a.84
Edward Atherfold	#520	13 Feb 1641/2	20 Feb 1641/2	PCC: Cambell 34 ;Prob.11/188	page a.90

Both Lawrence and William were weavers and William died aged 37 without, it would appear, marrying - or at least not having any children or a wife who survived him.

Edward married when he was only twenty. He lived to be seventy and is described in his will as a butcher. When he became established as a butcher is not known but, in 1627, Thomas Rolfe appointed Edward Atherfold, butcher of

47 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

Seal, as his executor, and left money and items from his house to Edward's daughters. See Rolfe for details,

#449 Lawrence - Agnes Porter #450									
will: 9 Nov 1593									
bur: 26 Feb 1602 6 Dec 1594									

#1236	#1235	#39	#1103	#140	#387	#1547	#451	#520	
Clemence -	William Coxo	Bennet -	Christopher Wade ⁴⁸	John	Elizabeth -	Mark Morfewe	William	Edward -	
bap: <1561?		13 Jun 1562		13 Aug 1564	3 Mar 1567		17 Apr 1569	9 Dec 1571	
bur:				15 Jan 1566			16 Oct 1606		
will:							13 Oct 1606		
mar: 2 Oct 1586 ⁴⁹		27 Apr 1584			5 Apr 1591				⁵⁰

#1289	#1393	#1522	#1633						
Richard	Christopher	John	Dorothy				Luke/Luce		
bap: 10 Jan 1585	28 Aug 1586	24 Nov 1588	19 Dec 1591						
bur:	4 May 1588						18 Apr 1595		

There appears to have been more wrong with Elizabeth's marriage than the death of her son; her brother William, when he died in 1606, wanted all his belongings to be divided between his brother Edward and his three sisters. But his executor was to keep Elizabeth's part "but to her use and relief until it may be verified and

48 In July 1596, a lamb was stolen from Christopher Wade -see Richard Lobley

49 Clemence married William Coxo on 2nd October 1586 and they had seven children

50 married and had eight children, see page 75, 87

known whether her wicked husband be dead or alive. If he be dead, then my will is that she shall have . . . her part to her own use."

Will of Lawrence Atherfold

written 9th November 1593

In the name of god Almighty, the ninth day of November in the 36th year of the Queen of England . . . defender of the faith . . . I, Lawrence Adderfold of Seal in the county of Kent, **weaver**, sick in body but whole in mind and of good and perfect remembrance, thanks be to god, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to say, **First** I bequeath my soul unto Almighty god, my maker and redeemer and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Seal aforesaid.

Item I bequeath unto **my son, William**, my house called the Shopp with the garden and orchard thereto adjoining so far as hath in time past a division which division must be from the highway that is on the north side of the said orchard so adjoining close to the north side of a stable that is now standing there and so between a plum tree and a quadling tree unto a pale now in the tenor or

occupancy of **Averell Hickmote**⁵¹ or of his assigns unto my said son William and his heirs for ever.

Item: I bequeath unto **my son Edward** that is adjoining unto the (other?) with the stable and the other part of the backside thereunto adjoining, unto him and his heirs for ever and forty shillings that my brother **Lawrence Porter**⁵² oweth me.

Item: I bequeath unto my three daughters⁵³, to either of them thirty shillings to be paid unto them within one month then next after my decease. And I give unto **my son Edward's children** to every one of them 12d a piece to be paid unto them within one month then next after my decease.

51 #910

52 Lawrence's wife, Agnes Porter, daughter of Andrew Porter of Hall had died in 1594.

53 Clemence, Bennet and Elizabeth, all of whom were married

Item: I give unto **my daughter Clemence's children** and unto **my daughter Bennet's children**⁵⁴ to either of them 12d a piece to be paid unto the children of my said daughters within one month then next after my decease.

Item: I will that my son William shall pay my daughters' children and my son Edward's children ? ?, my funeral expenses and all my debts. When those legacies are paid and done and all things discharged, I give unto my said son William all the rest of my goods, moveables, chattels or whatever that was before unbequeathed whom I make my lawful executor.

Those whose names are underwritten were present at the sealing hereof: **John Weekes and Andrew Homewood**⁵⁵; The mark of John Weekes

54 all Bennet's four recorded children were born before Lawrence wrote his will but Clemence had two alive when Lawrence wrote his will but four when he died. Elizabeth's son was probably born after her father wrote his will but only his burial is recorded; if Elizabeth had had other children, would they have received anything from their grandfather?

55 #715; churchwarden of Seal up to 1603

In the name of god Amen. I, William Aderfold, of the parish of Seal in the County of Kent, **weaver**, being weak and sick in body but in good and perfect understanding and remembering, thanks be given to god, do institute and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following: **First** I commend and remit my soul into the hands of Almighty god my maker and redeemer and my body to be buried at the discretion of my executor hereafter named. And for my working ? ? I do dispose of it in manner as followeth:

First: I give my house where I now dwell together with all outhouses, gardens and all other appurtenances whatsoever thereunto belonging unto **Edward Atherfold**, **my brother**, and to his assigns for ever. **Item:** I give unto **John Chittenden**⁵⁶, my man, to be paid him by mine executor, the sum of twenty shillings.

56 #3668, his servant?

Item: I give unto the poor people of the parish of Seal aforesaid the sum of twenty shillings to be distributed among them at the discretion of **Richard Buckley**⁵⁷, the vicar, and the churchwardens.

Item: my will is that all the rest of my goods and chattels of all manner and quality, my debts and legacies paid and the charge of my funeral discharged shalbe equally divided between my brother Edward before mentioned and my three sisters⁵⁸, provided all ways that my will and intent is that my sister Elizabeth's part shall remain in the hands and custody of mine executor but to her use and relief until it may be verified and known whether her **wicked husband** be dead or alive. If he be dead, then my will is that she shall have and possess her part to her own use. But if it be certainly known that her husband is living, then my will is that mine executor shall keep her part as is aforesaid. And if it happen that her said husband shall at any time hereafter enter suit in law against mine executor ?? of the said part of my goods and chattels ?? part of his wife. And that mine executor may not by law if he should withhold the said part from my sister . . according to my meaning and full intent . . my will is that this my gift to my sister Elizabeth shalbe utterly void and that part of my goods and chattels . to my brother Edward and my other sisters or their assigns . . and that my will

57 #2344

58 Clemence, Bennet and Elizabeth

is that if it happen that my sister Elizabeth's husband be alive and my sister to die before him, her part then . . .⁵⁹

Lastly I constitute and appoint my brother Edward above named my sole executor of this my last will and testament . . .

bottom of will damaged, names of witnesses not readable

59 whilst it is not possible to read the exact words in either the original or probate copy, the meaning is clear: Elizabeth's husband is NOT to get his hands on her inheritance

Edward Atherfold of Seal

		#520 Edward - Margaret Forde #185									
bap:		9 Dec 1571		1 Nov 1565		orange	-	Edwards children			
mar:		30 Mar 1592									
will:		10 Feb 1642									
bur:		20 Feb 1642		15 Sep 1640							

#1772				#1888		#2098		#2113		#2100	
Agnes				Dorothy		Elizabeth	-	Richard Cronke		Edward	-
bap:	17 Sep 1592			3 Apr 1597		28 Jun 1602				5 Jul 1607	
mar:											
bur:	< Feb 1642			8 Jul 1601				#1838			
								Richard			
#3580		#1809		#2062		#2063		#1933		#2099	
?? Chart - Bennet	-	John	-	Ann	-	Richard	-	Lawrence	-	Helen	-
		Whetley ⁶⁰				Lawrence				Thomas	-
bap:	29 Dec 1594			1595 or 96		21 Oct 1599				19 May 1605	
mar:				5 Jun 1617							
bur:				< Feb 1642							
				7 children						Richard	
				see Whetley							
				Mary & six more children							
				see Lawrence							

#2102		#2103		#2114		#2104		#2105		#2106	
Elizabeth		Edward ⁶¹		Margaret		John		Bennet		Lawrence	
bap:	28 May 1620		6 Feb 1623		1 Jan 1626		11 Jan 1629		17 Jun 1632		22 Nov 1633
bur:			19 Dec 1680		19 Oct 1625				27 Jun 1654		22 Nov 1635
											22 Nov 1635
											11 Feb 1638
											9 April 1643
											13 Feb 1642

60 Bennet Chart married John Wheatley on 15th June 1618 but, from her father's will, John's wife was Edward's daughter, Bennet; this must have been her second marriage although she was only 23 when she married John

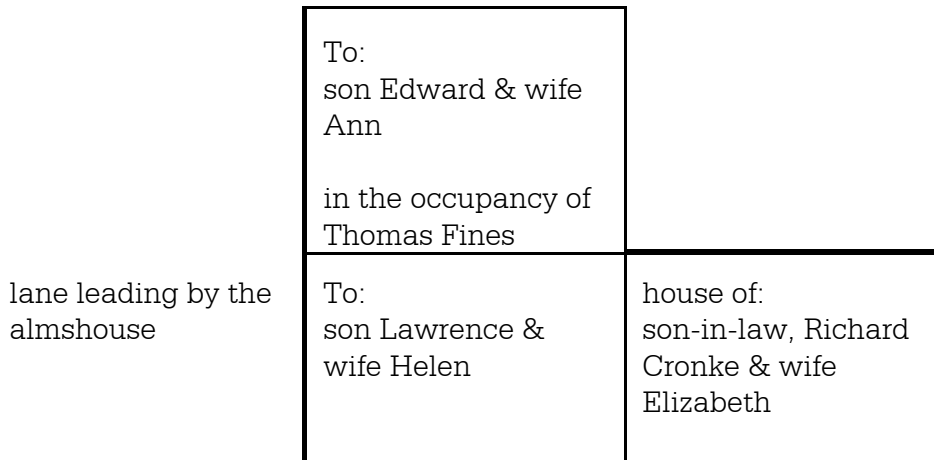
61 married Elizabeth Gans.. (#2742) on 14th January 1651 when he was 27; a daughter, Mary, (#2112) was baptised on 11th April 1653

Edward (#520) married when he was only twenty; his wife, Margaret, was six years older. Their eldest daughter was born less than six months later and they had four more daughters and two sons with one daughter, Dorothy, dying as a child. Edward and Margaret lived together for 42 years, Margaret dying in 1640 and Edward two and a half years later when he was seventy.

Lawrence, Edward's eldest son also married very young since his first child, Elizabeth, was born when Lawrence was only 20½ years old and they had six children between 1592 and 1607. Edward left Lawrence and his wife Helen his messuage in Seal which, on their death, was to be divided between "their three children, Edward, John and Lawrence". Lawrence and Helen's daughter Margaret was buried as an infant; it looks as if their other two daughters had also died. Edward also gave to Lawrence "[twelve pence to be paid unto him if it be lawfully demanded](#)". This is usually the bequest made if the testator does not want the recipient to receive anything but this small bequest means he cannot plead that he had been forgotten. Was this an example of an heir being "cut off with a shilling", the bequest of his house actually going to Lawrence's wife and children.

Another interesting item in Edward's will is that he leaves his son-in-law, Richard Cronke, £10 "[in lieu of marriage money](#)". Richard married Edward's daughter, Elizabeth, on 26th February 1628, fourteen years before Edward wrote his will; it seems rather late to be paying Elizabeth's marriage portion.

Edward's land was in the centre of Seal with the messuage which he gave to Helen and Lawrence having the lane leading to the almshouse on the west side; the plots he mentions can be represented diagrammatically:



Edward's youngest son was listed in the Knowle Manuscript of 1648 when he was given as "of Seal village" which agrees with the position of the house left to him by his father.

1 In the name of god Amen. The thirteenth
2 day of February in the year of our lord Christ one thousand, six
3 hundred, forty and one and in the seventeenth year of the reign of our
4 most gracious sovereign lord, king Charles, I, Edward Atherfold of Seal
5 in the county of Kent, **butcher**, being sick in body but of good, sound and
6 perfect memory (thanks be given to god) do make and ordain this
7 my last will and testament in manner and form following: **First:** I
8 commend
9 my soul into the hands of Almighty god, my maker, assuredly believing the
10 pardon
11 and remission of all my sins through the merits and satisfaction of Jesus
12 Christ,
13 my redeemer and my body to the earth to be buried at the discretion of
14 mine executors hereafter named. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my**
eldest
son Lawrence Atherfold and to his now **wife Helen** all that messuage or
tenement wherein the said Helen now liveth, situated, lying and being in
Seal aforesaid, betwixt the house of **Richard Cronke** on the east side and the

15 lane leading by the **Almshouse** on the west side during their natural
16 lives. And after the decease of the said Lawrence, my son, and Helen,
17 his now wife, I do give and bequeath the aforesaid messuage or tenement
18 unto **their three children, Edward, John and Lawrence**, to them, their heirs
and
19 assigns forever. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my son Edward Atherfold**
20 and **Anne, his now wife**, all that messuage or tenement wherein **Thomas**
21 **Fines**⁶² now lives, situated, lying and being in Seal aforesaid and abutting
22 upon the tenement before given to my son Lawrence, his three children,
23 upon the south, to have and to hold to my said son Edward Atherfold,
24 and Anne his now wife, during their natural lives. And after their
25 decease, I give and bequeath the said aforesaid tenement unto **William**
Atherfold,
26 **son of the said Edward**, to him and to his heirs forever. **Item:** I give and
27 bequeath unto **Richard Cronke, my son-in-law**, the sum of ten pounds
28 in lieu of marriage money to be paid unto him, or his assigns, within
29 half a year next after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
30 **his son, Richard Cronke**, the sum of five pounds to be paid unto his
31 said father, Richard Cronke, or his assigns, to the use of the said Richard,
32 his son, within half a year next after my decease. **Item:** I give and

33 bequeath unto **Bennet Wheatley, wife of John Wheatley**⁶³, being my
34 **daughter**, the sum of ten pounds current English money to be paid
35 unto her within one half year next after my decease. **Item:** I give and
36 bequeath unto **my daughter Alice, now wife of Thomas Jordan**, the
37 sum of ten pounds current English money to be paid unto her, or her
38 assigns, within one half year next after my decease. **Item:** I give and
39 bequeath unto **Richard Longe, son of Thomas Longe, my son-in-law**
40 **deceased**, the sum of ten pounds of current English money to be paid
41 unto his father-in-law⁶⁴, Thomas Jordan, beforesaid within one year next
42 after my decease to be put out for the use of the said Richard Longe,
43 my grandchild. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto my daughters, Bennet,
44 Elizabeth and Alice, three pairs of sheets, viz. every one of them a
45 pair. **Item:** I give and will unto **Mary Lawrence, my grandchild, daughter**
46 **of Richard Lawrence**⁶⁵, the sum of twenty pounds of current English money
47 to be paid unto her within two months next after my decease. **Item:** I

63 John Wheatley married **Bennet Chart** on 15th June 1618 when she was 23; she must have married ?? Chart when relatively young and been a widow when she married John; they had seven children but two died very soon after birth and two as young children - see [Whetley](#). Nothing is known of the other three but Edward does not mention any Wheatley children in his will.

64 step-father; Richard was possibly about ten in 1642

65 Ann, Edward's daughter, who must have died before her father. She and Richard had seven children, one of whom died as an infant and four of whom are known to have married. Mary was Edward's eldest grandchild and no marriage has been found for her.

48 give and bequeath unto the said Mary Lawrence half of all my household
49 stuff to be set out and divided by the overseers of this my last will
50 and testament hereafter named. **Item:** I give unto all **my grandchildren**
51 two shillings and sixpence a piece. **Item:** I give unto **my aforesaid son**
52 **Lawrence** twelve pence to be paid unto him if it be lawfully demanded.

53 The residue of all my goods, cattles and chattels whatsoever I give and
54 bequeath unto **Edward Atherfold, my son, and Richard Lawrence, my son-**
55 **in-**
56 **law** whom I make and ordain myne executors of this my last will
57 and testament. And I do desire and appoint **Samuel Masters** and
58 **Lawrence Frenche of Seal Town**⁶⁶ to be overseers of this my last will
59 and testament and intreat them to be aiding and assisting to my said
60 executors in the performamnce of this my last will and testament. In
61 witness whereof I have hereto set my hand and seal the day and year
62 first before written. Edward Atherfold subscribed, sealed,
published and declared in the presence of

66 Samuel Masters (#1910) and Lawrence Frenche (#2600) were both listed in the Knole MS of 1648 as of Seal village

**William Moore, the mark of William Masters
the mark of Robert Spilstead
Dorothy Marshall⁶⁷**

Steven Atherfold of Seal

There was also a Steven Atherfold (#336) in Seal in the second half of the sixteenth century. His first wife, Johane (#567), was buried on 29th January 1567. He married Johane Phillips (#337) on 22nd October 1567 and they had three

daughters:	Agnes	#430	baptised	17 Dec 1568	
	Sylvester	#816		20 Nov 1575	
	Thomasine	#873		1 Jun 1578	buried 1 Oct 1592

Johane was probably the sister of Thomasine Phillips who married William Carter in 1574.

Later there was a family of yeomen Atherfolds who farmed the cultivated land round the village of **Seal Chart**⁶⁸ but there was no Atherfold listed for Chart in the Knole Manuscript of 1648 - see **Section Z in Families & Transcripts**.

⁶⁷ #3034, wife of John Marshall; they had children in the 1630s

⁶⁸ Sutton, p.10

The att Wodes of Seal

Two wills have survived for the att Wodes (or Wode) of Seal:

written:

George att Wode 1492 CKS: Drb/Pwr 5.194

John att Wode 31 Jan 1501 CKS: Drb/Pwr 6.34 page a.96

George left 6s 8d to the rood loft of Seal church; he could have been Marjorie's husband and the father of John.

	#4414	George Att Wode	-	Marjorie ??	#4415	
<i>will:</i>		1492				
		died <1501		died >1501		

	#4416					
		John Att Wode	-	Alice ??	son	son etc.
<i>will:</i>		31 Jan 1501				

Some Att Wodes of the third generation were to receive 5 marks each after the death of their grandmother which was according to the will of John's father.

Will of John att Wode

written 31st January 1501
transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The last day of January in the year of our lord
2 god 1501. I, John att Wode of Seal in the diocese of Rochester, whole in
mind,
3 make my testament in this wise. **First:** I bequeath my soul to Almighty
god
4 and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Seal. **Item:** I bequeath to
the high
5 altar in the same church 2s 4d. The residue of all my goods, moveables
6 I have not bequeathed, I give and bequeath to **Alice, my wife**, whom I
ordain my executrix.

7 This is the last will of me the said John att Wode made the day and year
above said
8 of all my lands and tenements now being in feoffees hands. **First:** I will
that my oldest

9 brother living after the decease of **Marjorie Att wode, my mother**, have
immediately
10 my tenement in the which I now dwell withall the lands thereto pertaining,
paying to each
11 of his⁶⁸ children then being alive 5 marks according to my father's will . .
12 I will that Alice, my wife, have for the term of her life a chamber there . .
13 with the coming and out going at all times ? ? there called the . .
14 . . And after the decease of the said Alice, I will the said chamber
pertaining
15 to the said tenement. Also I will that the said Alice, my wife have to her,
her heirs
16 and assigns in . . . after the decease of my said mother, a piece of land
called
17 **-udland**. And 2 acres of meadow land if it be, more or less, lying in ??
18 mede. Also I will that the said Marjorie, my mother, have to her and to her
19 assigns in ?? a croft of my lands called **poston croft**. And if it happen
20 that my oldest brother living at the decease of my mother pay not to ??
21 of his ??, . . the said five marks according to my father's will,
22 then I will that Alice, my wife, enter into the said lands and ?? And ??

68 looks like "his" but is "my children" on line 23; whichever is correct, complicated arrangements seem to be necessary presumably because John, the eldest son, had been responsible under his father's will, for paying 5 marks to each of these children when his mother died but his mother had outlived him.

23 to have to her and to her assigns. And to pay to my children then living
24 according as it is above said. These witness

Sir William Yanson, vicar⁶⁹ there

John Lamport, John Joley and others

69 vicar of Seal and Kemsing 1492 to 1508