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The Cacotts of Sundridge

A number of wills have survived for the family of Cacott of Sundridge:

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Richard Cacott, gent | proved 1610 | PCC: Wingfield 66 |
| Anne Cacott, widow | written 25 Oct 1629 | CKS: Prs/w/1/184 |
| John Cacott, weaver | proved 12 May 1630 | CKS: Prs/w/3/176 |

and that, from the neighbouring village of Brasted, for

| | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| James Cacott | proved 1647/8 | PCC: Essex 13 |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|

The only one which has been looked at is that of Anne Cacott which was proved on 1st May 1632, 2½ years after it was written. The will which has survived is a copy of the original and is fourteen pages (although there are only a relative few short lines on each page); the original took "five whole sheets and somewhat more". Only the beginning and end have been transcribed. The copy was made, on 13th June 1632 six weeks after the will was proved, by a notary public whose name cannot be deciphered with **William Whitehead** confirming it was a true copy of the original. One of the witnesses was William Outram who witnessed a

number of other wills in Brasted and Sevenoaks between 1616 and 1630; perhaps he was the scriptor.

Will of **Anne Cacott** of Sundridge

written 25th October 1629

proved 1st May 1632; transcript from copy of original

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Anne Cacott
2 of Sundridge in the county of Kent, **widow**, this five
3 and twentieth day of October 1629 and in the fifth
4 year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord Charles
5 by the Grace of God of England, Scotland, France and
6 Ireland king, defender of the faith, etc. being¹ at
7 the making hereof in reasonable health of body and,
8 thanks be to Almighty God, of good memory, make
9 and ordain this my last will and testament in manner
10 and form following: **First** and principally I commend
11 and bequeath my soul to the Almighty God, my
12 maker and redeemer through whom and by whose only

1 "beeing", "bee" throughout

13 merit I hope to be saved and to have a joyful re
14 surrection; my body I commend to the earth from
15 whence it came and must return, to be buried
16 in the parish church of Sundridge aforesaid in the
17 place, or near adjacent to the place, where my
18 **late husband Daniel Cacott** was buried.

she left 20s to the poor of Sundridge

- In witness whereof to the five
- whole sheets of paper I have subscribed my
- mark and to the sixth I have set my hand
- and seal the day and year my first
- sheet above written. Anne Cacott, her
- mark. Sealed and delivered and published
- and declared to be the last will and testament
- of the said Anne Cacott in the presence of us
- **William Outram, Richard Bassett th'elder**, his
- mark, **Richard Bassett the younger**.

- **Memorandum** that **William Jordan the**
- **younger** was rased and put out of this will
- by the appointment of the said Anne Cacott

- and before the sealing and delivery
- in the presence of William Outram,
- Richard Bassett th'elder, his mark
- Richard Bassett the younger.

Henry Carnell of Wrotham & Hadlow

The will of Henry Carnell (**CKS: Prs/w/3/198**) was written on 14th May 1634 and proved on 22nd June 1638, a codicil having been added on 24th April 1638. Since it was proved at the Deanery of Shoreham, only the original has survived and it is one of the very few wills not written by a Hooper which is decorated but in a very different style to that used by the Hoopers who wrote, and decorated, a large number of wills from the 1570s up to at least 1650.

Instead of the usual introductory phrase "In the name of god Amen" Henry's will starts "**For as much as**" and the initial "F" is decorated with leaves and flowers. It was witnessed by Henry Gatland and Henry Wood with the latter making his mark so that Henry Gatland was possibly the writer of the will. The codicil, on the second page, was written in a different hand.

It is not only the first phrase which is idiosyncratic; the whole initial sentence is "**For as much as it hath pleased Almighty God to make man as all other earthly creatures subject to the sudden change of mortality, but of his great mercy and compassion, hath made man only above the rest sensible of the same,**"

Henry Carnell, yeoman of Wrotham, when he wrote his will was originally from Hadlow where he asked to be buried and, for this reason he has been included in the Hadlow database. He owned a "[messuage or tenement together with a mansion house, one malt house, one barn, one cart lodge and other edifices](#)" in Hadlow and Tonbridge. These buildings and their lands he originally left to his brother Thomas who was to pay £20 to his sister and executrix and an annuity of 30s a year to William, his other brother, after the death of their mother, Anne.

There was also an annuity to be paid to Anne; this had ben left to her by her husband and was presumably the responsibility of Henry Carnell, the testator. Since Anne married William Beecher, this annuity must have been left to her irrespective of whether she remarried or not.

Four years later Henry had bought more land and a complex and repetitive codicil was added since he wanted to bequeath some of his land to his sister, Anne. The Henry Carnell, deceased, who had owned land next to Homewoods in Hadlow owned by Thomas Barton in 1622 (see [Barton in Families & Transcripts](#)) was probably this testator's father.

Although the handwriting is generally clear, parts of the will are difficult to read, particularly the endings of the lines of the first page.

- 1 **For as much as** it hath pleased Almighty God to make man as all other
earthly creatures subject to the sudden change of . . .
2 mortality, but of his great mercy and compassion hath made man only
above the rest sensible of the same, I, therefore, Henry Carnell of Wrotham
3 in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being at the making hereof the fourteenth
day of May in the tenth year of the reign of our sovereign lord
4 Charles, by the grace of God king of England, Scotland, France and
Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. And in the year of our Lord one
5 thousand, six hundred and thirty four, in bodily health, strong in mind, and
in perfect memory (praised be my heavenly father therefore) . . .
6 of the blessed **Trinitie** make and ordain this my last will and testament in
manner and form following: **First:** I render and commend into the hands
7 of my Lord God and Creator my Spirit which he of his fatherly goodness
gave me when he made me a living and a reasonable creature, nothing
doubting
8 but that for his infinite merits set forth in the precious blood of his dearly
beloved son Jesus Christ, our only saviour and redeemer, he will receive . . .

9 into his glory and place it in the company of the heavenly angels and
blessed saints. **And** as concerning my body, I bequeath it to the earth
whereof it
10 came, desiring it may be interred in the churchyard of the parish of **Hadlow**
where I was born. **And** touching my worldly goods, I give and bequeath
??
11 thereof unto **Marie Carnell, my sister**, the sum of five shillings in token of
my fraternal love towards her, to be paid unto her by mine executrix
hereafter
12 named within one month next after my decease². The residue of all my
worldly goods and chattels (my funeral dispenses being discharged) I give
and
13 bequeath unto **Anne Carnell, my sister**, whom I ordain and make my
executrix of this my last will. **Now** concerning the disposing of my lands, I
14 give and bequeath them all (being one messuage or tenement together
with a mansion house, one malt house, one barn, one cart lodge and other
15 edifices thereto belonging, standing therein, lying and being in the
parishes of Hadlow aforesaid and **Tonbridge** in the aforesaid county of Kent
(and in the

2 five shillings hardly seems a reasonable amount given his other bequests; perhaps Marie had benefited from their father's wife much more than Anne, Henry's other sister

tenure and occupation of one, **Nicholas Asherent** or his assigns) together with all and every the appurtenances of my said message or tenement . . . edifice aforementioned) unto **Thomas Carnell, my brother**, and to heirs and assigns for ever. **Item:** I will, bequeath and ordain that my said brother Thomas, or his assigns, shall pay or cause to be paid to my aforementioned executrix, or to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten (and to no other) the sum of twenty pounds within four years next after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Walter Carnell, my brother**, and to his heirs for ever, an annuity or annual rent of thirty shillings yearly to be paid unto him out of all my beforesaid land by my said other brother Thomas Carnell or his assigns after the death and decease of **Anne Beecher, my mother, (now the wife of William Beecher³)** and not before. And if it shall happen the said annuity of thirty shillings, or any part thereof, to be behind and unpaid by the space of twenty three days next after the expiration of the times whereby it shall be due by and after the death and decease of my said mother as aforesaid, that then it shall and may be lawful to and for my brother Walter and his assigns in and upon all my aforesaid lands, or upon any part thereof, to enter and distrain and the distress or distresses thereof taken and found, lawfully from there to bear, lead, drive, carry away and impound according to the law in that case

26 the said annual rent of thirty shillings, with all the arrearages thereof (if
any be) be fully satisfied, contented and paid. **Provided** and my
27 meaning is that if my said brother Thomas, or his assigns, shall and do at
any time during the natural life of my said mother pay or cause to be paid
to
28 my said brother Walter, or his assigns, the sum of twenty pounds then the
above said annuity of thirty shillings to him bequeathed shall be utterly
void and
29 extinguished. *Item:* whereas **Henry Camell, my father**, by his last will and
testament bequeathed unto Anne, my aforesaid mother, . . .
30 to be paid unto her by me during her natural life, I will and ordain that my
said brother Thomas, or his assigns, shall pay unto my said mother . . .
31 life yearly at the annunciation of the blessed virgin Mary and at the feast of
St. Michael Th'archangel, by equal portions and if it shall happen that the .
. . .
32 to be unpaid after any of the said feast days by the space of twenty days,
that then and so often and at any time after, it shall be lawful for my said
mother and her assigns . . .
33 lands to enter and distrain in manner as it is above limited for non
payment of that above mentioned annuity of thirty shillings. **In witness**
whereof . . .

Sealed, published and
declared in the presence of

Henry Gatland

The mark of Henry H Wood

page 2:

1 Be it known unto all men by those present that whereas I, Henry Carnell .
2 . by my last will
3 and testament within written gave and bequeathed all my lands and
4 tenements . . to Thomas
5 Carnell, my brother, and to his heirs and assigns for ever. And for . . I
6 have now
7 changed my mind touching my said lands and tenements in my said last
8 will mentioned (other than
such as shall not hereby otherwise dispose of) I do by this codicil confirm
and ratify my
said last will. And whereas I do give and bequeath by my said last will all
my lands and
tenements before said to my said brother Thomas, his heirs and assigns for
ever as before said. And
whereas I have purchased to my self, mine heirs and assigns for ever, of
Henry Barton and Mary Barton,

9 **his wife**, three pieces of land with th'appurtenances and all the right of
them from the said Henry Barton
10 and Mary Barton of and in to certain land leading unto one piece thereof,
as by an indenture of bargain
11 and sale had and made between them, the said Henry Barton and Mary
Barton of the one part and me, the
12 said Henry Carnell of the other part, bearing date as I best remember the
fourth day of April last past as by the said
13 indenture now it lawfully appeareth. Now my will is and I do hereby
bequeath to my said brother Thomas Carnell,
14 and to his heirs and assigns forever, all that piece of land called **Aldridge**
alias Aldrich as I best remember (but
15 appeareth plainly by the said indenture) to have and to hold the last
mentioned parcel of land with th'appurtenances to
16 the said Thomas Carnell, his heirs and assigns to the only use and behoof
of the said Thomas Carnell, his heirs
17 and assigns forever. And that all other my land and tenements devised by
my said last will to my said brother
18 Thomas Carnell (not otherwise hereby disposed of) shall be to have and to
hold to the said Thomas Carnell, his heirs
19 and assigns, to the only use and behoof of the said Thomas Carnell, his
heirs and assigns forever. And my will further is

20 and I do hereby give and bequeath all those ?? parcels of land lying and
being in Hadlow aforesaid in the county of Kent
21 both together (upon one parcel ?? a messuage was sometime burned
down) together with the said land withall and singular the
22 appurtenances⁴, containing by estimation three acres and a half, lying and
being in Hadlow aforesaid. And also all that my parcel of land called
Pound Ash,
23 or by what other name or words the same may be called or known,
containing by estimation⁵, more or less, lying and being
24 in Hadlow aforesaid in the aforesaid county of Kent, that is to say bounding
and abutting to one of the parcels of land hereby
25 bequeathed towards the east, to the lands of me the said Henry Carnell,
towards the south to certain lands called **The Ray**
26 towards the west and to certain lands called **Northfield** towards the north
and bounded thereof more plainly
27 to divide and show to Anne Carnell, my sister, to have and to hold all and
every the last bequeathed parcels of land together
28 with the said land unto my said sister withall and singular
th'appurtenances to the said Anne Carnell, her heirs and assigns forever

4 an insertion here which cannot be read

5 no acreage given here

29 to the only use and behoof of the said Anne Carnell, her heirs and assigns
forever. And further my will is the deeds to
30 ?? the uses of a fine to me late acknowledged of the said purchased lands
by the said Henry Barton and Mary Barton
31 shall be sealed and delivered by the said Henry Barton and Mary Barton,
his wife, to the true intent and meaning
32 of this present codicil. In witness whereof I, the said Henry Carnell, have
set my hand and seal the four and twentieth
33 day of April in the ?? year of the reign of our sovereign Lord Charles, by
the grace of god king of England, 1638.
34 Sealed, published and declared in the presence of us
35 ?? **John Crowing?** Henry Carnell

The Carpenters of Leigh and Hadlow

The following Carpenter wills have been investigated:

from Hadlow: written

| | | | |
|----------------|------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| John Carpenter | 1 Aug 1616 | PCC: Prob 10/364; Parker 58 | page c.23 |
|----------------|------------|-----------------------------|-----------|

from Leigh

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| John Carpenter | 6 Feb 1547/8 | CKS: Drb/Pwr 11.22 | page c.30 |
| John Carpenter | 26 Jan 1563/4 | CKS: Drb/Pw 7; Drb/Pwr 13.124 | page c.34 |
| John Carpenter | 14 Jan 1621/2 | PCC: Savile 22 | page c.22 |
| Thomas Carpenter | 22 Oct 1624 | CKS: Drb/Pw 27; Drb/Pwr 21.329 | page c.44 |
| William Carpenter | 21 Feb 1631 | CKS: Drb/Pw 28; Drb/Pwr 21.429 | page c.50 |
| Thomas Carpenter | 10 Apr 1638 | PCC: Prob 10/571; Lee 40 | page c.53 |
| John Carpenter | 6 Mar 1640 | CKS: Drb/Pw 30; Drb/Pwr 22.345 | page c.60 |

A Carpenter will for Tonbridge has survived: that of John Carpenter dated 19th July 1593 (PCC: **Nevell 57**). It has not been investigated but the witnesses were **John Budgen, Richard Johnson and Oliver Budgen**.

There are no obvious connections with the Leigh Carpenters and John Carpenter from Hadlow whose will was written by **Robert Hooper**, one of the Hooper family who were scriptors of a large number of wills from the 1560s until after 1650 when this study ends.

One of the witnesses to the will of John Carpenter who died in 1564 was Sir Richard Row, vicar of Leigh, and, the scholarly hand in which it was written was probably that of the vicar. This will shows how people were still used to working with the older units of money, the mark (13s 4d, £0.67) and noble (6s 8d, £0.33) even when the amount of money was given in pounds, shillings and pence. John leaves £6 13s 4d (£6.67) to be divided between his four daughters. This seems a strange amount to divide by four but expressed as 8 marks, this is 2 marks each (£1.67). A second legacy to them totals £13 6s 8d (£13.33) and a third £26 13s 4d (£26.67) but describing them as 40 marks and 80 marks makes the division much easier.

John Carpenter 1622

The time between the will of John who died in 1564 and that of John Carpenter of 1622 is too long for it to be possible to see the relationship between the two families. The latter was written by **Thomas Leddall**, another scriptor from the area who wrote a number of wills between 1615 and 1643. The other witness was Thomas Constable and the will was proved in February 1621/2. It has not been investigated except for the preamble: "**First: I bequeath my soul to Almighty god and to Jesus Christ, my redeemer, committing my body to the earth to be buried in the churchyard of Leigh**"; John left 6s 8d to the poor people of Leigh to be distributed on the day of his burial.

1 In⁶ the name of god Amen. The first day of August
2 in the fourteenth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord James by the grace
3 of god king of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. And
4 of
5 Scotland the nine and fortieth 1616. I, John Carpenter of
6 Hadlow in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being at the time of making hereof
7 very
8 sick and weak in body, yet of good remembrance (praised be⁷ god). And
9 being
10 desirous to set such temporal things in order as god of his goodness hath
11 given me,
12 for the quieter enjoying thereof after my decease by those to whom I do
13 hereby
14 will and mean the same unto, **Therefore** do make and ordain this

6 slightly decorated "I"

7 "bee", "mee" throughout

10 my present testament and last will in manner and form following, that is to
say, **First:**
11 and principally, I give, commend and bequeath my soul unto god, my most
merciful
12 creator, and my body to the earth, not doubting of a joyful resurrection unto
life
13 immortal. **Item:** I will there shalbe bestowed amongst the poor of Hadlow
ten shillings to be distributed amongst them at the discretion of my
executrix and overseers⁸. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Elizabeth**
Carpenter and Margaret
14 **Carpenter, my daughters,** to each of them ten pounds of lawful money to
be paid
15 in this manner, that is to say, unto the said Elizabeth her ten pounds
within one whole
16 year next after my decease. And unto the said Margaret, her ten pounds
within
17 two whole years next after my decease. Also I give and bequeath unto my
18 said two daughters, to each of them one bed and bedstead furnished and
19 to each of them one cow in like manner to be paid and delivered. And if
either of

20 them decease before the time that their portions are payable as aforesaid, I
give
21 and bequeath the portion of her so deceasing to the survivor of them
22 aforesaid to be paid. **Item:** I give more to my said daughter Elizabeth the
sum of five pounds to be paid within three whole years next after my
decease⁹. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **John Carpenter, my**
23 **son,** my biggest brass pot, one bedstead and bed furnished after the
decease
24 of **Alice now my wife.** **Item:** I give unto **my brother, John Carpenter** and to
my sister Katherine Taylor, to each of them 2s 6d¹⁰. The residue and all
other my moveables, debts, chattels and
25 cattells, I give and bequeath unto the said Alice, my wife, towards the
payment
26 of my debts and legacies and the bringing up of my said children, which
said Alice I make
27 whole and sole executrix of this my will.

28 This is the last will and testament of me the said John Carpenter, made
and

9 this item also inserted

10 this item also inserted; a brother with the same name as himself?

29 declared the day and year first before dated, concerning the order and
disposing of my lands,
30 tenements and hereditaments. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the said
Alice, my wife,
31 all that my messuage or tenement, withall and singular th'appurtenances
thereto belonging, situated in
32 Hadlow aforesaid, now in the occupation of **John Word**. And also all that
parcel of meadow
33 lying and adjoining to Hadlow bourne in Hadlow aforesaid, in the
occupation of me
34 the said John Carpenter. To have and to hold the same and every of the
same, with th'appurtenances, unto
35 the said Alice, my wife, and her assigns during her natural life, she keeping
herself so
36 long a widow. And after the decease or next marriage of her, the said
Alice, I
37 give and bequeath all and every the said messuage or tenement, withall
edifices and appurtenances
38 thereto belonging. And all the said parcel of meadow with
th'appurtenances and all other my lands and
39 tenements whatsoever, unto the said John Carpenter, my son, his heirs and
assigns.

40 to have and to hold the same, and every of the same with
th'appurtenances, unto the said John,
41 my son, his heirs and assigns. To the only use and behoof of the said John,
his heirs and
42 assigns forever. **Item:** I do nominate and request **my loving neighbours,**
Solomon Newman and
43 **Thomas Summer** to be overseers of this my will, earnestly entreating them
(so far as in them lieth) to see
44 the same performed according to the tenor of the same. **In witness**
whereof, I, the said
45 John Carpenter, have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year
before dated
46 acknowledging the same to be my true and last will. ¹¹

The mark of John Carpenter

Read, sealed, published, pronounced and declared
to be the true and last will of the above
named John Carpenter in the presence of
Thomas Sommar, Soloman Newman
Robert Rounding, John Word and
Robert Hooper, scriptor.

11 a vertical cross

John, the elder, of Leigh and John, junior

The testators of 1548 and 1564 are not obviously father and son since John, the elder, does not mention a son John although John Carpenter, junior, was one of the witnesses.

The testator of 1548 who describes himself as John Carpenter, the elder, (x583¹) left money to his daughter Alice and his son Thomas which was to be paid by his sons Henry, Edward and Roger (the eldest son) from money which they had borrowed from their father. Henry was to be executor and his son-in-law, William Christopher, overseer but Edward and Roger are not otherwise mentioned.

The John who died in 1564 (x590) had two brothers called Roger and Henry which are both relatively unusual names and this would make it more likely that he was another of John the elder's sons. He does, however, make "John Carpenter, the elder," one of his overseers. Since his wife was possibly pregnant and his other children underage, it is possible that the overseer was his father.

This gives two family trees, each with a John the elder and John the younger, with an unknown relationship between the two:

1 x indicates a reference in the miscellaneous database which includes families from a number of villages

Elizabeth nor his overseers could fell more than six loads of wood a year until the youngest son was sixteen. When he did reach the age of sixteen, the land was to be divided between the three sons who then had to pay their mother (or step-mother) £2 a year for the rest of her life. Perhaps the youngest son was ten when John wrote his will so that he would have been sixteen in six years time.

The son's, when they did inherit, could sell their land "[only one to th'other](#)". But if all of them died before the youngest reached the age of sixteen, John's land was to go to the children of his brothers. Roger and Henry.

At the end of the will the possibility of Elizabeth being pregnant is mentioned: "[if it be a male child then he shall have so much of my said lands and tenements and legacies as any of my other sons](#)" and "[if it be a womanchild, then my will is she shall have so much of my legacies as any of my other daughters.](#)"

Will of John Carpenter of Leigh 1548

written 6th February 1547/8

transcript from probate copy (original has not survived)

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The 6th February
- 2 in the year of our lord god 1547
- 3 I, John Carpenter, the elder, of Leigh-next-unto
- 4 Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **husbandman**,

whole of memory and mind make my
testament in form and manner following:
First: I bequeath my soul unto Almighty
god and my body to be buried in the church
yard of Leigh aforesaid. Also I bequeath
to the chest which remaineth in the
church for the succour and help of poor
people 4d. Also I bequeath to every of my
godchildren 2d¹³. Also I will that mine
executor shall bestow at my burial 3s 4d
and at my month's day 6s 8d. Also I
give and bequeath to **Alice, my daughter**,
to her marriage £6 of good and lawful
money of England of the which sum
of money I will that £3 shall arise out
of the stock of my cattell which **Henry**,
my son, shall pay and the other £3 I will
shall arise out of the sum of £8 which
Edward Carpenter, my son, oweth me.
Also I give and bequeath to **Thomas, my**
son, £10 of good and lawful money

13 could be 12d (i.e. either iid or xiid)

26 of England the which £10 resteth
27 in the hands of **Roger Carpenter, my**
28 **eldest son**, the which £10 I will shalbe
29 paid in form and manner following, that is to
30 say, I will that Roger, my son, shall pay
31 to Thomas, my son, when he cometh to th'age
32 of 24 £3 6s 8d. The next year immediately
33 following, I will that my son Roger shall pay
34 to the said Thomas, his brother, other £3 6s 8d
35 and so the next year after ensuing the said
36 Roger to pay to the said Thomas, his brother,
37 other £3 6s 8d. And so from day to day and
38 from year to year until the time the said sum
39 of ten pounds to be fully content and paid¹⁴.
40 And if it fortune the foresaid Thomas, my
41 son, to die before the said sum of £10, or
42 any part thereof, be fully contented and paid,
43 I will then that the arrearages being behind,
44 whether in part or in the whole, to remain still
45 in the hands of the foresaid Roger, my son,
46 unto his use. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Johan,**

14 three payments of £3 6s 8d total £10

47 **my wife**, a cow and to Alice, my daughter,
48 an other cow. And to Thomas, my son,
49 an other cow. The residue of all my goods,
50 corn and cattell, with mine instuff un
51 bequeathed, I give and bequeath to Henry, my
52 son, whom I ordain to be mine executor
53 and **William Christopher, my son-in-law**¹⁵, to
54 be mine overseer and he to have for his pains
55 3s 4d. These being witnesses: **John Sybil,**
56 **gentleman, John Buytayne, clerk and ??**¹⁶
57 of Leigh, **John Carpenter, jun., William Jackson,**
58 **William Christopher** with others.

15 William Christopher of Seal, in his will dated 20th November 1562, ordains that two of his sons are each to pay Thomas Carpenter 5s a year during his life. This William Christopher, whose wife was Margaret, could have been the testator's son-in-law with Thomas Carpenter being his brother-in-law.

16 possibly the scriptor of the will

The words and phrases shown in a larger font in the transcript of this will, probably written by the vicar of Leigh, were written in the original with a thicker pen. The first part is written in a reasonably sized hand on what was a wider than usual sheet of paper. But, as the will progresses, the writing gets smaller and smaller, line 34 is the last to have an emphasised heading, money and ages are written as figures, not text. Was this done with the hope of getting it on one sheet of paper? This was achieved but only with an ending much more abbreviated than was usual.

- 1 **In the name of god Amen.** The twenty and sixth day of January in the
year of our lord god one thousand, five hundred
2 three score and three. And in the sixth year of the reign of our sovereign
lady **Elizabeth** by the grace of God queen of England, France
3 and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. I, **John Carpenter**, of the parish of
Leigh¹⁷ and in the diocese of Rochester, being of perfect remembrance

4 do make this my testament and last will in manner and form following:
5 that is to say, **First:** I bequeath my soul unto almighty God, my
6 saviour and redeemer. And my body to be buried within the churchyard of
7 Leigh aforesaid. **Item:** I give to **my four daughters, Johane,**
8 **Sara, Magdalene and Elizabeth,** and to either of them, one cow being four
9 of my best kyne. **Item:** I give more to my said four daughters
10 six pounds, thirteen shillings and four pence equally to be divided among
11 them in money and money worth¹⁸. And for the payment thereof I
will my colt to be sold. And the money thereof coming to be put to
increase by mine overseers immediately after my decease to the use and
profit of
my said four daughters. **Item:** I give to my four daughters above named
half the linen and half the brass and pewter that was my first
wife's. **Item:** I give to **my three sons, John, Thomas and Edward,** my
bedstead that I lie in, my board¹⁹ and forms in the parlour, my cupboard
and a chest. **Item:** I give and bequeath to my said three sons abovenamed
all my tools saving such tools as are needful to be

18 £6 13s 4d (£6.67) could be equally divided by four giving £1 13s 4d (£1.67) each

19 "boorde"; "cobard" at end of line

12 ?? about husbandry, the which I give unto **Elizabeth, my wife**. **Item:** I
13 give unto the said Elizabeth, my wife, all my cattle
14 in that my present testament before not bequeathed. And all my corn that
15 is in the barns and elsewhere. And also all my corn which
16 is growing in the fields, to and for the keeping and bringing up of my
17 children. **The residue** of all my goods not bequeathed (my debts
18 and legacies paid) I give and bequeath unto the said Elizabeth, my wife,
19 whom I do make and ordain my whole and sole executrix. And
20 the same Elizabeth to bestow the same as she thinketh best. **Item:** I will
21 and ordain by this my testament and last will **John Carpenter, the
elder, William Carpenter, Thomas Constable and Thomas Sherlock** my
overseers to see this my testament and last will performed and done.

18 **This is the last will** of me, the said John Carpenter, concerning the
19 disposition of all my lands and tenements with th'appurtenances
20 situated, lying and being within the parish of Leigh in the county of Kent,
21 made and delivered the day and year first above written. **First:**
I will and bequeath unto Elizabeth, my wife, all my said lands and
tenements with th'appurtenances for and during the term and space of
six years after my decease. And she to be bound to keep my children the
said term of six years, yielding and paying therefore yearly

22 during the same term twenty six shillings and eight pence to be put to the
23 increase for the use of my four daughters above named by mine
24 overseers toward the full sum of thirteen pounds six shillings and eight
25 pence which I will and give to my said daughters and to be paid
26 at their marriage or else at the years of twenty and one²⁰. **Item:** I will that
27 the said Elizabeth, my wife, shall bestow yearly during the
28 term aforesaid, upon my tenement and buildings thereunto belonging,
29 twenty shillings²¹. **Provided** always that if my said wife do not
truly content and pay yearly during the term aforesaid the said sum of
twenty six shillings and eight pence and repair the houses as
is aforesaid according to this my will, then my overseers shall have
authority to enter upon my said lands and tenements to th'use of my said
daughters to and for the payment of the said sums of money before to them
bequeathed. **Item:** I will that neither my said wife during the term of
years aforesaid, neither my overseers nor any of them, shall fell upon my
said lands but only six loads of wood yearly until my youngest son

20 twenty six shillings and eightpence (£1.33) for six years is £8; did John expect that this would increase over six years to give £13.33 - £3.33 for each daughter. Was this legacy completely different from the £6.67 pounds, apparently to be derived from the sale of his colt, which he left to his daughters in the first part of his will?

21 from the next line it looks as if this twenty shillings was to be spent on repairs to the buildings.

30 shall come to th'age of sixteen years. And the said six loads of wood yearly
to be taken during the said term of six years to be delivered by my
31 overseers or by one of them. **Provided** always that when my youngest son
cometh to th'age of sixteen years, then I will that my three
32 sons abovenamed shall divide all my said lands and tenements with
th'appurtenances among them, yielding and paying unto the said
Elizabeth, my wife, forty
33 shillings yearly during the time of her natural life according to the tenor of
a grant thereof by me made. **Provided** also, that if any of my
34 three sons abovenamed do die before th'age of sixteen, then the one to be
other's heir. **Provided** also that none of my three sons abovenamed
35 shall sell any of their part of the said lands but only one to th'other.
Provided also that if all my said sons, John, Thomas and Edward, die
before the
36 said lands be divided, then I will the said lands and tenements with
th'appurtenances to remain to **Roger Carpenter, the son of my brother**
Roger Carpenter and
37 to his heirs forever. And the said Roger Carpenter shall pay unto my four
daughters abovenamed twenty six pounds thirteen shillings and four pence
equally

38 to be divided among them at their marriage or else at th'age of twenty and
one years. And if any of my said daughters die before the receipt of the
said money as
39 is appointed, that then the said money to remain to the survivor or
survivors of them. And if the said Roger die without heirs of his body, then
my said lands and tenements with th'appurtenances to remain to **my**
brother
40 **Henry's children male** forever. Provided also that if my brother Henry's
children male do ?? my said lands and tenements, that then they shall
likewise pay unto my
41 above named daughters twenty six pounds thirteen shillings and fourpence
in manner and for above specified. Provided also that after the term of my
wife
42 six years shall be completed and ended, then I will the covenant of all my
lands and tenements to th'use of my said three sons paying unto my four
daughters
43 out the full sum of £13 6s 8d which my wife shall leave to pay when her six
years shall be ended. Provided also that when mine eldest son shall
44 come to th'age of sixteen years, then my overseers shall pay unto him
yearly twenty shillings until my youngest son come to th'age of sixteen
years. And likewise

45 my second son shall have 20s until my youngest son shall come to th'age of
16 years. Provided also that if my wife Elizabeth is with child, if it be a
male child
46 then he shall have so much of my said lands and tenements and legacies
as any of my other sons. And ??, if it be a womanchild, then my will is
she shall have
47 so much of my legacies as any of my other daughters. To this, being
witnesses, this is my last will and testament are **Sir Robert Row**, vicar of
Leigh
48 **Richard ??** and **Robert Lovett** with others.

Thomas, 1624, and his sons, William and Thomas

The will of Thomas Carpenter of 1624 was written by **John Hooper**, notary public and parish clerk of Tonbridge whom Thomas describes as his good friend. It had a memorandum added on 28th April 1628 which states that various changes were made. The original will as proved (Drb/Pw 27) does not show any signs of having had a line "stricken out" or any lines added but there is a note at the end indicating that a new copy of the original will had been made which "agreed with the original". This note was signed by two notary publics: Peter Stawell and John Hooper.

Thus it is not known what changes were made. The will and memorandum were written in the same hand with the names of witnesses being written by the clerk copying out the will. The note was written in a different hand with the "John Hooper" looking like a signature as on the wills of Dorothy Olyver, Elizabeth Nicholls, John Lampard, etc.

William Carpenter's will was nuncupative and looks also to have been written by John Hooper. William was the son of the Thomas who wrote his will in 1624, probably the William, son of Thomas Carpenter, baptised on 1st August 1596 which means he died when he was thirty-four.

Parish records for Leigh have survived for 1592 to 1596 but there is then a gap until 1638; "Edward, son of Thomas" was baptised on 7th December 1593. Thomas's youngest son, another Thomas, was not twenty-one in 1624 and was therefore born after 1603. It is his will, dated 10th April 1638 and written by Thomas Leddall, which has survived. The burial of Thomas Carpenter, "a young man" was recorded for 4th May 1638 but the will was proved in April 1638. Perhaps one of these dates is incorrect.

Thomas, Thomas and Helen's youngest son and William's brother, mentions neither a wife nor any children. He does, however, mention his brother, Robert Denman? Perhaps he had married but his wife had died without them having any surviving children.

Thomas junior had inherited a large amount of land from his father including Barnetts Lands which he left to "John Carpenter, my cousin, the son of John Carpenter". His father had left instructions that if Thomas died without "heirs of his body lawfully begotten" these lands were to go to his son William who died in 1631 without any direct heir. In this case, they were to go to the elder Thomas's grandson, John Wicking who was still alive when the younger Thomas wrote his will since he was left twenty shillings. Perhaps, in the fourteen years which had elapsed, the elder Thomas's wishes had been forgotten or else Thomas junior decided to make other arrangements.

Thomas junior had also inherited land in Seal which he does not mention but he left the messuage or tenement in which he was living "with the kitchen, barns, closes, orchards, gardens and all those lands, arable pastures and meadows" to "John Carpenter, my cousin, oatmeal man" who seems to be a different cousin from the one who inherited Barnetts Lands. The kitchen mentioned separately could mean that it was a separate building.

A John Carpenter of Leigh married **Elizabeth Sharpe** of Tonbridge, in Leigh, on 3rd July 1638 "by a licence from the office at Rochester". Perhaps he was the cousin who had inherited Barnetts land marrying on the strength of his inheritance.

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|-----------------|--|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------|--|------------|--|------------------------------------|--|
| will: | | x172 Thomas - Helen[T] ²² | | x178 | | | | | |
| | | 22 Oct 1624 | | | | | | | |
| | | ----- | | | | | | | |
| x179 | | x180 | | x188 | | x181 | | x182 | |
| Margaret[Twt] - | | Elizabeth[Twt] - | | John Wicking[w] | | Edward | | William[T] - Jane[t] ²³ | |
| bap: | | | | | | 7 Dec 1593 | | 1 Aug 1596 | |
| will: | | | | | | | | 20 Feb 1631 | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| x185 | | x186 | | x187 | | x190 | | x189 | |
| John[w] | | Thomas[wt] | | Margaret[wt] | | Ann[Twt] | | John[wt] | |
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died as a child. That the name of the daughter who married John Wicking was Elizabeth is known from the will of her brother William.

Will of Thomas Carpenter of Leigh 1624

written 22nd October 1624; with memorandum added 20th April 1628
transcript from original which is a copy of the first version plus additions

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Thomas Carpenter, of Lighe
2 next Tonbridge in the County of Kent, **yeoman**, do make and ordain
3 this my testament and last will the two and twentieth day of
4 October in the year of our Lord God, one thousand, six hundred,
5 Twenty and four in manner and form following: **First:** I commend my soul
6 Almighty God, my maker, with assured hope of salvation and
7 through his mercy in the merit and mediation of his dear son Jesus
8 Christ. And my body to the earth in decent manner to be buried.
9 **Item:** I give to the poor of Lighe aforesaid Ten shillings to be
10 distributed in the day of my burial by my executor or overseer.
11 **Item:** I give to **Richard Carpenter, my godson**, five shillings. And
12 to **Thomas Clerk's daughter, my goddaughter**, twenty shillings
13 and these Two to be paid within one year after my decease.
14 **Item:** I will unto **Thomas Carpenter, my wife's godson**, five shillings.

15 **Item:** I give to **my daughter, Wicking**, two shillings and six
16 pence. And to **Ann, her daughter**, forty shillings, the said
17 forty shillings to be paid within one whole year next after my
18 decease. **Item:** to my other godchildren I give twelve pence a
19 piece if they shall demand it of my executors within one year
20 next after my decease and can say the Catechism.
21 **Item:** I give to **my son, William Carpenter**, the two joined
22 bedsteads in the loft next **John Carpenter's** house and the
23 great chest there. And the chest that was my father's.
24 **Item:** I give unto **Thomas Carpenter, my son**, two joined bedsteads,
25 one to be that whereon I lie And the other to be that in the
26 new chamber over the parlour in my dwelling house. Also I give
27 to the said Thomas the cupboard and table in the said parlour
28 And six joined stools. Also the press in my lodging chamber,
29 Two great chests, one little joined chest, two old chests and
30 one brass cauldron. **Item:** I give to **my daughter**
31 **Margaret**, whom I have already preferred, two shillings
32 and six pence. And I will that every legatorie before
33 named shall give an acquittance when they receive their legacy
34 by my executors. **Item:** I will to my son William, whom I have
35 already preferred, two shillings and six pence.

36 The residue and all other my goods, cattell and chattels I will

and give to **Helen, my loving wife**, and to the said Thomas, my son, which Helen and Thomas I make and ordain the joint executors of this my testament and last will. And I make and ordain **my good friend John Hooper** to be overseer that this my will be proved and executed according to my mind, to whom I give for his pains herein to be taken, forty shillings.

This is also the last will of me the said Thomas Carpenter made and declared the day and year first above written touching the ordering and devising of all my lands and tenements. **Item:** I will, give and devise to the said Thomas Carpenter, my son, All that tenement and land with thappurtenances called **Barnet Land** situated, lying and being in Lighe aforesaid. And also all that Messuage or Tenement with the Barn, outhouses, yards, backside and Croft of Land with their appurtenances which I late bought and purchased to me and mine heirs of **Henry Webb, Butcher**, situated, lying and being in **Seal**²⁴ in the County of Kent. To have and to hold all the said tenements and land with thappurtenances called Barnet Land and the said other messuage with the Barn, outhouses, yards, backside and Croft of Land with their appurtenances in Seal aforesaid unto the said Thomas, my son, and to the heirs of his body

²⁴ there were Webbs in Seal known from the parish registers but no Henry

lawfully to be begotten. And for lack of such heirs to William, my son And to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten. And for lack of such heirs to **John Wicking, son of Elizabeth, my daughter,** And to the heirs of his body. And for lack of such issue, to Margaret, my daughter, and to the heirs of her body lawfully begotten and to be begotten for ever.

Provided always, and my will is, that Helen, my loving wife, shall or may have and hold all my lands and tenements before mentioned until that the said Thomas, my son, shall accomplish his full age of Twenty and one years. And after his said age shall hold only the said Messuage or Tenement with the Barn, outhouses, yards, backside and Croft of Land with their appurtenances I bought of Henry Webb during the whole term of her natural life (any thing in this my will to the contrary notwithstanding).

But if the said Thomas, my son, shall decease before his said age of 21 years, Then I will that my said wife shall have and hold All my said lands and tenements in Lighe and Seal aforesaid during the whole term of her natural life (any thing also in this my will to the contrary thereof notwithstanding).

76 In witness whereof I have to this my testament and last will set
77 my hand and seal Yeven²⁵ the day and year first above written

signed **Tho: Carpenter**²⁶
Testatorie

Sealed, published and declared
in the presence of
Thomas Chowne
William Walter
John Hooper, notary pubq.

Memorandum that the within named Thomas Carpenter upon
the twentieth day of April, An.Dm. one thousand, six hundred,
twenty and eight did acknowledge that he had caused the line
in the first side of this his testament and last will to be stricken
out and some things to be added therein since it was first written.
And did then satisfy and approve all things therein written and did declare

25 "given"

26 looks like a signature but the name following "the mark of the said" at the end of the memorandum (see below) is exactly the same

the same to be according to his full mind and will and in testimony thereof did hereunto put his mark

the mark of the said **Tho:**

Carpenter

we being called to be
witnesses thereunto

John Hooper, notary pbq.

Marie Terrie

the mark of the said Marie Terrie

this is followed by a note in a different hand which includes:

Concordat cum originali

1 Memorandum. That upon the one and twentieth day of February in the
2 year of our Lord God, according to the computation of the church of
England,
3 one thousand, six hundred and thirty, William Carpenter
4 of Lighe-next-Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being²⁷ of sound
5 and perfect memory, did make, utter and declare his last will and
testament by
6 word of mouth as followeth: he willed to **Jane, his wife**, twenty pounds to
be²⁸
7 paid her within six months after his decease by his executor. Also he
willed
8 and gave to his said wife all those goods and household stuff which were
Hellon Carpenter's²⁹

27 "beeing"

28 "bee" throughout

29 Helen was the wife of Thomas, William's father and therefore William's mother, Jane's mother-in-law

9 her mother?, his best bedstead with a trundle bed under the same, one
flock bed and
10 bolster, one covering and two blankets in the chamber over the buttery.
And also
11 two bushels of his best wheat, two flitches of his best bacon and all his
tussham
12 new cloth and yarn. **Item:** he willed to his **sister Margaret Carpenter** two
shillings
13 and to her three children, viz. **John, Thomas and Margaret**, twenty shillings
a piece.
14 **Item:** he willed to **Elizabeth Wicking, his sister**, two shillings. And to her
two
15 children, **John and Ann**, twenty shillings a piece and appointed his said
two sisters
16 and their children's legacies to be paid within one year after his decease by
his
17 executor. **Item:** he gave unto his godson, **Anthony Young, son of Jane
Young**,
18 five shillings. To his godson, **Thomas Farrant, son of Edward Farrant**, five
shillings.
19 To his goddaughter, **Elizabeth Woodsell**, five shillings. To his **kinswoman**,
20 **the wife of John Bust**, five shillings. And to the poor of Lighe three bushels

21 of wheat to be baked into loaves and bestowed amongst them. **Item:** he
gave unto
22 **Thomas Carpenter, his brother,** the table and forms in the hall which were
his
23 **grandfather's.** The residue and all other his goods, cattel and chattels, he
willed to
24 his **brother-in-law, John Wicking** of Lighe aforesaid, **weaver,** whom he
named
25 and appointed to be his executor. And he made and ordained **Thomas**
Constable,
26 and **George Children** of Childrens to be overseers of this his will and gave
them
27 five shillings a piece for a token of his love. And also he gave a legacy of
five
28 shillings to **Elizabeth Carpenter, his kinswoman.** All which words, or the
like
29 in effect, he uttered in the presence and hearing of **Thomas Constable** of
30 Leigh, **yeoman,** and of Jane, the wife of the said testator. And afterwards,
the same day,
31 did declare to **Mr. Zacharia Tayler, vicar of Leigh, Mary, his wife**
32 and **Dorcas, the wife of the said Thomas.** And did tell them that that
should be his

33 last will. In witness whereof the said Thomas Constable, Zacharia Tayler
and
34 Mary, his wife, have hereunto set their hands.

Will of Thomas Carpenter of Leigh 1638

written 10th April 1638; proved April 1638

transcript from original

1 In the name of god Amen. The tenth day of April Ao. dm. 1638
2 and in the fourteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord king Charles,
3 I, Thomas Carpenter of Lighe-next-Tonbridge in the county of Kent,
yeoman, being
4 at this time sick and not well in body but of good and perfect remembrance
(god be³⁰
5 praised) do make and declare this my last will and testament in manner
and form following:
6 **First:** I commend my soul to Almighty god and to Jesus Christ, his only son,
by

30 "bee", "mee", etc. throughout

7 whose death and passion I fully trust, with an assured hope, to attain the
joyful
8 resurrection of eternal life, committing my body to the earth from whence it
was taken
9 and to be buried in decent sort where it shall please god to call me. **Item:** I
10 give to the poor of Lighe aforesaid forty shillings to be paid within one year
11 next after my decease. **Item:** I give unto **my sister, Margaret Carpenter,**
12 five pounds. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my sister, Elizabeth, the now**
wife
13 **of John Wicking,** five pounds of lawful money of England. **Item:** I give
14 and bequeath unto **my sister Jane, the now wife of William Taylor, als.**
Westly, five
15 pounds of like money. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Robert Denman, my**
brother,
16 forty shillings. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my cousins**³¹ **Margaret and**
17 **Thomas Carpenter, my sister Margaret's children,** to either of them twenty
shillings
18 a piece of like money. **Item:** I give unto **John and Anne Wicking, my sister**
19 **Elizabeth's children,** to either of them twenty shillings a piece of like
money.
20 **Item:** I give unto **Marie Morris, my maid,** ten shillings. **Item:** I give

31 actually neice and nephew

21 unto **John Bokes** ten shillings. **Item:** I give unto **Thomas Bokes** ten
22 shillings. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Elizabeth Carpenter** five
shillings.

23 The residue of all my moveable goods, cattels and chattels whatsoever,
24 my debts, legacies and funeral paid and discharged, I give and bequeath
25 unto **John Carpenter, my cousin, the son of John Carpenter**, whom I
26 do make and ordain the full and sole executor of this my last will and
testament.

27 This is the last will and testament of me the said Thomas
28 Carpenter made and declared the day and year aforesaid concerning
29 the disposing of all my messuages, tenements, hereditaments and
30 lands, situated, lying and being in Lighe aforesaid or elsewhere. **Item:** I
31 give, devise and will unto **John Carpenter, my cousin, oatmeal man**,
32 all that messuage or tenement wherein I now dwell with the
33 kitchen, barns, closes, orchards, gardens and all those lands, arable
34 pastures and meadows, with th'appurtenances to the said messuage or
tenement

35 belonging or appertaining, to have and to hold to the said John
36 Carpenter, his heirs and assigns, forever, of all which remises I have
37 lately letten in lease to him. **Item:** I give, devise and will
38 unto John Carpenter, my cousin, the son of John Carpenter, all that
39 messuage or tenement wherein **Edward Children** now dwells with

40 the barn, buildings, closes, gardens, with appurtenances and all
41 those lands thereunto belonging with th'appurtenances called
42 **Barnett Lands**, to have and to hold unto the said John
43 Carpenter, his heirs and assigns, forever. In witness
44 whereof, to this my present testament and last will containing
45 two sheets of paper, I, the said Thomas Carpenter have
46 set my hand and seal the day and year aforesaid.

Thomas Carpenter³²

Sealed and declared to be
the last will of the said
John³³ Carpenter in the
presence of

William Latter

Thomas Bates

his mark

Thomas Leddall

32 signature

33 definitely "John" here, presumably an error made by the scribe

John Carpenter of Leigh, oatmeal man/yeoman

It was the oatmeal man who died in 1640, being buried on 12th March but his exact relationship to the Thomas from whom he inherited some land is not known. In his will he describes himself as a yeoman but the burial of the oatmeal man six days after the will was written points to will and burial being those of the same man.

His will contains a large number of changes and insertions and these are detailed in two memoranda, one for each page of the will, explaining that the amendments were made before the will was "[sealed and published](#)". His wife, Margaret was buried just over a year before him, on 16th February 1639 but, between then and his death, John married Anne to whom he bequeathed a large number of items:

- £30
- £10 which "my said wife's mother promised me, upon our marriage, to give me at her . . death
- the best ambling mare and one saddle and one saddle cloth
- the best featherbed and bedstead with coverlet, blankets and furniture
- one pair of the best fine flaxen sheets
- one pair of the best coarse flaxen sheets
- one pair of the best hempen sheets
- one dozen of the best fine flaxen table napkins

- one short flaxen tablecloth
- one little chest in which the fine linen lay
- one boarded chest
- one box in which Anne laid her clothes
- one fine pair of flaxen pillowberes of the best
- the pillowberes which Anne's mistress gave her
- one pair of great pewter candlesticks
- one pewter flagon
- one pewter chamberpot
- three pewter dishes
- one new skillet³⁴ without a frame
- one little brass pot
- all the earthen ware upon the cupboard in the parlour
- two stoons? of the best flax and two stoons of the best ??
- one silver bowl

His other legacies are given in the following table:

34 a long handled metal pan with legs

| | |
|---|---|
| Elizabeth Clampert, neice | £10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - one joined bedstead - two pairs of hempen sheets; one blanket - two stoons of hemp |
| Zacharie Horner, nephew | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - timber and materials of one little dwelling house, one mill and millhouse and stable - one flockbed - one pair of hemp sheets - one coverlet and a blanket |
| Thomas, Dorothy and Anne Clampart, eldest sister's children | 5s each |
| Elizabeth Carpenter, neice | 40s |
| youngest brother's daughter | 10s |
| John Carpenter, nephew | £5 |
| Thomas Carpenter, nephew and executor | land and houses in Leigh residue |
| Andrew Bashford and his son, John's cousin | 20s each |
| Mathew Gnat, kinswoman | 10s |
| John Haselden, servant, | 10s |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| x192 Edward - | x208 Margaret - | x193 John oatmeal man | x209 - Anne | x194 sister - | x201 Clampart | x215 brother - | x196 sister - | x206 ?? Horner |
| will: bur: | 16 Feb 1639 | 6 Mar 1640 12 Mar 1640 | | | | | | |
| x198 John | x199 Elizabeth | x200 Thomas | x202 Elizabeth | x203 Thomas | x204 Dorothy | x205 Anne | daughter | x207 Zacharie |

Will of John Carpenter of Leigh

written 6th March 1639/40; probate 30th March 1639/40

transcript from original

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The sixth day of March in the year of our Lord God
- 2 one thousand, six hundred, thirty and nine, I, John Carpenter of Leigh³⁵ in the
- 3 county of Kent, **yeoman**³⁶, being sick in body but of perfect memory, blessed be God,
- 4 do ordain and make my last will and testament in manner and form following, that

35 whereas in the earlier wills, Leigh is spelled "Lighe", here it is "Leigh"

36 recorded as "oatmeal man" when buried

5 is to say, **First:** and before all things, I give and bequeath my soul into the
hands of Almighty
6 God, my creator, through whose mercy in Jesus Christ, my alone saviour, I
hope for salva
7 tion and my body to be buried in the churchyard of the parish of Leigh
aforesaid. And,
8 as for my worldly goods and lands which God in meantime hath lent me, I
give and bequeath as
9 followeth. **Item:** I give unto the most needy poor of the parish of Leigh
aforesaid
10 twenty shillings within one year next after my decease to be paid by my
executor
11 and distributed unto the forsaid poor. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
Anne, my loving wife,
12 thirty pounds of lawful english money to be paid by my executor within one
year
13 next after my decease. Also I give unto the said Anne, my wife, the ten
pounds of law
14 ful english money which my said wife's mother promised me upon our
marriage
15 to give me at her, my said wife's mother's death. Also I give unto Anne, my
wife, my best

16 ambling mare and one saddle and one saddle cloth to be delivered
presently after my decease by my executor. Also I give
17 unto the said Anne my best featherbed and bedstead with coverlet,
blankets, furniture and all
18 that belongeth to the said bed and bedstead and one pair of my best fine
flaxen sheets and one other
19 pair of the best coarse flaxen sheets and one pair of my best hemp?? sheets
20 and one dozen of my best fine flaxen table napkins and one short flaxen
tablecloth and one
21 little chest in which the fine linen lies in and one boarded chest and one
box my wife laid
22 her clothes in and one fine pair of flaxen pillowberes of the best and the
pillowberes my wife's
23 mistress³⁷ gave her and one pair of great pewter candlesticks and one
pewter flagon and
24 one pewter chamberpot and three pewter dishes and one new skillet³⁸
without a frame and one
25 little brass pot and all the earthen ware upon the cupboard in the parlour
and two

37 presumably Anne had been in service prior to her marriage

38 a long handled metal pan with legs

26 stoons? of the best flax and two stoons of the best ?? and one silver bowl
27 and one ?? that she brought and looking glass ?? several things given and
bequeathed aforesaid shall
28 be delivered by my executor presently after my decease. **Item:** I give and
bequeath unto **Elizabeth Clampert, my**
29 **neice,** ?? ten pounds of lawful english money to be paid by my exec
30 utor within two years next after my decease. Also I give unto the said
Elizabeth,
31 my neice, one joined bedstead and two pairs of hempen sheets and one
blanket,
32 one ?? that was my other wife's³⁹ and two stoons of hemp, all which
shalbe delivered by
33 my executor presently after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
Zacharie Horner,
34 **my youngest sister's son,** and to his heirs forever, four several parcels of
land lying by themselves to a ??
35 ?? to my ford? of ?? ?? with the appurtenances lying and being in the
36 parish of Leigh aforesaid. Also I give and bequeath unto the said Zacharie
Horner that timber and materials of one

39 Margaret, wife of John Constable, oatmeal, man was buried on 16th February 1638/9 just over a year before John wrote his will; thus John must have been married to Ann for less than a year

37 little dwelling house which one **William Taplin** now dwells in and one mill
and millhouse and stable
38 standing to the ?? or ?? of the now dwelling house of me, the said John
Carpenter,
39 situated in Leigh aforesaid with free liberty to come upon the ground for
the said Zacharie, his workmen and assigns to pull down all the building of
the said
40 dwelling house, mill, millhouse and stable and the same to have and carry
away to the own
41 use of the said Zacharie and his assigns and the said buildings to be taken
of as before said
42 by the said Zacharie as aforesaid within one year next after the said
Zacharie shall
43 accomplish the age of four and twenty years. Also I give unto the said
Zacharie Horner
43 my ?? and one flockbed and one pair of hemp sheets and one coverlet
and blanket
44 to be delivered by my executor presently after my decease. **Item:** I give
unto **Thomas Clampert** and
45 **Dorothy Clampert and Anne Clampart**, my eldest sister's children five
shilings a piece. **Item:** I

page 2:

- 1 give unto **Elizabeth Carpenter**, my neice, forty shillings to be paid by my
executor within
- 2 two years next after my decease. **Item:** I give unto **my youngest brother's**
daughter ten shillings.
- 3 to be paid by my executor within one year next after my decease. **Item:** I
give unto **John**
- 4 **Carpenter, my nephew, my brother Edward Carpenter's eldest son**, five
pounds of law
- 5 ful english money to be paid within one year next after my decease by my
executor.
- 6 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Thomas Carpenter, my nephew, my**
brother Edward Carpen
- 7 **ter's youngest son**, all my lands and houses lying and being in Leigh
aforesaid in the county aforesaid (except the timber and materials of
- 8 one little dwelling house that one **William Taplin** now dwells in and one
mill and millhouse and
- 9 stable and four parcels of land before bequeathed and given unto Zacharie
Homer aforesaid)
- 10 to him, the said Thomas Carpenter and his heirs forever. Now my will is
that if
- 11 the said Thomas Carpenter shall not suffer the said Zacharie Homer to take
the said

12 building before bequeathed to his own use, then I give in lieu of them thirty
13 pounds of lawful english money to be paid by my executor, to the said
Zavarie Hor
14 ner. **Item:** I give unto **Andrew Bashford and his son, my cousin**, twenty
shillings a piece to be
15 paid by my executor. **Item:** give unto **Mathew Gnat, my kinswoman**, ten
16 shillings to be paid by my executor. All the rest of my goods and chattels
unbequeathed
17 and ungiven, my debts being first paid and legacies faithfully performed
and funeral
18 discharged, I give and bequeath unto the above named Thomas Carpenter,
my nephew
19 whom I make whole and sole executor of this my last will and testament.
20 In witness whereof I have hereunto each leaf put my hand and seal the
21 the day and year first above written. Overseers, I do entreat my trusty and
wellbeloved
22 friends **Richard Apse** and Andrew Bashford who I desire to give the best
help and
23 ?? to my executor in settling my estate and proving my will and I give
24 them twenty shillings a piece. **Item:** I give unto **John Haselden, my**
servant, ten shillings.
25 **Item:** I give unto **Thomas Stace** one ?? doublet and a pair of ?? ??

Witnesses to the sealing, publishing
and declaring of this will are
Robert ??
D Hoget
Andrew Bashford

Two memorands, each on a separate sheet have survived:

Memorand: that we whose names are here underwritten do witness that those words in the sixteenth line (and one saddle cloth) and in the eighteenth line (my best) and in the six and twentieth the two razings and those words (one silver bowl⁴⁰) and in the seven and twentieth line one razing and those words (and one ?? ?? brought and looking glass) and in the eight and twentieth line (presently after my decease) and in the nine and twentieth line this word (neice) and in the two and thirtieth line those words (and to his heirs forever)⁴¹ and in the four and thirtieth line those words (the timber and materials) and in the six and thirtieth line that word (now) and in the eight and thirtieth (to come upon the ground for the said Zacharie, his workmen and assigns) and in the four and fortieth line this

40 "bole"

41 this is actually the 34th line because "nephew" was changed to "neice" on both the 27th and 29th; this error of two lines continues for the next two corrections which should be the 36th and 38th; the long insertion is in the 39th line

word (after) were interlined in this sheet or part of this will within said before the
ensealing and publishing hereof. D. Hoget.

Andrew Bashford⁴²

Memorand: that we whose names are here underwritten do witness that that
word in the first (neice) and those words in the seventh line (lying and being in
Leigh aforesaid in the county aforesaid) and in the ninth line (and four parcels of
land) and in the fourteenth line (my cousin) and in the nineteenth line (who I
make whole and sole executor of this my last will and testament) with the annex
of the last of two bequests was in this sheet or second part of this will inserted
and annexed before the sealing and publishing of this will.

D. Hoget Andrew Bashford

⁴² in each case the name D. Hoget looks to be written by the person who wrote the will whilst the name Andrew Bashford looks like a signature in a different hand.

Richard Carr of Hadlow

This will (CKS: Drb/Pw 23; Drb/Pwr 20.383) was written by John Hooper, one of the of the Hooper family, members of which wrote a large number of wills from the 1560s until after 1650 when this study ends. The decoration includes the Hooper "mark" at the top and the decorated "I" at the beginning includes a face. The transcript is from original but the right hand side is damaged and, where possible the ends of these lines has been entered either from the context or from the probate copy of the will which has also been used for the some parts where the crossings out make the original difficult to read.

Besides the alterations, two other reasons why this will is interesting are that Richard's eldest daughter Susan was probably over twenty-one and working "in service". She was, however, to be allowed to live in Richard's messuage with her mother "for, by and during so long time, and from time to time, when she shall be out of service and destitute of an abiding place or dwelling (being and remaining sole and unmarried)".

Also, if his son, John, renounced the executorship of the will and did not prove it "within six months at the farthest after" Richard's death, he was to "loose the

benefit and advantage and every gift to him willed" and Susan was to have what would otherwise have gone to John and she was also to be her father's executrix".

The changes to the will are considerable; it was probably initially written on the 16th of November 1612. In the seven weeks between then and the 24th December, Richard Carr seems basically to have changed the term for which his wife was to have all the messuage, etc. "for her dwelling and towards the bringing up of my children" from nine to two years and decided against paying his daughter Susan ten shillings a year when she was in service or, for other reasons, not living with her mother (but not married). These seem quite drastic changes to have made in such a short period.

Hooper
mark

1 In the name of god Amen. The four and twentieth⁴³ day of December
2 in the tenth year of the reign of our sovereign lord, king James of
3 England, France and Ireland. And of Scotland the 46th, 1612.
4 I, Richard Carr of Hadlow in the county of Kent, **husbandman**, do ordain
and
5 make this my present testament and last will in manner and form
following: **First:** and
6 principally I commend and bequeath my soul to Almighty god, my maker
in the
7 assured hope of salvation through his mercy in the merit and redemption of
his son

43 changed from "sixteenth"

8 Jesus Christ, my saviour and redeemer. And my body to the earth from
which it was taken.

9 **Item:** I will and give to **my daughter, Susan**, the sum of ten pounds of
lawful

10 English money to be⁴⁴ paid to her by mine executor within one whole year
next ensuing

11 after my decease. And I also will and give to the said Susan, my bed,
bedstead

12 and all the furniture thereof standing and as now it is being in the north . .
13 now dwelling house of me the said Richard Carr. **Item:** I will and give to
Michell,

14 **my daughter**, the sum of five pounds of good and lawful money of England,
to be

15 paid to her at her age of 21 years or the day of her marriage which shall
first happen

16 by mine executor hereafter named. And if either of my said daughters die
before her several portion be paid as aforesaid, I will the one of them
shalbe the other's heir thereunto⁴⁵. **Item:** I will and give to the foresaid
Susan, my

44 "bee"; the double "ee" is used in most cases (including "beeing") but "me" on line 19

45 this sentence was inserted

17 daughter, my cupboard to be delivered her presently after my decease. The
residue
18 of all my goods, cattells, chattels and household stuff and all other my
moveable goods
19 (except my debts to me owing and my heifer bullock) I will to **my loving
wife,**
20 **Hester**, and to the said Michell, my daughter, and to the survivor of them ??
21 Which my debts and my said heifer bullock I will and give to **John, my
loving son,**
22 whom I make and ordain my sole and only executor, to see this my will
proved and
23 my debts paid, my legacies discharged⁴⁶ and my body decently brought to
the earth.

24 This is also the last will of me, the said Richard Carr, made and declared
the
25 day and year aforesaid touching the ordering and disposing of all my lands.
26 **Item:** I will that Hester, my wife, shall have and hold my messuage and
27 Edifices, Backside and land thereto belonging with th'appurtenances,
containing thereto,

28 by estimation, one acre and a half, situated, lying and being at the **Steyre**
in
29 Hadlow, aforesaid, for, by and during the whole term of two⁴⁷ years next
after
30 my decease for her dwelling and towards the bringing up of my children ??
31 her, she keeping the reparations of all the said messuage and edifices and
the pales
32 and fences of the said backside and land well repaired during the said term
and committing
33 no wilful or negligent strip or waste in or upon the same or any part
thereof. And
34 after the end of the said two years shall have and hold only the moiety or
one half
35 of the said messuage. edifices, backside and land for, by and during the
whole term of her
36 ⁴⁸ life, she, the said Hester paying
37 yearly for the premises during the said two years only twelve pence every
year to my

47 changed from "nine" here and on line 34

48 two lines crossed out here; where the lines below are very long, this is because of insertions entered between the lines

38 son John and his assigns upon reasonable demand thereof yearly to be
made during the
39 said two years. The other moiety of all which messuage and premises I
will my son John shall have in such manner as I have to him given the fee
simple thereof hereafter in this my will. Provided always, my very will and
mind is that Susan, my daughter
40 shall and may have her dwelling and being in my said messuage with my
said wife
41 for, by and during so long time, and from time to time, when
42 she shalbe out of service and destitute of an abiding place or dwelling
(being and remaining
43 sole and unmarried).⁴⁹
44 The fee simple of all my said messuage, edifices,
45 backside and land with th'appurtenances, and all my right, estate and
condition? of, in and
46 the same I will and give to John Carr, my son, and to the heirs of his body
47 lawfully begotten, upon condition that he, the said John, or his said heirs,
do pay to **Thomas Williams, my father-in-law**, during his life 20s yearly in

49 The next section has been completely crossed out: "And my will is also that for, by and during so long as my said daughter Susan shalbe in service or not dwelling in my said messuage during the said two years, she staying sole and unmarried) she shalbe allowed by my said wife or by whoever(?) shall hold my said messuage during the said two years, ten shillings of lawful money (every year of and within the said term that she, my said daughter, shalbe in service or dwelling elsewhere than in my said messuage and remaining sole as is aforesaid." If she did not receive the ten shillings she was to be able to enter into the messuage and take suitable "distress".

such manner as I myself am bound to pay the same by bond. And also to pay unto **Thomas**

48 **Carr, my son**, the sum of five pounds of lawful English money at his full age
49 of twenty and one years. And to my daughters, Susan and Michell, their
several portions aforesaid amounting to £15 at the days for payment and
according to the true meaning of this my will. And do suffer my said wife
to hold the ?? which five pounds if it be not according paid to my
50 said son Thomas at his said age (if he live to accomplish the same) and the
said £15 to my daughters, then I will that
51 Thomas, my son, and my said daughters, or which soever of them shalbe
unpaid, shall enter upon my said messuage, lands and premises or upon
any parcel of
52 the same or any part thereof shall and may hold till the said several
legacies ??
53 fully satisfied and paid according to the true meaning of this my will.
Provided that,
54 if the said John, my son, shall happen to decease without heirs or heirs of
his body lawfully
55 begotten, then I will the said messuage, lands and premises shalbe and
remain to the
56 said Susan and Thomas, my daughter and son and to their heirs for ever.
And

57 lastly I will and provide that, if the said John, my son, shall renounce the
executorship
58 of this my will and deny to prove the same within six months at the
farthest after
59 my decease, then I will, ordain and appoint that he shall loose the benefit
and
60 advantage and every gift to him willed by the same. And that Susan, my
daughter shall
61 have my said messuage, edifices, backside and land with th'appurtenances
to her and her
62 heirs for ever, paying the said £5 to the said Thomas and suffering her
mother to
63 hold the same in manner as afore is said. And then also the said Susan to
be my executrix,
64 to see this my will proved and my debts paid, anything herein before
mentioned to the
65 contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding. In witness whereof I have

66 set my hand and seal yeven the day and year first above written.

The ⁵⁰ mark
of Richard Carr

Sealed, published and declared in the presence of

Moses ⁵¹ Hodge
John Barton and
John Hooper

50 circle with a horizontal line through it

51 vertical cross; the mark of John Barton is a horizontal line with four verticals below it

Richard Carrier of Penshurst

This will (**PCC: Harte 92; Prob 11/104**) was written on 1st September 1604 with a memorandum indicating changes on the 8th September. The will was proved on 8th November of the same year, Richard Carrier having been buried on 18th September.

Richard had four daughters (Marie and Mary are taken as the same person) to each of whom he left a bullock at least one of which was "in the forest"; these bequests are detailed in Table C.1. The arrangements for the money left to his eldest daughter, Thomasine, are unusual - see lines 11 to 27. Richard was owed money by Edmund and Abraham Willard but he envisages problems in getting this since his daughters and wife, who was to share the money when it has been obtained, were to share "the charges for the obtaining of the same debts".

Table C.1: Richard Carrier's Bequests to his Wife and Daughters

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Thomasine, eldest daughter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - one brown bullock, 1 year old, and the advantage which is now in the forest - one pair of new hempen sheets - one dozen table napkins now in the chest of which Thomas kept the key - one little broad box standing in the chamber over the parlour in which was pewter. - £25 |
| Trewe, another daughter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £12 10s if Thomasine died without marrying - one red bullock, 1½ years old - one chest with all the linen therein except the napkins given Thomasine - one broad box standing in the corn chamber - £20 at the age of twenty one |
| Martha, another daughter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £6 5s if Thomasine died without marrying - my branded bullock, 1.25 years old which was in the forest. - one dozen hempen napkins - £20 at the age of twenty |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Marie/Mary, youngest daughter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £6 5s if Thomasine died without marrying - one black bullock with a white face, 1½ years old - a pair of the best sheets - £20 at the age of twenty |
| Margaret, wife | - the residue of his goods and chattels |

Will of Richard Carrier of Penshurst

written September 1604

transcript from the probate copy

- 1 In the name of god Amen. I, Richard
- 2 Carrier of Penshurst in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick in body but
- of good perfect mind
- 3 and memory, praise be unto almighty god for the same, do make and
- ordain this to be my present
- 4 last will and testament. And first and principally I bequeath my soul into
- the hands of almight=
- 5 ty god, my creator, hoping by the passion of my saviour Jesus Christ to
- inherit the blessed

6 kingdom of heaven. And my body to the earth to be buried in the parish
churchyard of Pens=
7 hurst by the discretion of my executors. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
Thomasine, my eldest
8 **daughter**, one brown bullock of the age of one year and the advantage
which is now in the
9 forest. Also I give unto the said Thomasine one pair of new hempen
sheets, one dozen of
10 table napkins which now is in the chest which I keep the key of. Also I
give and bequeath
11 unto the said Thomasine the sum of twenty five pounds to be paid unto her
out of the money
12 which **George Stace** is to pay me, and to be paid to her in manner and form
following: that
13 is twelve pounds ten shillings thereof to be paid unto **Stephen Luxford of**
Buxted in
14 the county of **Sussex** to and for her use in and upon the nineteenth dy of
April next
15 ensuing the date of this my present will for that she is not of government of
herself to dispose
16 of it. And the profit thereof to be employed to the keeping and maintaining
of the said Thomasine.

17 And the other twelve pounds ten shillings parcel of the said twenty and
18 five pounds to be
19 paid unto the said Stephen Luxford to and for the use of the Thomasine in
20 or upon
21 the nineteenth day of April which shall be in the year of our Lord god one
22 thousand six
23 hundred and six. And I do further will that the said Stephen Luxford, as a
24 careful friend in
25 trust for me and for good cause for the directing of an innocent child of
26 mine, to employ the
27 said twenty and five pounds to and for her best use and profit until such
28 time as she shall
29 fortune to marry (which if she shall marry) if it shall be to the liking and
30 good will of the
31 said Stephen Luxford and **William Romledge of Westerham, gent.** and of
32 **John Weekes of Seal**⁵²,
33 or two of them, then the said Stephen to pay unto the said Thomasine the
34 said twenty
35 and five pounds and the profit thereof which shall come within one quarter
36 of a year after her

27 marriage⁵³. And if it shall happen she die before her day of marriage, then
twelve pounds ten
28 shillings parcel of the said twenty five pounds and the profit thereof
coming to be paid
29 unto **Trewe Carrier, an other of my daughters.** And unto **Martha and Marie**
Carrier, two
30 **other of my daughters,** twelve pounds ten shillings residue of the said
twenty five pounds
31 to be equally divided between them. And to be paid them within one
quarter of a year after
32 the death of the said Thomasine. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto Trewe,
my daughter, one red
33 bullock of the age of one year and a half. Also I give unto the said Trewe
one chest with all
34 the linen therein except one dozen of napkins which is in the same which I
give to me daugh=
35 ter Thomasine, which chest standeth in the ?? chamber where I now do lie
sick. Also I give to my said daughter Trewe the sum of

53 was Thomasine just under age or did the phrase "she is not of government of herself to dispose of it" and the reference to an innocent child imply that was she incapable for some other reason? Also there is no mention of her receiving the money when she came of age, only if she married.

36 twenty pounds to be paid to her out of the money which George Stace is to
pay
37 me when she shall accomplish the age of one and twenty years. Also I
give unto my said
38 daughter Trewe one broad box standing in the corn chamber. Also I
further give unto my said
39 daughter Thomasine one little broad box standing in the chamber over the
parlour in which
40 there standeth pewter. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto Martha, my
daughter, my branded bullock
41 of the age of one year and a quarter which is in the forest. Also I give to
my daughter
42 Martha one dozen of hempen napkins. Also I give unto my said daughter
Martha the sum

page 2:

43 of twenty pounds which is to be paid by the said George Stace out of his
money which he
44 oweth me and to be paid her when she shall accomplish the full age of
twenty years. **Item:** I

45 give and bequeath unto **Mary, my youngest daughter**⁵⁴, one black bullock
with a face white which
46 is of the age of one year and a half. Also I give her a pair of my best sheets.
Also I give unto
47 her the sum of twenty pounds to be paid her out of the money which
George Stace doth
48 owe me, to be paid unto her when she shall accomplish the full age of
twenty years. Also I
49 give and bequeath unto Thomasine, my daughter, Trewe, my daughter,
Martha
50 my daughter, Mary, my daughter and to **Margaret, my wife**, all the money
and debts whatsoever
51 due to me by **Edmund Willard and Abraham Willard** equally to be paid
between them, they
52 equally bearing and paying the charges for the obtaining of the same
debts. All the residue
53 of my goods and chattels whatsoever herein not bequeathed, my debts and
legacies paid, I wholly
54 give and dispose to my loving wife towards the better bringing up of my
children. Also my will

54 Mary, daughter of Richard Carrier was baptised on 16th July 1598 so she was six when her father wrote his will. This is the only reference to a Carrier (Cariar) in the parish register other than the burial of Richard.

55 is that, if my wife shall marry hereafter, that then half the portion which
remaineth to
56 my wife in money by this my last will shall be equally divided between my
children that
57 shall then live. And do make and ordain my loving wife Margaret and
Stephen Luxford
58 my executors of this my present last will and testament. In witness
whereof I have to this
59 my present last will and testament put to my hand and seal the first day of
September in
60 the year of the reign of our sovereign Lord James, by the grace of God king
of England,
61 Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, that is to say of
England, France and
62 Ireland the second and of Scotland the eight and thirtieth. **Postscript**
Memorandum That
63 there was two points altered in this will by the appointment of Richard
Carrier. First where
64 there was first but twenty pounds given to Thomasine his daughter, he
caused it to be made
65 five and twenty pounds. And two pounds that half the portion of money
which doth

66 belong to his wife by virtue of this will, if she the said wife shall marry at
any time
67 hereafter shall be equally divided between his children then surviving. the
eighth of September
68 1604 in the presence of us hereunder named. **John Bust, parson of**
Penshurst, John Weekes
69 his mark. **Michael Colgate**

Valentine Carrier of Wrotham

Valentine Carrier's will (CKS: Prs/w/3/167) was written on 17th November 1628 by Charles Hutchinson, vicar of Wrotham, who wrote a number of wills for his parishioners . It was proved on 11th of the following February.

It is interesting in that Valentine left £10 to his niece and £20 to his married daughter, Anne, but the money was to be paid to George Cod who was to be, in effect, trustee of the money which was to be used for the benefit of Anne and her children "at his discretion" paying the principal to them when "he shall know their need". Anne's husband was alive and Valentine left him £12 so that the reason for George Cod's trusteeship was not that Valentine completely mistrusted him.

Valentine also left twenty shillings to one of his granddaughters, daughter of Anne. This was to be paid to the vicar for her use and "delivered into her hands when she shall come to years of discretion to use it herself".

3 Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. I, Valentine Carrier
of Wrotham
4 in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, sick in body but of good remembrance, laud
and praise be to
5 almighty God, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form
foll
6 owing: **First:** I bequeath my soul to God, my creator, by whose mercy in
Jesus
7 Christ I hope to be saved and my body to the earth to be buried in the
churchyard of
8 Wrotham aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Margaret Carrier,**
daughter
9 **of my brother Rafe Carrier,** £10 that money which is owing me⁵⁶ by **William**
Woodden
10 **of Orpington** for which I have his bond of ten pounds and which **his father,**
Henry
11 **Woodden of Horton**⁵⁷ hath promised me to see paid. **Item:** I give to **Anne**
Chowning,
12 **daughter of my daughter Anne Chowning als. Gregory** the sum of twenty

56 "mee" throughout but "be" not "bee"

57 Horton is about six miles from Wrotham and Orpington about ten miles, both to the north and west

13 shillings to be paid by my executor to **Charles Hutchinson, vicar of**
14 **Wrotham,**
15 for the use of the said Anne Chowning and to be delivered into her hands
16 when
17 she shall come to years of discretion to use it herself. **Item:** I give to the
18 **father, Jo. Chowning als. Gregory, my son-in-law** twelve pounds. **Item:** I
19 give to
20 **George Cod** the sum of twenty shillings. **Item:** I give to **Denis Adgo,**
21 my maid ten shillings. **Item:** I give and bequeath to George Cod for the
22 use
23 of **my daughter Anne, wife of John Chowning als. Gregory,** the sum of
24 twenty pounds which I will have the said George Cod to be ??
25 for her benefit and her children at his discretion and to pay it the principal
to her or them
at such time or times as he shall know their need to require. The
residue of all my goods, cattle and chattels, the lease of my farm
discharged?
to me and money, etc., I give and bequeath to **my son John Carrier** whom I
do
make and ordain my whole and sole executor of this my last will and
testament.

26 In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year
27 first above written Valentine

Carrier **X**
mark

Read, sealed, subscribed, published
and declared in the presence of

Charles Hutchinson, clerk

Robert Darman

William Soane

Jeremy Darman's
mark

Memorand that my will is that George
Cod shall receive into his hands the
abovesaid money due to me from William
Woodden and be guardian to use it
not Carrier

witnesses Char.
Hutchinson
Robert Darman
William Soane
Jeremy Darman's mark

X
Valentine Carrier
mark

In dei nom. Amen. The 29th day of March in the year of our lord 1522, I, John Carryer, of Kemsing, whole in mind make my testament in this wise: **First:** I bequeath my soul to god, my body to be buried in the churchyard of Kemsing. Also I bequeath to **Joone, my wife**, 3 acres of land during her life. And after her decease, I bequeath it to **my son, Robert Carryer**, the residue of my goods, I give to my wife and children.

witnesses: ? Barnes; **John Chowning**⁵⁸

The Carters of Seal and Kemsing

The following wills have survived for Carters of Seal and Kemsing:

| | # ⁵⁹ | date will | buried | | |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|---------------------|------------|
| John Carter | | 20 Oct 1464 | | CKS: Drb/Pwr 2.289 | see below |
| Edward Carter | #2357 | 31 Mar 1501 | | CKS: Drb/Pwr 6.34 | page c.97 |
| Reynold Carter | #2359 | 12 Jul 1526 | | CKS: Drb/Pwr 8.98b | page c.99 |
| Richard Carter | #2358 | 23 Sep 1538 | | CKS: Drb/Pwr 9.274a | page c.105 |
| Richard Carter | #19 | 15 May 1616 | 29 Apr 1618 | CKS: Drb/Pw 24 | page c.109 |

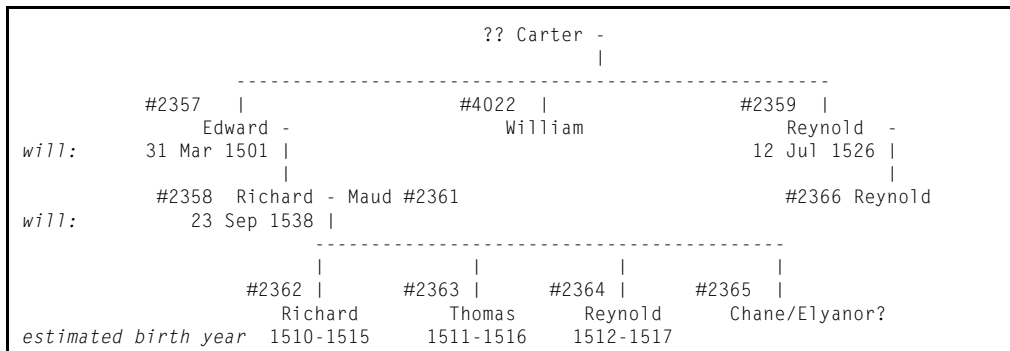
Reynold came from Kemsing; the others from Seal.

The will of John Carter was written 20th October 1464; he wished to be buried in the churchyard of Seal and the witnesses included **Thomas Clarke**. Nothing survives by which the relationship (if any) between John and the Carters of the sixteenth century can be determined.

⁵⁹ # denotes reference number in Seal database

The Sixteenth Century Testators

Edward mentions a son, Richard (possibly the Richard married to Maud whose will of 1526 has survived), but he seems to have left his land to brother William and, if William did not have any heirs, to his other brother Reynold. This Reynold could have been the Reynold Carter of Kemsing whose will was dated 1526.



Edward (#2357) was an approximate contemporay of **John(1) Tebold**. Richard was slightly older than **John(2) Tebold (#672)** who was a witness to his will.

Reynold, in 1526, left a considerable amount of land, including a messuage and garden called **Stonepett**, in the north east part of the parish. John(2) Tebold purchased land in **Tonbridge and Leigh** from a Reynold Carter of **Chiddingstone** sometime prior to 1545.

There is no obvious connection between the early Carters and the Richard Carter whose will has survived from 1616; he was buried in Seal on 29th April 1618 and details of his descendants can be deduced from the parish register of Seal.

Will of Edward Carter of Seal

written 31st March 1501

transcript from probate copy

In dei nome Amen. I, Edward Carter of Seal

...

...

. . **Item:** I give to the high altar . . 12d. **Item:** I give
6s 8d.

..

. . my obit . .

. . . son John?

... Richard Carter, my son,
.. William Olyver of Godden⁶⁰, mine overseer.

1 This is the last will of me, Edward Carter, aforesaid, made in the year
2 of our lord aforesaid. **First** I will that my lady ? ? shall have my dol??
3 in her keeping with the lands . . at the age of seven years if it please ? ?
4 to keep ? ? And the land to the bequest of the child. And if the said child
5 decease before (reaching its) lawful age, then I will that **William Carter my**
broder⁶¹, have my
6 lands. And if it happen my brother William to decease without heirs of the
body
7 lawfully begotten, then I will the said land shall remain unto **Raynold**
8 **Carter, my broder** and to his heirs for evermore
9 These being witness: **John Olyver**⁶², ? ? and many more

60 a will, dated 1516, has survived for William Olyver of Godden; it could have been this William Olyver (#85) or his father who was appointed Edward Carter's overseer

61 brother? Why, if he had a son, Richard, did he leave his land to his brother William and, if he died, to his brother Reynold?

62 John Olyver of Kettles (#3907) whose will is dated 1512?

1 In the name of god Amen. The 12th day of the month of July Anno
2 die 1526, I, **Reynold Carter of Kemsing,**
3 **yeoman,** in good mind make my testament and
4 last will as followeth: **First** I bequeath my soul
5 to Almighty god, to our lady saint mary and to
6 all the holy company in heaven, my body to be
7 buried in the churchyard of Kemsing aforesaid
8 **Item:** I bequeath to the high altar for my tithes
9 forgotten 8d. **Item:** I bequeath to **Sir Thomas**⁶³
10 now being parish priest of Kemsing aforesaid
11 to pray for my soul 6s 8d. And also unto
12 the parish clerk, Sir -- 8d **Item:** to the high altar
13 of Seal 2s. And unto **Sir Christopher** parish priest
14 to pray for my soul 6s 8d and to **William Sexton**⁶⁴
15 there 12d. **Item:** to each of my godchildren 4d

63 Thomas Tebold (#675) was the vicar of Seal and Kemsing in 1526; no name is given three lines below for the parish clerk but the curate of Seal at this time was Christopher Scharprow (Sir Christopher) on line 13

64 William, the sexton?

to pray for my soul if they do request it of my
executor. **Item:** I will that immediately after my
decease my said executor shall ?? and ordain a torch to
be of wax and made for 6s 8d. And the said
torch to be diss..ded at time con.. in the
hours of god, of our lady and of saint Edith
within her chapel standing in the churchyard of Kemsing
aforesaid, there to be used for as long as the
same torch will endure. **Item:** I ordain and bequeath
that mine executor shall bestow, by his discretion,
for my soul in the day of my burying 10s
and the day of my month mind 20s. And
at my years mind 6s 8d. **Item:** I bequeath to the
reparations of the church of Seal and to the reparations
of the church of Kemsing, to each of them, 6s 8d
to be bestowed where most needed is. The residue
of all my moveable goods ?? not willed
nor bequeathed and debts first paid and this my
present testament and will performed, I give to **Raynolde Carter,**
my son, the which Raynolde I make and ordain
my executor.

This is the last will and ordinance of me the

foresaid Reynold Carter, th'older, made in the
day and year above written unto **Robert a Ware**,
of **Cranbrook**, **William Watts** and **William Frenche**
the younger of Seal, feoffees of and in all my
lands and tenements, ?? and ??, meadows and
pastures withall and singular th'appurtenances
set ?? lying and being in the parishes of Seal
and Kemsing or elsewhere in
the County of Kent. As in a certain deed
whose day is the 10 day of July in the 18th
year of the reign of King Harry the 8th⁶⁵ these of
made more plainly doth appear. Where upon
first I will and ordain that, immediately after my
decease, my said feoffees, their heirs or assigns,
shall deliver unto the said Reynolde Carter, my son
to his heirs and assigns, my messuage and garden
called **Stonepit** And 7 parcels of land And the
?? ? thereunto annexed whereof the
first is called the second is called
Cymling?, the third is called **Woodhaw**, the fourth
Kerchy croft, the fifth and the sixth be called champion

65 two days before the date of the will

lands. And also the seventh is a croft of land called
blokk? land lying in the foresaid parish
of Seal which said croft, lying unto the lands
of **John Fuller** at south and west and unto the
?? street against the north and east ?? with
the said ?? And also I will that immed
iately after my decease, in like manner, my
said feoffees, their heirs and assigns, shall deliver unto the
said Reynolde Carter, my son, another croft
of land with th'appurtenances called the **Roy** to
either lying and being in the parish of **Kemsing**
aforesaid to have and to hold the said messuage
gardens, 7 parcels of land, - byr hawe close
of land called the Roye with all and singular th'appurtenances
unto the said Reynolde Carter, my son, his heirs and
assigns forever. Also I will and ordain immediately
after my decease, my said feoffees, their heirs and
assigns, with other honest persons at their discretion
and choice, shall divide, lay out and shift into parts
as equally and indifferently as they can a ??
?? of my said lands in Seal aforesaid. Where
of 2 parcels be called **Great Halfield** and **Little Halfield**.
Furthermore, all the residue of the lands lying and

82 being within the circuit and bounds of the said
83 close, except and ?? thereof the said -byr
84 hawe which is to the said Reynolde, my son, before
85 willed and assigned. And when it is so shifted and
86 delivered, then I will that the said Reynolde Carter,
87 my son, or his assigns, to the use of the said
88 Reynolde shall choose the first part of the same close of
89 land so shifted. And when the said Reynolde
90 or his assigns hath so chosen, then I will that
91 my forenamed feoffees, their heirs and assigns shall
92 deliver a sufficient and lawful assent of ??
93 same parts so first chosen unto the said Reynolde
94 Carter, my son, to his heirs and assigns forever
95 when so ever the same feoffees, heirs and assigns
96 shall ?? by the same Reynolde, his heirs and
97 assigns reasonably require. And then in like manner
98 I will that my said feoffees, heirs and assigns,
99 shall deliver a part of ?? in that other part of
100 ?? the said close of land so shifted
101 unto Reynolde Carter, my son, to his heirs and
102 assigns forever when so ever the same feoffees, their heirs
103 or assigns, shall thereunto by the said Reynolde be lawfully
104 required. All way except a ?? the forsaid ??

105 have unto Reynolde as is before wheresaid. Also in like
106 manner, I will and ordain that immediately after my
107 decease, my said feoffees, their heirs and assigns with
108 other honest persons at their discretion and choice
109 shall divide, lay and shift into parts as equally and
110 indifferently as they can, another close of my lands
111 there whereof the ?? part is called **Long Rule**
112 another wheat? field and ?? ?? with all the
113 residue of the said lands lying and being within
114 the circuit and bounds of the said close and ??
115 parts and parcels thereof. And when it is so divided,
116 shifted, that then I will the forenamed Reynolde
117 Carter, my son, or his assigns, shall choose for him
118 self which part thereof that he ?? And when
119 he hath so chosen, then I will my said feoffees,
120 their heirs or assigns, shall deliver a sufficient and
121 lawful estate? of and in the said part so
122 chosen unto the said Reynolde Carter, my son,
123 to his heirs and assigns forever. When so ever
124 the same feoffees, their heirs or assigns, shall deliver
125 a lawful estate of and in that other part of the
126 said close of land so shifted unto the said Reynolde
127 Carter, my son, to his heirs and assigns for ever

128 In witness whereof
to the copy of this present testament and last will
of the forenamed Reynold Carter did set
his seal In the day and year before written. Also
unto this present testament and will witnesses:
**Robert A ware; William Fremlyn/Frenche?; ?? Thomas
R-- Robert Miller; Gilbert Miller⁶⁶; Richard Robins
and others**

Sir Thomas Barnes

Will of Richard Carter of Seal 1538

written 23rd September 1538
transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The year of our lord
2 god 1538, the 23rd day of September,
3 I, Richard Carter, of Seal, whole in mind, make
4 my testament in this manner. **First:** I bequeath

⁶⁶ the Millers were a large Kemsing family with the Gilbert Miller who died in January 1557 (k887) having children in the 1520s and 1530s (k is a reference in the Kemsing database)

5 my soul to god, my body to be buried in the
6 churchyard of Seal. **Item:** to them at my burying
7 6s 8d. **Item:** to **Richard, my son**, 4 steers of
8 2 years of age to be delivered to him on Saint
9 ?? day next after my death. **Item:** to **Thomas?**
10 **my son**, one quarter of wheat to be delivered to him
11 before the said feast. **Item:** to **Raynold, my son**,
12 a cow bullock of one year and to be delivered to
13 him immediately after my decease. **Item:** to
14 **Chane?**⁶⁷, **my daughter**, 40s to be paid to her
15 by **Maude, my wife**, or to them that hath
16 the keeping of the said Chane after the death
17 of Maude, my wife. And she to have the
18 keeping of the said Chane? during her life.

19 The residue of all my moveable goods, my
20 debts and legacies paid, I bequeath to Maude,
21 my wife, whom I make my sole executrix. Witness
22 hereof, **John ??, John Hopkyn, Edmund Porter**
23 and **John Theobald**

67 Eleanor? - this was perhaps her married name but if so, why was Maud, her mother, to have the care of her?

Richard Carter 1616

Information from the parish registers gives some details of Richard's children and grandchildren.

In the 1550s, Richard had been a servant of **William Olyver of Leybourne** (#3927) who died in 1561; Richard and his wife Elizabeth whom he had married in 1560, then returned to Seal. Elizabeth was buried on 24th May 1611 when they had been married for over fifty years.

Even though he must have been approaching eighty, Richard married again on 3rd October 1611. Margaret Style, his new wife, who was only twenty-eight (see **Style**), had been a servant of **William Porter** who left her two ewes in his will. Eighteen month's after Richard's death, "**Margaret Carter, widow**" married Richard Childrens (#2310) who had also been a servant of William Porter and had been left a bullock.

| | | | | | | | |
|-------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| mar: | #20 | 1560 | #19 | 3 Oct 1611 | #1196 | 14 Oct 1619 | #2310 |
| | Elizabeth Dune | - | Richard ⁶⁸ | - | Margaret Style | - | Richard Childrens |
| will: | | | 15 May 1616 | | | | |
| bur: | 24 May 1611 | | 29 Apr 1618 | | end 1649 ⁶⁹ | | |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | |
| | #21 | #1243 | #139 | #210 | | #424 | #496 |
| | Elizabeth | John Frenche | Margaret | John | - Susan | William | William |
| bap: | 19 Nov 1561 | | 6 Aug 1564 | 28 Jul 1566 | | 24 Oct 1568 | 13 Dec 1570 |
| bur: | | | 20 Feb 1595 | | 10 Jan 1602 | | <May 1616 |
| | | 7 children | aged 30 ⁷⁰ | | | | |
| | | see Frenche #1243 | | | | | |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | |
| | #1820 | #1875 | #2302 | #2303 | #2293? | #3981 | #1084 |
| | William | Jane | John | - Joane Wood | William | Thomas | Joan |
| bap: | 7 Apr 1594 | 7 Nov 1596 | 8 Apr 1600 | | | | |
| mar: | | | 30 Jun 1622 | | | | |

Richard's legacies to his grandchildren seem incomprehensively varied but, no doubt, there was some reason (or reasons) behind this. Elizabeth married John Frenche on 7th August 1587 when she was twenty-six. Although all seven of Elizabeth's children were baptised between 1589 and 1608 only Denise (perhaps Dorothy) was mentioned by Richard. Since nothing other than their baptism is known about these children, perhaps, although unlikely, they all died before 1616.

⁶⁸ It was probably this Richard Carter who witnessed the will of **William Porter of Hall** (#58) in 1610

⁶⁹ widow when she was buried

⁷⁰ if burial refers to Margaret baptised in 1564

Or they might have been considered the responsibility of the Frenches with Denise's 20s a little extra from her grandfather.

Of John's children, William was left 10s, Jane 20s and John some land but William was to have the land left to Richard's young daughter, Mildred, if she died without heirs. Richard's youngest son, William, had died before 1616.

William's eldest son, William was left only 5s 8d - perhaps because he was his father's heir; he could have been the William, son of William Carter, born in 1607 (#2293 see page 116) but this would have meant he was only nine when his grandfather wrote his will and younger than this when his father died. Thomas and Joan were each left £12 by their grandfather. William was to have his 5s 8d within six months of his grandfather's death but no mention is made of when Thomas and Joan were to receive theirs.

Will of Richard Carter of Seal 1616

written 15th May 1616

transcript from original

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The fifteenth day of May 1616, I, Richard Carter of Seal, in the County of Kent, England, **husbandman**,

2 being of good and perfect memory and also of body, thanks be unto god
therefore. But knowing that death is most certain
3 And the time there of most uncertain, do now therefore at this time make
this my last will and testament in manner and
4 form following, that is to say, **First** and principally I give and bequeath my
soul unto Almighty god, my maker
5 And to his son Jesus Christ, my Redeemer by whose death and passion
only, And by none other means whatsoever, I
6 hope to be saved. And my body to be buried in the churchyard of Seal by
my executors hereafter in this my will named.

7 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **John Carter, my son** twenty pounds to be
paid by my executors within one month
8 After my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Elizabeth, my daughter,**
the **wife of John Frenche**, ten shillings.

9 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Denise Frenche, the daughter of John**
Frenche twenty shillings. **Item:** I give unto
10 **Jane Carter, the daughter of John Carter**, twenty shillings. **Item:** I give and
bequeath unto **William Carter, the son of John Carter**
11 ten shillings. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **William Carter (son of my**
son William Carter of late deceased)
12 five shillings and eight pence to be paid within six months after my
decease. All which said legacies

13 Amounting unto the sum of eight⁷¹ pounds ?? shillings and eight pence to
be paid by my overseer
14 **Robert Olyver of Leybourne** As is hereafter named to be income out of two
parcels of land lying
15 and being in the parish of Seal aforesaid . . . that one parcel is called by the
name of **Haygelette** and
16 the other is called **Bircht Meare**. And I . . . unto my said overseer by this my
last will and testament
17 full power and ?? right to demise, let and sell the said two parts or parcels
of land to whom he shall
18 think good until the said legacies of eight pounds seven shillings and
eightpence be fully satisfied and paid
19 paying them the first . . . concerning the disposition of all my lands and
tenements, I give and
20 bequeath unto **Margaret, now my wife**, the ?? and occupation of one acre
and a half of ground next or left

71 should be £3 5s 8d if the amount of the bequests given is correct and the twenty pounds to John is not included.
On line 18 the total is given as £8 7s 8d; perhaps the bequest to John was meant to be £5 and the 7s in the latter
occurrence is a misreading

21 lying and being next **Godden** .. for the term of ten years next after my
decease, if she happen
22 so long to live, for and toward the keeping, repair of the mansion or
dwelling house and barn to the same belonging
23 which said house and barn she holdeth by deed of feoffment from me?
Richard Carter before marriage
24 between her and Richard solemnized . . that in regard of having the said
part of land of the said
25 not kept the repair of the house and barn aforesaid, then she to loose the
benefit of having the same.
26 **Item:** I will that after the decease of the said **Margaret, my now wife**, I give
and bequeath unto **John**
27 **Carter, my eldest son**, during the term of his life, the use and ?? of the
kitchen wherein he
28 now dwelleth as it now hath the same in possession. By my courtesy, the
one . . of the orchard
29 one garden plot lying at the east side of the said house as it is now divided
and enclosed
30 together with one parcel of land . . at **Bircht Meare**. All the said kitchen
parcel of the said garden plot called **Birchte** and ways . . . as hath been
31 bequeathed to **John Carter, the son of my son John Carter**, to have and to
hold unto him and to

32 the heirs of his body for ever. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Thomas Carter,**
33 **the son of William Carter,**
34 twelve pounds. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Joan Carter, the daughter of**
35 **my said son William Carter,** twelve pounds.
36 I give and bequeath unto **Mildred Carter**⁷², **my youngest daughter,** the
37 house, garden and barn and . .
38 as I now have it. **Item:** I give unto the said Mildred Carter, one parcel of
39 land called **Hayglebe** and
40 another parcel of land lying next unto **Godden green** containing, by
41 estimation, one acre and a quarter
42 all which house, barn and garden . . . and one other parcel of land
43 containing one acre and a half . . . the parish of Seal to the said Mildred,
44 my daughter, and the heirs of her body if lawfully begotten for ever. And
45 for default of heirs . . to William
46 Carter, the son of my son John Carter, and his heirs for ever. The residue of
47 all my goods,
48 chattels, moveables and unmoveables, I give and bequeath to the said
49 Margaret, my wife, whom I make my
50 sole executrix of this my last will and testament. And she to see and pay
51 my debts and my funeral

72 baptised 25 March 1616 and therefore less than two months old when her father wrote his will

43 expenses discharged. Finally I request my well beloved **Mr. Robert Olyver**
of **Leyborne**⁷³ to be aiding my said
44 executrix and whom I do make overseer of this my last will and testament.
And my executrix to pay his charges whensoever it shall travail them.

Witnessed . . by the testator bequested Richard Carter, mark (X) and seal.
witnesses: **Edmond Porter; William Thomas (#2531)**

The William Carters

There were two William Carters recorded in Seal, one having children between 1575 and 1592 and the second (who could have been the grandson of the Richard Carter who wrote his will in 1616) marrying in 1630.

⁷³ possibly the son of Robert (#4168) the son of William Olyver of Leybourne (#3927); William died in 1561 when his son Robert was under 18

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M C | Died |
|--------|---|-------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------|-------------------|
| #371 | <u>CARTER, William</u> ⁷⁴ ----- | <1554 | 17 Oct 1574 | Thomasine Phillips #372 | 1 6 3 | Nov 1598 about 50 |
| • 809 | <u>CARTER, Thomas</u> | 14 Aug 1575 | | | 0 0 1 | Oct 1595 age 20 |
| • 1203 | <u>CARTER, Nathaniel</u> | 25 Aug 1583 | | | 0 0 17 | Sep 1583 at 3 wks |
| • 1274 | <u>CARTER, John</u> | 23 Aug 1584 | | | 0 0 6 | Sep 1584 at 2 wks |
| • 1418 | <u>Carter, Elizabeth</u> | 24 Feb 1587 | | | 0 0 | |
| • 1512 | <u>Carter, Mary</u> | 9 Jul 1588 | 27 Nov 1609 married at 21 | John Herst #2032 | 1 0 | |
| • 1755 | <u>Carter, Margaret</u> | 5 Mar 1592 | 15 Jul 1616 married at 24 | James GAMBOL #2050 | 1 0 | |

⁷⁴ taken as the William who died in 1598. It is likely that his wife was the sister of Johane Phillips (#337) who married Steven Atherfold in 1567 and called he youngest daughter Thomasine.

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M C | Died |
|--------|-------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------|-----|---------------------|
| 2293 | <u>CARTER, William</u> | 18 Jan 1607 | | | 2 6 | |
| | | listed in Knole MS 1648 - Godden and Fawke | | | | |
| | <i>Marriage 1</i> | | 22 Aug 1630 | Alice Roberts | 1 2 | |
| | | | married at 23 | #2294 | | |
| 2294 | <u>Roberts, Alice</u> | 14 Aug 1603 | | | 1 2 | 17 May 1635 aged 31 |
| | | | married at 27 | | | |
| • 2295 | <u>Carter, Alice</u> | 27 Nov 1631 | | | 0 0 | 24 Mar 1634 at 2% |
| • 2296 | <u>Carter, Margaret</u> | 7 Apr 1634 | | | 0 0 | |
| | <i>Marriage 2</i> | | 9 Nov 1635 | Elizabeth Woodgate | 1 4 | |
| | | | | #2297 | | |
| • 2298 | <u>Carter, Mary</u> | 3 Jul 1636 | <9 months after marriage | | 0 0 | 1 Apr 1640 at 3.75 |
| • 2299 | <u>CARTER, William</u> | 21 Jan 1638 | | | 0 0 | 24 Jan 1638 <1wk |
| • 2300 | <u>Carter, Anne</u> | 2 May 1641 | | | 0 0 | |
| • 2301 | <u>CARTER, William</u> | 27 Feb 1648 | | | 0 0 | |

Other Carters

There are also a number of apparently isolated events which cannot be "fitted in" to the known Carter families. Since "Carter" is a common name, they may not be related at all.

Richard Carter (#1028) married **Agnes Driver** (#1029) on 25th May 1581.

Margaret Carter, widow, (#2367) was buried 28th December 1600

Another **widow Carter**, no first name given, was buried 1 July 1612 and **Ruth Carter** (no other information given) was buried on 6th March 1619.

William Carter (#2304) married **Jane Butler** (#2307) on 5th February 1624 by a licence from Rochester.

Francis (#2316), **wife of William Carter** (#2315), was buried on 13th January 1628 with William being buried on 13th April 1628; they had had a daughter, **Margaret** (#2318), baptised on 22nd October 1620.

Jane Carter (#2311) married **William Fuller** (#2313) on 14th January 1633; **Elizabeth Carter** (#2312) married **Richard Fuller** (#2314) on 21st March 1647 and they had a son, **Richard** (#3807), baptised 21st May 1649. Although there were Fullers in Seal, William and Richard cannot be identified.

A **John Carter** is listed in the Knole MS of 1648 under Stone Street and Bitchet.

Much earlier, in 1450, a Richard Carter was constable of the Hundred of Codsheath and a follower of Jack Cade (Cooper, W.D.J., John Cade's Followers in Kent, A.C. Vol.7, p.251; see also Chapter 2 of HOS)

The introduction to this will is interesting:

If God shall be pleased to call me before my last will be formally made then this my last will as follows: **First:** I bequeath my soul to my Redeemer . .

George Chatfield of Tonbridge

This will (CKS: Drb/Pw 17; Drb/Pwr 18.586) was written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618. Although it is written in Nicholas Hooper's hand and the spelling is typical of him ("folowing", "bludshedding", "bee", etc.), it is not decorated as many of his wills are.

It was proved on 1st September 1596 before John Stockwood, vicar of Tonbridge and John Grant, vicar of Leigh. The costs of probate, etc, are recorded on the back of the will:

| | | |
|-----------------------|-------|----------------------------|
| probate | 3s 6d | |
| engrossing | 4d | |
| registry | 4d | |
| off. | 2d | |
| other & wax | 8d | |
| commission | 2s 6d | Total 16s 8d ⁷⁵ |
| Inventory non exhibit | | |

⁷⁵ commission; the total is given as 16s 8d whilst the items only add up to 7s 6d but there is a note "inventory non exhibit."; perhaps this accounts for the discrepancy

George had three sons and two daughters living when he wrote his will, two of whom, George and Martha, were under twenty-one. He also had a number of grandchildren to whom he left twenty shillings each but he refers to them just as his "children's children".

| | | | | | | |
|-------|--|-------|------------|-----------------|-----------|--------|
| will: | | t747 | George | - | Elizabeth | t748 |
| bur: | | | 4 Jun 1596 | | | |
| | | | 6 Jun 1596 | | | |
| ----- | | | | | | |
| t749 | | t750 | | t754 | | t751 |
| John | | Mavis | - | Robert Grayling | Thomas | George |
| | | | | | | Martha |

Will of George Chatfield of Tonbridge

written 4th June 1596

transcript from probate copy since original is damaged

1 In the name of god Amen.
 2 The fourth day of June in the year of our lord
 3 god one thousand, five hundred, four score
 4 and sixteen and in the eighth and thirtieth
 5 year of the reign of our sovereign lady
 6 Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of
 7 England, France and Ireland, defender of the
 8 faith. I, George Chatfield of Tonbridge

9 in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick and
10 weak in body but yet of perfect mind and
11 remembrance, thanks therefore be given to
12 Almighty god, do ordain and make this my
13 present last will and testament in manner and
14 form following: that is to say, **First** and
15 principally I give and bequeath my soul into
16 the hands of Almighty god, my maker, and
17 to Jesus Christ, his dear son, my alone
18 saviour and redeemer, by whose merit,
19 precious death and blood shedding I trust only
20 to be saved. And my body to the earth. **Item:** I
21 will that there shalbe bestowed at my burial, at
22 the discretion of mine executor hereafter
23 named, ten shillings among the poor of Tonbridge⁷⁶.
24 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Thomas Chatfield**,
25 **my second son**, ten pounds of lawful money
26 to be paid within one whole year next after
27 my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath to
28 **George Chatfield, my youngest son**, the sum of

76 in the original the following item has been crossed out: **Item:** I give and bequeath to my eldest son **John Chatfield** the sum of five pounds lawful money to be paid within one whole year next after my decease".

twenty pounds lawful money to be paid to him at his full age of one and twenty years.

Item: I give and bequeath unto **my daughter, Mavis, wife of Robert Grayling**, the sum of ten pounds lawful money to be paid within one whole year next after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Martha Chatfield, my youngest daughter**, the sum of twenty pounds to be paid to her at her full age of one and twenty years or at the day of her marriage which shall first happen.

Item: I will to every of my children's children the sum of twenty shillings a piece to be paid to them at the discretion of mine executor. The residue of all my goods, cattells, leases, debts and chattels, I wholly, fully and with good effect, intent and purpose give and bequeath to **Elizabeth, my wellbeloved wife**, whom I do ordain and make my whole and sole executor of this my last will to see the same proved, my debts and legacies paid and my body honestly brought to the earth. This is the last will of me the said George Chatfield made and declared the day and year first above written concerning the

52 disposition of a little messuage, barn, garden,
53 orchard and a parcel of land adjoining, by
54 estimation three acres whether more or less, to
55 be had together, situated, lying and being at ??
56 in Tonbridge aforesaid. All which messuage or
57 tenement and all other the premises with
58 all and singular th'appurtenances, I will and
59 bequeath to **John Chatfield, my eldest son,**
60 to him and to his heirs, the same with all and
61 singular th'appurtenances unto the said John,
62 my son, his heirs and assigns, for ever. In
63 witness whereof I, the said George Chatfield,
64 to this my present last will and testament have set
65 my hand and seal yeven the day and year first
66 above written in the presence of **John Stockwood**⁷⁷,
67 **Thomas Chawne, John Gates**⁷⁸, **Nicholas Hooper,**
68 writer hereof and others. sign. George Chatfield

77 vicar of Tonbridge

78 or was this John Grant, vicar of Leigh?

Although other Cheeseman wills have survived, this (PCC: Prob 10/382: Dale 37) is the only one from Speldhurst. It was written by John Hooper, notary public and parish clerk of Tonbridge. The Hooper family wrote many wills in the Tonbridge locality from the late 1550s until at least 1650, the date at which this study ends

1 In the name of god Amen. The four and
2 twentieth day of January in the year of our Lord God
3 according to the computation of the Church of England,
4 one thousand, six hundred and twenty. I, Thomas
5 Cheeseman of Speldhurst in the county of Kent,
6 **palemaker**⁷⁹, being sick and weak in body but of
7 good remembrance (praised be god) do ordain
8 and make this my testament and last will in
9 manner and form following: **First:** yielding my
10 soul to Almighty God, my maker, with an assured
11 hope to be saved by his mercy in the merit and

79 "paylemaker"

mediation of his dear son Jesus Christ, my
saviour, and my body to the earth in decent
manner to be buried with and assured hope of
resurrection to life eternal. I will to the poor of
Speldhurst aforesaid 10s. **Item:** I will unto **Margery,**
my loving daughter, whom I have already
preferred, ten shillings for a token of the remembrance
of my love towards her. The residue of all my
goods, cattle and chattels, I wholly and fully
will and give to **Elizabeth, my loving wife,**
whom I make the sole and whole executrix of this
my testament and last will to see this my will
proved, my debts and legacies paid and my body
decently buried. In witness whereof I have, to
this my testament and last will, set my hand

27 and seal yeven⁸⁰ the day and year first above
28 written.

The mark of

Read, sealed, subscribed
and declared in the presence of **Edward Young**
Thomas Grombridge and **John**
Hooper, notary publique.

Thomas Cheeseman

80 a version of "given" often used by the Hoopers

The original of this will (CKS: Drb/Pw 19) has survived but it is in a damaged state and the film is difficult to read; the transcript below is therefore from the probate copy (Drb/Pwr 191.235).

1 In the name of god Amen. The five and
2 twentieth day of February in the year of our
3 Lord Christ according to the computation of
4 the church of England and the year five

page 2:

5 five hundred, four score and nineteen, and in the
6 two and fortieth year of the reign of our
7 most gracious sovereign Lady Elizabeth
8 by the grace o f god Queen of England,
9 France and Ireland, defender of the
10 faith, etc. I, Henry Child of the
11 parish of Strood next to the city of
12 Rochester in the county of Kent and diocese
13 of Rochester beforesaid, fruiterer, being in both

14 good mind and perfect health and memory,
15 thanks be togod, therefore do make and
16 declare and set down in writing this my
17 present last will and testament in manner
18 and form as followeth: that is to say, **First**
19 and principally I commend and commit my
20 soul into the hands and merciful ??
21 of the almighty god, my maker, redeemer and
22 sanctifier and my body to be buried when and
23 where soever it shall plaease god to call me.
24 And as for that portion of worldly goods
25 where with god hath blessed me, I give and bequeath
26 the same as followeth: that is to say, **First**
27 to the poor people of the parish of Strood
28 aforesaid, the sum of three shillings four
29 pence of good and lawful money of England
30 to be distributed at my burial. **Item:** I give
31 and bequeath to **my daughter, Judith?**, the sum
32 of ten pounds of good and lawful money
33 of England to be paid to her at the age of
34 twenty years or day of her marriage
35 which of them both shall first happen
36 of them. I will that **Hellen, my wife** and

37 William, my son, the profit of the
38 money to her bequeathed towards her
39 bringing up. **Item:** I give to my daughter,
40 Agnes, the sum of ten pounds of like
41 money to be paid to her within one year
42 after my decease. More I will and give
43 to my said daughter Agnes two milch kyne
44 and nine mother sheep which are in the
45 keeping of ?? Pawlens in Chartham? in
46 the abovesaid county of Kent, the said kyne
47 and sheep to be delivered her with the

page 3:

48 foresaid ten pounds. More, I give to the said
49 Agnes, my daughter, a bedstead in the loft where
50 I lie with a featherbed and feather bolster with all
51 things thereto belonging, two brass pots, the one
52 of the middle size, the other a smaller. **Item:**
53 I give to the said Hellen, my wife, all my
54 goods whatsoever she brought unto me at or
55 before the time of her marriage with me.
56 More, I will and give to my said wife
57 the sum of five pounds of good and

58 lawful money of England to be paid to
59 her within one month after my decease.
60 All the rest of my goods, chattels, cattell
61 and credits whatsoever not before bequeathed,
62 my debts and legacies and funeral expenses
63 being paid and discharged, I wholly give and
64 bequeath to the said William, my son, whom
65 I make sole executor of this my said last will
66 and testament and make overseers thereof
67 **my brothers, John Child and William Child**
68 of the parish of Meopham in the foresaid county
69 of Kent and give to both of them for their
70 pains 3s 4d sterling. And lastly I give
71 to **Agnes, the daughter of one** ⁸¹ **Russe?**
72 of Higham in the said county of Kent, the
73 sum of twenty shillings of good and
74 lawful money of England to be paid her at
75 her full age of eighteen yeras. In witness that
76 this is my present last will and testament
77 I have hereunto set my hand and seal the
78 day and year aforesaid in the presence of

81 space left here

79 the witnesses as hereunder named. The mark of
80 Henry Child, testator. Witnesses hereof
81 **Richard Standen**, the mark of Simon
82 **Cray?** witness, **William Beane**, notary
83 public, writer.

Will of Johan Chowll of Seal

written 1503

CKS: Drb/Pwr 6.222

In dei nom. Amen. . . die month July Anno 1503. I, Johan Chowell of Seal . .

. . .

Item: lego . high altar 8d **Item:** lego . .

. . lego **Richard Pelset**, . . £3 6s 8d

. . .

witnesses: ? **Rogers; William Denman**

The Christophers of Seal

The Christophers are a large Seal family some of whose descendants have been traced to the present day⁸². There were 52 Christopher births recorded in Seal between 1562 and 1655⁸³ but there were no Christophers recorded in the Ightham, Kemsing or Shipbourne registers and all the wills which have survived are for people from Seal:

| | | date of will | burial | Will Ref. ⁸⁴ | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------------|------------|
| John Christofer (al. Dorset) | | 1461pd | | 2.201 | page c.133 |
| John Cristofer | | 8 Jul 1501 | | 5.403 | page c.136 |
| Richard Cristofer | | 16 Mar 1532 | Mar/Apr 1532 | 8.287 | page c.141 |
| *William Christopher | #257 ⁸⁵ | 20 Nov 1562 | 3 Dec 1562 | 13.37; 7 | page c.147 |
| *Margaret Christopher | #258 | 15 Dec 1575 | 4 Jan 1576 | 15.48; 11 | page c.149 |

⁸² Clinch, Anne; A Kentish Family, The Christophers of Seal, Kemsing and the Medway Towns; unpublished; 2000

⁸³ See also Jean Fox: Seal, Kemsing and Ightham - 1560 to 1650, A.C. Volume 112, 1993

⁸⁴ CKS references; Drb/Pwr folloerf by Drb/Pw where this exists

⁸⁵ # denotes number in Seal database; "I" in that for Ightham

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| John Christopher | #2376 | 1 Aug 1574 ⁸⁶ | at Cobham | 15.54; 11 | page c.153 |
| Thomas Christopher | #794 | 18 May 1577 | gap in reg. | 15.68; 11 | page c.159 |
| *James Christopher | #155 | 8 Dec 1577 | 9 Dec 1577 | 16.10; 12 | page c.164 |
| *William Christopher | #251 | not dated | 12 Oct 1592 | 18.268; 16 | page c.169 |

* only abstracts have been produced for these four wills.

The will of John Christopher of 1574 is one of the earliest known wills witnessed, and most likely written, by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne who wrote a large number of wills for parishes in the vicinity of Shipbourne from the 1570s up to 1608.

John Christopher, alias Dorset, 1461

John owned lands and tenements in Seal and leased some in Shipbourne. Those in Seal were to go to his wife Alice for twenty-four years after his decease and then to his two sons, John and Richard. If his wife was pregnant and the child was a boy, John and Richard were to pay him twenty shillings.

Alice was to have the lease of his lands and tenements in Shipbourne for eight years. Was this the outstanding period of the lease?

If his sons died without heirs, after their deaths and the death of Alice, his properties were to be sold by his feoffees for the best price and the money used to buy a tenor bell for the church of Seal with the residue going to the poor and other works for the good of his soul.⁸⁷

This final instruction raises an interesting point. Alice was still of child bearing age, probably under forty and she could have been only thirty. She could have lived for another forty years. If so, and the sons had died without heirs, who was to sell John's property and organise its use for the items specified? Who took over if feoffees died before they could carry out the duties specified?

From the proviso that Alice was to have John's property for twenty-four years, it is likely that John and Richard were young children and this is made more likely by Alice's possible pregnancy. This makes it unlikely that the John Christopher who died in 1501 was the son of this John. It is more probable that the two Johns were of the same generation.

John Christopher, 1501

John Christopher who wrote his will in 1501 had connections with **Ightham** as well as Seal, leaving money to the high altars of both churches; he also left money for a priest to pray for him and a torch for Seal church. He died without having any children to inherit his lands and tenements (which were in Seal) and he therefore left them to two John Christophers, the sons of Robert and William Christopher, possibly his brothers. He also left 26s 8d to the marriage of **Alice Salmon, the daughter of William Salmon**, who was perhaps a niece.

If both of the John Christophers died without heirs his land and tenements were to remain to the heirs of **William Christopher and to Amy, his wife**, but if they had no heirs they were to be sold by his feoffees "[to the most value](#)". Of the money thus obtained ten marks was to be for a priest to pray for a year for his soul, the souls of his parents and his "[good friends in the church of Seal](#)" with the residue being disposed of by his feoffees in "[other deeds of charity there most needed](#)."

•

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Will of John Christopher 1501</i> | written 8th July 1501 transcript from probate copy |
|--------------------------------------|---|

c.136

8 for my ?? ?d. **Item:** I bequeath to the church of Seal a torch for
9 ? d. **Item:** to the church of Ightham a torch for 6s 8d. **Item:** to the
10 marriage of **Alice Salmon, the daughter of William Salmon**, 26s 8d.
11 The residue of all my goods not bequeathed, my debts first and principally
12 paid and content, my bequests and funeral expenses paid, a year ??
13 to **Alice, my wife**, the which Alice and **Thomas Smyth of Fawke** I make
And
14 ordain mine executors that they ?? dispose for the health of my soul as
15 they think best ? ? of Seal

rest of this part unreadable

1 This is the last will of me the said John Christopher made the day and
2 year aforesaid of all my lands and tenements lying and being in the parish
3 of Seal. **First** I will that **Alice, my wife**, have for time of her life
4 all my lands and tenements with all the ?? And all the issue
5 of Alice, my wife. I will that all my said lands and tenements
6 with the pertaining ?? remain to **John Christopher, the son of Robert**
7 **Christopher and to John Christopher, the son of William Christopher of ??**⁸⁸
8 the heirs of their body lawfully begotten. And if it happen

9 that the said John Christopher and John Christopher die without heirs of
their
10 bodied lawfully begotten, then I will that all the issue of all my
11 ?? All my said lands and tenements with the appurtenances to remain to
the
12 heirs of **William Christopher and to Amy, his wife**, and for lack of heirs
13 of them to be sold by mine feoffees to the most value. And the
14 money thereof coming to be dispersed in for following: **First** I
15 will ten marks thereof to a Secular? priest to pray for ?? of my
16 ? ? ? my good friends in the church of Seal by the (space) of
17 a whole year. The residue to be disposed of by my said feoffees in
18 other deeds of charity there most needed and ? ?

Richard Christopher's Family

The next surviving will is that of Richard Christopher written 16th March 1532 with probate on 25th May of the same year. Land named in Richard's will was

- a house called **Rye Robets**
- a parcel of ground called **Walters deyne** containing 11 acres
- a plot of ground called **Padwell**
- a parcel of land called **Desyotons**, the acre of **Stomble**, **Lostyn hill**, **Denysdene**, **Poret Stile**, **Southfelde**⁹⁰

Many of these appear on the tithe map of 1839.

Richard Christopher was mentioned in the will of **John Olyver of Kettles (#3907)** who died in 1512. Richard's son William must have been William Christopher (#257) whose will of 1562 has survived since land left by Richard to his son William was left thirty years later by #257 to his sons. Margaret (#258) was William's wife and John, James, William and Thomas his sons so that here we have a set of wills for father, mother and four sons. Three of these brothers, James, John and Thomas, died in 1577, two of them in May whilst the fourth brother, William, and his sister Johane died within a month of each other in 1592.

90 Walters Deane, Padwell, Stomble, Lostyn Hill are identifiable in William's will. Denysden could be William's Dynes Deane but Desyotons and Southfield do not appear in his will.

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------|--------------------------------|------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------|----------------|---------|
| | #4556 Richard - Margaret #4557 | | | | | | | |
| will: | 16 Mar 1532 | | | | | | | |
| died: | Mar/Apr 1532 | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | #257 William - Margaret #258 | | | | | | | |
| will: | 20 Nov 1562 15 Dec 1575 | | | | | | | |
| bur: | 3 Dec 1562 4 Jan 1576 | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | ----- | | | | | | | |
| | #155 | #156 | #251 | #259 | #260 | #2376 | #794 | #795 |
| | James - Alice Ifield | | William - | Johane - | William Beecher | John | Thomas - | Isabell |
| born: | <1534 | | <1536 | <1538 | | <1540 | >1541 | Terry |
| will: | 8 Dec 1577? | | not dated | | | 1 Aug 1574 | 18 May 1577 | |
| bur: | 9 Dec 1577 | | 12 Oct 1592 | 5 Nov 1592 | | May 1577 | 1577 | |
| | see page c.162 | | see page c.168 | see page c.152 | | | see page c.158 | |

The wills of all four of William's sons have survived with three of them dying in 1577. James married in November 1563; William probably also married a year or two after his father died and the approximate years of birth of #257's children have been calculated given that they were all over 21 in 1562 except Thomas.

Thomas was not twenty-one when his father died since Margaret, his mother, was "to have the keeping of him" until he reached the age of 21. He was the youngest child and none of the others are mentioned as being under age but John could have been a servant with Henry Fourmayne for a considerable time before he was 21. Thomas married in 1571 and so may not have been born until the late 1540s but James married 21st November 1563 (in Ightham), William on 29th October 1564 and Johane on 13th May 1565.

James Christopher, a wellmaker "of Gravesend", was buried in Seal on 21st December 1563. He may have originated in Seal and come back to his family when ill but Richard mentions only one son - William - so that he is unlikely to have been William's brother,

Will of Richard Christopher 1532

written 16th March 1531/2; probate 25th May 1532

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. the year of our lord god 1531
2 the 16th day of March, I, Richard Christofer of the parish of Saint
3 Peter and Paul of Seal, being whole and perfect of mind
4 and memory and sick in body, ordain and make my last
5 will and testament in form and manner following: **First** I
6 give and bequeath my soul to god almighty, to our lady
7 and to all the holy company of heaven and my body to be
8 buried in the churchyard of Seal between the gate and the
9 portege in perm? I bequeath to the high altar for tithes
10 forgotten 8d. Also I will that **my son William** keep?
11 one obit and three masses for my soul and all christian souls
12 and at the said obit to be given as much bread as

13 can be made of a bushel of wheat⁹⁰ to poor people the
14 said obit to continue during my son's life in Seal church.
15 Also I give to **Margaret, my wife**, a house
16 called ryerobeth?, the garden and a plot of ground
17 lying in the west side. Also a parcel of ground called
18 **Walters deyne**⁹¹ containing 11 acres during her natural
19 life. And after her death to remain to William, my son and heirs of the body
lawfully begotten
20 Also I give and bequeath unto my wife all my napery
21 ware. Also I charge my son, William, of my blessing
22 to deliver (to) his mother four loads of wood yearly during her life
23 at his own cost and charge. And all the residue of my moveables
24 except four ?? and two ?? to be divided in three parts
25 Margaret, my wife, to have one part and William, my son, to have
26 two parts as equally as my ?? can divide them. And,
27 after the decease of my wife, the said lands and houses to remain
28 to William, my son, and to the heirs of his body lawfully
29 begotten as is aforesaid. Also I bequeath to **Katherine**

90 a bushel (8 gallons); about thirty 2lb loaves (Swabey, p. 153)

91 William Christopher, probably Richard's son, left a piece of land called "Walters Deane" to his son William

30 **Beecher, my god daughter**, 6s 8d whereof 3s 4d to be delivered
31 at her marriage and the other 3s 4d within the quarter
32 immediately following. Also I give and bequeath unto
33 William, my son, a plot of ground called **Padwell**⁹²
34 Also a parcel of land called **Desyorond**, the acre of **Stumble**,
35 **Lorkyn hill**, **Denysden** pezet? **Southfelde**⁹³ to ??
36 Also, if it so happen that he ?? before the
37 time that he have heirs of his body lawfully be
38 gotten that then I will the rest of my lands, my houses
39 afore expressed be sold at the disposition of my
40 executor underwritten. And ?? whereof £6 13s
41 4d to be given and delivered unto Seal church to
42 be prayed for. And at the ?? and of the
43 parish to bestow it upon such ornament as they
44 shall think most best and necessary. And also
45 to a priest to sing for the space of half a year for
46 me and my good friends having for his labour

92 left in 1562, by Richard's son William, to his son John, who died, unmarried, in 1577 and left Padwell to his brother William, Richard's grandson

93 Desyorond cannot be identified but **Dynes Dean** (about 6 acres) and **Stumble** (about nine acres) was left, by William (Richard's son) to his youngest son, Thomas. Thomas died when his son, to whom he left his land, was only 2 years old but Dynes Dean and Stumblett was owned by Thomas Christopher, mariner of Deptford, when he wrote his will in 1739. **Lorkynhill** was left by William to his eldest son James.

47 £3 6s 8d. And also I will to have a priest for a
48 quarter of a year to sing at ?? for my
49 mother's soul and all christian souls 34s 4d. All
50 the residue of my goods, both moveables and unmoveables,
51 not given, I give and bequeath them to William,
52 my son, whom I make mine executor, charging him,
53 of my blessing, truly to see my debts paid And
54 this my present last will performed and fulfilled.
55 And **Andrew Porter**⁹⁴ to be my other executor to see
56 this my last will performed. And he to have for his labour
57 3s 4d. And **William Denman**⁹⁵ to be my overseer to see this my
58 last will fulfilled and he to have for his labour ??
59 Also I will that **Thomas Pynden**⁹⁶, **John Crowland?**, **William**
60 **Best** and **William Porter**⁹⁷, my feoffees, to ?? And to deliver
61 ?? unto the use of my son William. These men
62 having witnessed: **Sir William Dornyfore**, my

94 Andrew Porter of Hall (#303) was in his late twenties in 1531

95 The Denmans were another notable Seal family

96 Thomas Pynden's will was written on 13th March 1534/5

97 Which William Porter? Andrew Porter's father died in 1520

- 63 gostly?⁹⁸ father, **Henry Herelong**, **Thomas Wodde**,
64 **Thomas Baker** with others

William and Margaret

In 1548 William (#257) was appointed the overseer of the will **Henry Hadlow** of Seal and witnessed the will of **Thomas Olyver (#233)** in January 1562.

In his will, William left 4d to the poor man's box and the poor people of Seal were to have a bushel of wheat on the day of his burial and for the next four years, one from each of his four sons.

William made Margaret, his wife, his executrix and she was to receive the profits of the house, etc. bequeathed to John, paying him 40s from the profits within two years of her husband's decease. During her widowhood she was to have the use of the chamber with the chimneys, the chamber next unto it and the chamber underneath it with three loads of wood every year to be delivered by James,

William and Thomas, each of them a load, with "flytt" and "free gate unto the said chambers".

Margaret was also to receive the rest of his goods and moveables and Thomas and James were to pay Margaret 10s a year each, during her lifetime, out of the lands and tenements bequeathed to them.

Fifteen pieces of pewter and sixty sheep were to be equally divided between William's four sons and his daughter. William, Thomas and Johane were each to receive a cow, Johanne having her choice whilst James and John were each to have a two-yearling bullock. In addition Johanne was to receive £6 13s 4d, half to be paid within the first year after her father's decease, the rest at the end of the second year.

James and Thomas were to pay **Thomas Carpenter** 10s a year (5s each), during his lifetime, out of the lands and tenements bequeathed to them and keep him during his life. Thomas Carpenter could have been their uncle, their mother's brother - see the **Carpenters**.

Only an abstract of this will has been produced.

Executrix: his wife Margaret

Witnesses: **Gilbert Jenyns**, clerk (#15), **Andrew Porter** (#303), **John Olyver** (#70), **Robert Baker** (#1713) "with many others"

Tenements and Lands:

Thomas⁹⁹ house "that I now dwell in" with the appurtenances with the barn and orchard and the Barn Croft on the north side except for those rooms which Margaret was to have - see below.
the Croft before the gate
a piece called **Revells**

99 the land left to Thomas (#794) in 1562 was, in the 1730s, owned by Thomas Christopher, mariner of Deptford (#3618), who was a direct descendant of Thomas's brother #251. This was in spite of Thomas's son (#796), to whom he left his land, marrying and having children of his own. In other families there was a large amount of buying and selling of land and it may be that during #796's childhood (he was only two when his father died), it was necessary to sell some of the land.

a piece of land called the **Becke**
another piece called **Dynes Deane and Stomble**¹⁰¹
a piece called **Acar**
a piece of woodland called the **Splen**

Margaret,
wife #258 the Chamber with the chimneys, the chamber next unto it
and the chamber underneath it during her widowhood with three
loads of wood every year to be delivered by James, William and
Thomas, each of them a load, with "flytt" and free gate unto the said
chambers.

James
#155 tenement called **Moysers** with the appurtenances with the New
orchard; a piece of land called **Lostynhill**; 3 crofts called the **Seers**;
an acre and a half of woodland bought of **Thomas Olyver of Fawke** a
piece of land called the **Wode hawgthe**

William
#251 a piece of land called **Walters Deane**; the fields of Stonestreet listed
in 1804 included Walter's Mead¹⁰²

101 **Dynes Deane** (containing by estimation six acres) and that piece of "land and wood" called **Stumblett** (nine acres or thereabouts) was left, in 1739, by Thomas Christopher, mariner of Deptford, to Ellis Bradbury, wife of Thomas Bradbury, mariner of Deptford and his daughter Margaret Bradbury.

102 next to Stomestreet farmhouse and barn; Sutton, p.10

a piece of land called **Poret Style**
a piece of land called **Howthefield**

John tenement called **Sacars grove** with the appurtenances
#2376 2 pieces of land called **Westfield**
a piece of land at **Padwell**
one acre of wood called **Dadirde**

In 1569, when William Coxe wrote his will, he held the tenancy of the land at Padwell - see page c.266

Will of Margaret Christopher 1575

written 15th December 1575

buried 4th January 1576

again, only an abstract has been produced.

Executors: her son **James** (#155) and son-in-law **William Beecher** (#260)

Witnesses: **John Olyver** (#70), **Robert Olyver** (#136)

written by: **Gilbert Jenyns** (#15), vicar of Seal

To the poor people of Seal: 1 bushel of wheat and 5s, at her burying

To her six godchildren: 6 groats

Grandchildren:

Beecher children, (Johane's children) - see **Beecher**

The **children of James** (#155), of which there were five but **John, James's eldest surviving son**, was obviously his grandmother's favourite being left one of her more valuable possessions - a joined bedstead with a ceiling

The **children of William** (#251), of which there were nine, were to share "**among them all**" a joined bedstead and two pieces of pewter although the two eldest ones - **Margaret and William** - also had individual bequests, a brass pot and a cauldron respectively.

Thomas (#796), **the son of Thomas** was left a number of household goods.

To the fifteen children of her three sons Margaret bequeathed "**to any** (each?) **of them 12s**".

Her children:

Thomas a quorn a kneadtrough
other things standard to the house

John a pair of sheets a pillow

William a woollen covering for a bed
a bolster a shirtcloth
half a quart of barley
2 yards of cawfrey a woollen sheet

to be **paid by James Christopher** her son, 20s in money and corn to be paid between the date of the will (25th Dec 1576) and the feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ next.

Johanne her woollen and linen; her hemp and yarn

James & William
the rest of her goods and moveables unbequeathed

William and Margaret's Children

William and Margaret's daughter, **Johane (#259)**, married **William Beecher (#260)** and they had seven children which were baptised in Seal. Three months after Johane's death, William married Agnes Christopher (#1656), the daughter of James Christopher and Johane's niece; Agnes was twenty-two whilst William was in his fifties with two children older than Agnes. See the **Beechers** for more details.

Three of William's sons, James, John and Thomas, apparently died in 1577. James's son John also died in the same year, 2½ months before his father.

There is no problem with the dates regarding James's death - his will is dated 8th December and he was buried the next day. John, who did not marry, initially wrote his will in 1574 when he would have been in his thirties but a nuncupative codicil was added on 28th May 1577. By that time John was a servant of Henry Fourmayne, yeoman of Cobham, who was one of the witnesses to the codicil. When John spoke the words of this codicil he knew that his brother Thomas had already died and John refers to Thomas's wife as a widow.

Thomas's will dated 18th May 1577 has survived but his burial is not recorded because there is a gap in the register. However, he must have died soon after his will was written.

John must have been about forty when he died; he mentions neither wife nor children. He died at Cobham where parish records have not survived. When he first wrote his will in 1574 his mother was still alive and a condition of his bequest to his brother William of the piece of land called the Padwell was that William paid their mother five shillings a year.

Will of John Christopher 1574/7

written 1st August 1574 with a codicil 28th May 1577

transcript from original

1 In the name of god Amen. the first day of August in
2 the year of our lord god 1574. And in the 16th year
3 of the Reign of our Sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace of god
4 Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith.
5 I, John Christopher, of Seal in the County of Kent, **husbandman**,
6 being of good and perfect Remembrance and mind (thanks be to god) do
7 ordain and make this my present testament and last will, ordaining in
8 the same as well the disposition of all my lands and ten

ements set, lying and being in Seal aforesaid, as also all my goods, cattalls and all of whatsoever to me due and belonging. And **First:** and principally I commend and bequeath my soul to almighty god, mine only Lord Saviour and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, and my body to the earth to be buried in the churchyard of Seal aforesaid or wheresoever it shall please god to call me.

Item: I will to the poor men's box in Seal aforesaid 2d. **Item:** I will to be distributed to the poor at my burial and other ? ? the same 20d. I will and bequeath to every, or as many, of my godchildren as shall reasonably demand the same of mine executors 12d. **Item:** I will give and devise to my **Brother, William Christopher**¹⁰¹, his heirs and assigns, forever, all that parcel of land called **Padwell** with thappurtenances containing, by estimation, three acres in Seal aforesaid, paying and yielding to **Margaret, his mother and mine**¹⁰², yearly during her natural life, five shillings at the feasts of the Annunciation of our lady and Saint Michael, by equal portions. **Item:** I will, give and devise

101 #251

102 #258, alive in 1574 when the will was written but she died before John

25 to **my Brother, Thomas Christopher**¹⁰³, his heirs and assigns forever, all
26 that my messuage and tenement of **Sacars Grove**¹⁰⁴ and garden or orchard
27 and one piece of land adjoining with thappurtenances, by estimation, three
28 acres, set lying and being in Seal aforesaid, yielding and paying
29 to his mother and mine, yearly during her natural life, fifteen
30 shillings lawful money at the said feasts of the Annunciation and Saint
31 Michael by equal portions. And yielding and paying to **my brother,**
32 **James Christopher**¹⁰⁵, his executors or assigns, the sum of forty
33 shillings of lawful money within the term of three years next
34 after my decease. And also yielding and paying to **my sister,**
35 **Johane, the wife of William Beecher**, her executors or assigns, the
36 sum of forty shillings of lawful money within five years next
37 after my decease. And for none payment of the said yearly
38 payments to my said mother in manner and form afore mentioned to be
made
39 (after my decease) I will that it shall and may be lawful for my said
40 mother and her assigns, during her natural life, into the lands and

103 #794 died only a few days previous to John since his will was written 18th May but when John wrote his codicil on 28th May he knew his brother was already dead

104 both Padwell and Sacars Grove were left to Thomas by his father in 1562

105 #155, died in December 1577, just over six months after John

41 tenements before to my said Brethren Thomas and William ??
42 to enter and ? ? to distrain as in such case it is commonly
43 ?? The residue of all and singular, my lands and tenements and
44 hereditaments, goods, cattall and all other whatsoever moveable, for debts
45 to me due and payable, I wholly with effect, will, give, bequeath and
46 devise to my said brother **Thomas Xpher**¹⁰⁶, his heirs and assigns
47 to see my body decently buried, my debts and legacies paid and this my
last
48 will and testament performed accordingly. And also I do constitute
49 and make the said Thomas my only, whole and sole executor of this
50 same, to prove it before th'ordinary according to due form and order.
51 In witness whereof, I, the said John Christopher to ? ?
52 as to my forsaid last will and testament have set my seal hereon
53 the day and year above written in the presence of **Nicholas Balden**,
54 **James Barre**¹⁰⁷, **Nicholas Hooper** and others.

There is a codicil on the back page of the will:

1 The 28th day of May in the year of our Lord
2 god one thousand, five hundred, three score seventeen,

106 the only time in the will that this abbreviation is used for Christopher

107 #506; died June 1577, about a month after John

3 **John Christopher, servant**, with **Henry Jermyn of Cobham**
4 in the County of Kent and diocese of Rochester, yeoman,
5 being in perfect mind and memory, did give and
6 bequeath to **William Christopher, his brother**, all his
7 moveable goods whatsoever then lying within
8 his chamber in his house in Seal in the said county.
9 He did also give to **Isabell Christopher, the widow**
10 of **Thomas Christopher, his brother deceased**, 21s 4d
11 that she did owe him and all such goods of his as
12 was in her house and them being present and hearing these
13 words **Henry Jermyn** aforesaid and **Margaret**
14 **Collyar, wife of Robert Collyar**.

Thomas Christopher

When Thomas died in 1577 his wife Elizabeth was pregnant; their daughter, Alice, was baptised less than six weeks after Thomas's will was written.

Thomas and Isabell's son was the only recorded Thomas Christopher alive in the 1590s and is thus taken as the Thomas who married on 6th September 1598 when

he would have been twenty-three. In 1595, Thomas Christopher was one of the witnesses to the will of John Olyver (#70), Isabell's second husband.

```

married:                27 Jan 1571108                18 Nov 1577
                        #794 Thomas - Isabell Terry #795 - John Olyver #70
will:                  18 May 1577 |                    |
                        |                    | 5 children
                        |                    | see olyvers
#796 | #1718 | #851 |
    Thomas - - Alse Eredg | Alice
bap: 25 Mar 1575 | 30 Jun 1577
bur: | 20 May 1591
    |
-----
#1936 | #2077 | #2323 | #2386 | #2324 | #2325 | #2326 | #2327 | #2328 |
    Mary - John Rigsby | Thomas - Mary Hall | June | Jane | Jana | Richard | Edward
bap: 16 Dec 1599 | 8 Aug 1602 | 27 Jan 1605 | 9 Sep 1607 | 24 Jun 1610 | 25 Feb 1616 | 12 Sep 1619
married: 11 Feb 1622 | 29 Jun 1631 |
bur: | before 1642 | 21 Aug 1625
    |
-----
    | #2387 |
    Marie | Thomas109
bap: | 14 Apr 1639

```

From the codicil to his brother John's will written on 28th May 1577, Thomas must have very soon after writing his will on 18th May 1577.

108 at Ightham

109 Mary's father wrote his will on 14th February 1642 (see [Hall](#)) by which time his daughter was a widow with two children: Marie and Thomas.

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Thomas Christopher of
2 Seal make my last will and testament as follows
3 the 18th day of May.
4 **Item: First:** I give to **Isabell, my wife**, the profit of all
5 my lands and tenements till **my son Thomas**¹¹⁰ cometh
6 to the age of 16 years without ste?? or ??
7 and after the 16 years be expired, then Isabell, my wife,
8 shall have 13s 4d by the year during her
9 natural life out of the said lands and tenements
10 and if the said Isabell do decease within the 16 years,
11 then I will that my children shall have the profit
12 of all my lands and tenements lying in Seal
13 . . . I will **Robert Olyver**¹¹¹ and **William Beecher**¹¹²
14 to be guardians to my children for this be ??

110 baptised March 1575 and therefore only two when his father died

111 #136

112 Thomas's brother-in-law, #260

15 and shall have for their labour 12d a piece.
16 **Item:** I give my apple mill with the glass of my windows
17 to be standers to my house always.
18 **Item:** I will that **my son, Thomas**, shall pay unto my
19 **child that my wife goeth withall**, if it be a daughter
20 £5 at 21 years of her age
21 **Item:** I give to my son Thomas my joined bedstead
22 and the featherbed and a hacksaw.
23 **Item:** I give unto my child that my wife goeth with
24 all, a cow and a bedstead at 12 years of age.
25 **Item:** I give unto Isabell, my wife, the lower chamber
26 during her widowhood¹¹³.
27 **Item:** I give unto Isabell, my wife, the residue of
28 all my goods and moveables whom I ordain and
29 make my sole executor, paying my debts and
30 legacies . .

End not readable, the will having rotted.

James Christopher and his Family

James had six children but two sons died as children and his eldest child, Johane, aged twenty-four. Thus, when James died at the end of 1577 he left three daughters aged twelve, ten and seven and he appointed as their guardians **Robert Persolt** and **Robert Colmings**. The Persolts were another large Seal family but nothing is known of Robert Colmings. Since James's two elder sons died before him, his heir was Robert, then only 2½ years old.

No year was given in his will but James was buried on 9th December 1577, the day after his will was written. In the will he was recorded as a husbandman.

James's instructions to his wife and executrix cover two periods: until Robert was ten years old, Alice was to have all his lands and tenements in Seal, her only obligation being to keep the reparations. Then, for the following ten years, whilst still keeping the reparations, she was to pay 40s a year for the behoof of his daughters. She was also allowed one beech each year for firewood.

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M | C | Died |
|---------|---|---------------------|------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| #155 | <u>CHRISTOPHER, James</u> ----- #156 <u>Ifield, Alice</u> ----- | <1534 husbandman | 21 Nov 1563 married at | Alice Ifield Ightham | 1 | 6 | 9 Dec 1577 in his 40s |
| • #157 | <u>Christopher, Johane</u> | 4 Feb 1565 | | | 0 | 0 | 3 Mar 1589 age 24 |
| • #805 | <u>CHRISTOPHER, Robert</u> | 3 Jun 1566 | | | 0 | 0 | <1575 probably <1 yr assumed to have died before the birth of #2059 not mentioned by grandmother in 1575 |
| • #399 | <u>Christopher, Mary</u> ¹¹⁴ | 3 Aug 1567 | 13 Jun 1591 married at 24 | Reginold STORYER of Ightham - | 1 | 1 | see More Families & Transcripts |
| • #1656 | <u>Christopher, Agnes</u> | 29 Jul 1570(I) | 12 Feb 1593 married at 22 | William BEECHER see Beecher in Families & Transcripts | 1 | 3 | |
| • #532 | <u>CHRISTOPHER, John</u> | 1 May 1572 | | no name given for burial | 0 | 0 | 22 Sep 1577 age 5 |
| • #2059 | <u>CHRISTOPHER, Robert</u> | 19 Jun 1575 | | | 2 | 5 | 7 Jan 1631 at 55 see page c.166 for his marriages and children |

James's children benefited from their grandmother's will as well as their father's except for the youngest, Robert, who became his father's heir but, although being at least six months old when his grandmother's will was written, he is not mentioned in it.

James specified that each of his daughters was to receive £2 a year from his land to be paid for 20 years, that is until they were 32, 30 and 27 years old. The eldest,

¹¹⁴ the baptism of a son on 9 April 1592 was recorded in Ightham but he died when he was 14 months old; a Reginold Storyer was buried 13 Jun 1637 -if it was Mary's husband, he lived into his late sixties - see [Storyer](#).

Johane, died when she was twenty-four but Mary married at 24 and Agnes (to her aunt's widower) when she was 22.. £2 a year must have been a great asset to a young woman. The bequests to these children are given in the following table:

| | left by grandmother December 1575: | left by father in December 1577 |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Johane # 157 | a pair of silver hooks, a kettle, a platter | aged 12; one bullock, " and my wife to keep it til it hath a calf "; 40s a year for twenty years.. |
| Robert # 805 | Robert, son of James, not mentioned, | probably died before 1575 |
| Mary # 399 | a chaffer and a platter | aged ten; 40s a year for twenty years |
| Agnes #1656 | a chafing dish and a platter | aged seven; 40s a year for twenty years |
| John # 532 | a bedstead, a joined work with a ceiling and a pewter platter | died 2½ months before father |

Executrix: his wife, **Alice**

Witnesses: **William Pindar**,
William Beecher (#260) brother-in-law,
Edward Drope, **John Olyver** (#70)

Guardians for his daughters:

Robert Polsate¹¹⁵ and **Robert Colmings**

Although a very short will, there are a number of interesting points:

James's eldest son, **Robert**, died before the summer 1575 and his second son, **John**, in the September before his father. His third son, another **Robert** was 2½ when James died and his instructions to Alice cover two periods:

- 1 until Robert was ten years of age, Alice was to have “**all my lands and tenements in Seal keeping the reparations**”

115

probably Robert Persolt/Pelsett (#43) who died in 1611 but whose children were born in the 1560s - see **Pelset**

2 “and for ten years more paying 40s a year for the behoof of my daughters, **Johane and Marie and Agnes** during the said ten years keeping the reparations until my son comes to 20 years of age”

“and everyone to be others heir”.

Alice was also to have

“for firewood every year, one beech”

and

all the residue of his goods and moveables

all the lands that James had purchased during her natural life.

The only other bequest specified is to his eldest daughter, **Johane**, who is to have
“one bullock and my wife to keep it til it hath a calf”¹¹⁶

Robert Polsate and Robert Colmings, the appointed guardians, were to take up the 40s yearly for James's daughters which was to be paid by Alice.

Robert, son of James Christopher

Robert married Jone Cole in July 1595, less than a month after he came into his inheritance. No children were recorded although the marriage lasted for twenty years, Jone dying in June 1616. Four months later Robert married Mercy Medhurst and, in the next twelve years, they had five children. Nothing is known of any further descendants of Robert and Mercy.

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M | C | Died |
|---------|----------------------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|---|---|-------------------------|
| #2059 | <u>CHRISTOPHER, Robert</u> | 19 Jun 1575 | | | 2 | 5 | 7 Jan 1631 at 55 |
| | Marriage 1 | | 13 Jul 1595 | Jone Cole | 1 | 0 | |
| #1689 | <u>Cole, Jone</u> | | married at 20 | #1689 | 1 | 0 | 13 Jun 1616 |
| | Marriage 2 | | 21 Oct 1616 | Mercy Medhurst | 1 | 5 | |
| #2060 | <u>Medhurst, Mercy</u> | | | | 1 | 5 | |
| • #2371 | <u>Christopher, Mercy</u> | 19 Apr 1618 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • #2372 | <u>Christopher, Ann</u> | 19 Mar 1620 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • #2373 | <u>CHRISTOPHER, Jeremy</u> | 29 Dec 1622 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • #2374 | <u>Christopher, Marie</u> | 23 Sep 1627 | | | 0 | 0 | 8 Jun 1629 at 21 months |
| • #2375 | <u>CHRISTOPHER, Robert</u> | 9 May 1630 | | | 0 | 0 | 29 Oct 1630 at 6 months |

William, son of William Christopher, and his descendants

Of the sons of William and Margaret (William now being designated William(1)), it is from their son William(2) that descendants down to the present day can be traced.

William(2) married Agnes Coxe on 29th October 1564; in the twenty years from 1567 they had nine children with no burials being recorded. Agnes died in 1591 and later in the same year William married Bridget Storyer. According to William's will, Bridget was pregnant when he died in October 1592 but there is no record of a child born subsequently; she may have moved back to the home of her parents, probably in Ightham, but there is no record of a child being baptised there. William's niece, Mary (see page c.162) married **Reginold Storyer of Ightham** (Bridget's brother) on 13 June 1591.

William(2) was probably the William Christopher who witnessed the will of **William Frenche** (#324) in 1563 and was an overseer of the will of **James Barre** (#506) in 1577

married: 29 Oct 1564 4 Oct 1591
 #252 Agnes Cockes - #251 William(2) - Bridget Storyer #2379/i164
 buried: 22 Feb 1591 | 12 Oct 1592

#407 | #1722 | #471 | #1798 | #536 | #772 | #2378 | #929 | #1129 | #1291 | #1438 |
 Margaret - Robert William (3) - Thomasina John George Stephen Richard Andrew Thomas Edward
 Swaynland Swaynland
 bap: Nov 1567 | #3424 Nov 1569 | Jun 1572 May 1574 1575? Dec 1579 Oct 1581 Feb 1585 Jul 1587
 bur: Jane Oct 1624

#1799 | #2389 | #1874 | #1931 | #2380 | #2385 | #2381 | #2382 | #2398 | #2383 | #2384 | #2388 |
 William(4) - Jane Robert Elizabeth Mary - John Robert John - Ann Joes Margaret Jacob
 Everest Rootes
 bap: Sep 1593 | Oct 1596 Jun 1599 Mar 1602 | Jan 1605 Aug 1607 Dec 1610 Mar 1613 Dec 1614
 bur: Apr 1598 5 children¹¹⁷ Mar 1647

#2390 | #2391 | #2392 | #3609 | #2393 | #2397 | #2394 | #2395 | #2396 | #2402 |
 William - John - Jane Nicholas Marie - John Pollie Thomas Samuel Joan Frances
 bap: Aug 1618 | Jul 1620 | Mar 1622 Jan 1624 Mar 1626 Apr 1628 Jan 1630 Jun 1633 30 Apr 1637

#2499 | #2500 | #2496 | #2497 | #3608 | #206 | #2349 | #3618 |
 Elizabeth Francis¹¹⁸ John Richard¹¹⁹ Richard John Robert Thomas
 bap: Jul 1652 27 Jun 1655 22 Jan 1643 14 Jun 1648

117 see **Rootes**

118 daughters of "William Christopher" but was their father #2390?

119 #2496 and #2497 recorded as sons of "John and Mary Christopher"; if they were the elder brothers of the other four it is likely that they died young.

William(2)'s son Stephen (#2378) is known only from his father's will where he comes between George and Richard; a child from London, nursed at Stonestreet, died November 1575 perhaps pointing to Stephen being born summer/autumn 1575.

William(3), who married when he was nearly 23, seems the likeliest William Christopher to have died in 1624. Two nurse children, nursed at Stonestreet, were buried 25 April 1594 and 4 July 1598; #471's father, and therefore probably #471 himself, was from Stonestreet so that they may have been nursed by Thomasina - see **Nurse Children** for more details.

Will of William Christopher 1592

not dated; buried 12th October 1592

William's wife Bridget was his second wife to whom he can have been married for not much more than a year.

Executor: son **William**

Overseer: **William Coxe** - cousin (#1235); "[and for his labour 3s 4d](#)"

Witnesses: **John Olyver** (#70), **Stephen Barre** (#350), **Reginold Storyer** (i443), husband of William's niece, and possibly Bridget's brother

All William's lands and tenements were to be divided between his eight sons and, "if my wife be with child of a manchild, to have as good portion as any of the other sons in my lands". But William, his son and executor, was to have six years profits from them "for the education of the other children".

If William did not bring up and govern the other children "well and orderly as they ought to be at the discretion of honest men of the said parish", William Coxe, the overseer of the will, was to have the profits of the lands and goods that had been willed to William.

There is no bequest to William's daughter Margaret except that Bridget is to have the "cupboard in the hall" as long as she remains a widow and then it is to go to Margaret. It is tempting to think that Margaret, at 25, was already married but, in that case, which Margaret Christopher married Robert Swaynland in 1599?

William's Bequests:

Bridget out of the lands, by the year, 20s - to be paid in two equal portions at the Feasts of the Annunciation of Our Lady and St. Michael. If it was not paid within nine days of the said feasts, it "shall be lawful to stress or strain of any of the said lands".

the bed "[which I do lie upon with all that belongs thereunto](#)", a joined table and one form, the cupboard in the hall "[so long as she remaineth a widow and after unto my daughter Margaret](#)"

all the pewter "[that she brought with chests three and linen, woollen and all things that she brought](#)"

six ewes and a the cow "[she brought](#)"

(these are obviously things she brought with her to the marriage which, because it was only about a year previous, were easily identified)

sons:

John 1 ewe, 1 lamb and 1 great black wether (castrated ram) with one horn

George 2 sheep

Stephen the great chest in the parlour

Richard another chest

William two loads of wood every year "[to be cut in seasonable time of the year so long or until the end of six years](#)"; a brass cauldron and all the residue of goods for the education of my children

unborn child if it is a "[maid](#)", 26s 8d paid by "[my sons by equal portions](#)" when she is 6.

Henry Churchman of Ightham

This will (CKS: Prs/w/3/190) is described as nuncupative in its heading but it reads as a normal will. Someone, possibly William Durrant, must have made detailed notes as Henry said how he wished his money and goods to be disposed. No date is given for when the words were spoken or the will written but Henry Churchman was buried on 13th November 1634, the only reference to Churchman in the parish records. The will was not proved until 18th April of 1635.

The will is interesting for the number of relatively small items which Henry leaves to his relations and friends - see Table below. His mother and William Durrant were each to pay ten shillings towards the cost of his burial. Does this imply that a burial cost about £1? But this did not include the cost of the coffin since Henry left John Alchine "a piece of cloth, breeches, a shirt, a pair of stockings and five pounds of wool in consideration that he shall make me a coffin".

| | |
|----------|---|
| a shirt | brother Thomas; William Durrant John Alchine |
| breeches | John Alchine |

| | |
|--|--|
| pair of silk garters | brother Thomas |
| a hat | brother Thomas |
| a pair of shoes - iron clouted | brother Thomas Daniell Stevenson |
| a cloth doublet | brother Thomas |
| a handkerchief | brother Thomas; sister Margaret William Durrant |
| a pair of band strings a pair of shoe strings (laces) | Agnes ?? Agnes ?? |
| pair of stockings | William Durrant; John Alchine |
| a trunk | brother Thomas |
| purse and key | brother Thomas |
| two ewes | William Durrant |
| a falling band? | brother Richard Margaret Alchine |

| | |
|---|---|
| pewter pint pot and small pewter cup | William Durrant |
| leather cassock & other small things | William Durrant |
| piece of cloth | John Alchine |
| wool - 5 lbs - residue | John Alchine Alchine's wife and daughter |
| silver spoon | Agnes Grandsen |

A clerk called Alchin (i2701) was presented to the Court in Ightham on 8th May 1598 for harbouring John Lay and his wife, strangers, without sureties. He was to be fined 40s if they were not removed or sureties found¹²⁰. This could have been the John Alchine in Henry's will.

The will nuncupative of Henry Churchman

1 I, Henry Churchman being sick of body but of good
2 remembrance do declare my will concerning my
3 goods in form following: **First:** I give and bequeath
4 unto **my mother** half the ready money that is in my
5 trunk, the sum being in the whole four pounds
6 and fifteen shilling, she paying thereof ten shillings
7 towards my burial. And I will that the other half of
8 the said money shalbe devised as followeth, viz. to my
9 **sister Helen** ten shillings thereof to be paid unto her
10 when she shall come to demand the same. And the residue
11 thereof to be divided into three equal parts and that
12 **my brother Thomas, my brother Richard and my sister**
13 **Margaret** shall have every of them a like part thereof¹²¹.
14 **Item:** I give more to my mother the debt owing unto me by
15 **John Stone.** **Item:** I give to my brother Thomas a shirt, my
16 trunk, a pair of stockings, a pair of silk garters, a hat,

121 this would be 12s 6d each

17 a pair of shoes, a cloth doublet, a handkerchief and my purse and key.
18 **Item:** to my brother Richard a falling band? To my sister
19 Margaret a handkerchief. **Item:** I give to **William**
20 **Durrant**¹²² two ewes, a shirt, a leather cassock, a pewter pint
21 pot, a small pewter cup, a pair of stockings and a
22 handkerchief and the small pieces of cloth and other
23 small things in my trunk. I give more to him the debts owing
24 unto me by **William Johnson, William Willard, John Woody**¹²³
25 **John Alchine**¹²⁴
26 and the debt owing me by **Daniell**
27 **Stevenson**, two shillings and eightpence thereof excepted which I give
28 unto the said Stevenson. Also my will is that the said
29 William Durrant shall pay ten shillings of the debts
30 bequeathed unto him towards my burial. **Item:** I give to
31 the said John Alchine a piece of cloth, breeches, a shirt, a pair
32 of stockings and five pounds of wool in
33 consideration that he shall make me a coffin. **Item:** I

122 James Durrant had children baptised in Ightham between 1616 and 1620 but no William is mentioned

123 A William, son of Matthew Johnson, was baptised in 1586. Two William Willards were baptised in Ightham, one in 1582 and the other in 1606. There were also Woodies in Ightham - see **Johnson, Willard and Woodie**

124 The rest of this line and part of the next are crossed out.

34 give to **John Alchine's wife** and to **Elizabeth, her daughter**, the
35 residue of my wool. **Item:** I give to **Nicholas Alchine** my ¹²⁵
36 ?? I give to **Agnes Grandsen** my silver spoon
37 **Item:** I give to **Agnes ??** a pair of band strings, a pair
38 of shoe strings¹²⁶. And to **Margaret, daughter of ?? Alchine**
39 a falling band. And I do desire **Thomas Everest**
40 and some other honest man to dispose of my money
41 and other things according to this my will. And I give to
42 Daniell Stevenson a pair of iron clouted shoes and to the said ??
43 ¹²⁷

The whole effect of all . . .

was spoken and detailed at one time by
the above named Henry Churchman in the presence
of William Durrant the mark of

Thomas Everest

Anne Everest

her mark

125 the two words inserted here and the first word on the next line have not been deciphered

126 shoe laces?

127 the lines at the end of the will are practically impossible to read due to being cramped into the remaining space

This will (CKS: Drb/Pw 23; Drb/Pwr 20.523) was written by **George Salmon** who wrote a number of wills for people living as far apart as Brenchley, Ightham and Pembury.

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The third day of March in the 10th year of the
reign
2 of our most Gracious sovereign Lord James, by the grace of god king of
England
3 France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. And of Scotland the 46th, I,
Alen
4 Clampard of Brenchley in the county of Kent, **vintner**, being some what
diseased
5 in body but of good and perfect remembrance, thanks be given to Almighty
god, do make and
6 ordain this my present testament and last will in manner and form
following: videlt¹²⁸
7 **First** and principally I commit my soul into the hands of Almighty god,

128 videlicet, from which viz. (namely) comes

8 my maker, Saviour and redeemer; And my body to be buried in the church
yard of
9 Brenchley aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Mercy¹²⁹ Kipping, the**
wife of John Kipping,
10 3s 4d. The residue of all my moveable goods, my debts paid and this my
will
11 fulfilled, I give and bequeath unto **Elizabeth Clampard, my daughter,** whom
I do
12 make and ordain executrix of this my present testament and last will. And I
appoint
13 **my very friend George Roberts** of Brenchley aforesaid, gentleman, my
overseer of
14 this my present testament and last will desiring him to be an aid and friend
to my
15 executrix. And I give unto him for his pains herein taken 3s 4d.
16 This is the last will and testament of me the said above named Alen
Clampard, made and
17 declared the day and year above written, touching the order and disposition
of all
18 singular my messuage or tenement, barn, shop ?? and land whatsoever
and it be situated,

129 "Mearcie"

19 lying and being in Brenchley aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the
said Elizabeth,
20 my daughter, all my said messuage or tenement and all other the premises
aforesaid, with th'appurtenances,
21 to have and to hold the same unto the said Elizabeth, my daughter, and to
her heirs
22 for ever. And if the said Elizabeth, my daughter, happen to die without
heirs
23 of her body lawfully begotten, then I will, give and bequeath all my said
messuage or
24 tenement and all other the premises aforesaid to the foresaid **Mercy**
Kipping, my
25 **daughter,** wife of the said John Kipping, and to the heirs of their bodies
lawfully
26 begotten for ever. And if it fortune my said daughter, Mercy, to have no
issue of her body
27 lawfully begotten, then I will my foresaid messuage or tenement, barn, shop
and all
28 other the premises aforesaid, to be and remain unto the foresaid Mercy,
29 my daughter, and John Kipping. her husband and to the longest liver of any
of
30 them. And I do, by these present, make void all former wills by me ??
before

31 made and do hold this for my present testament and last will and not
otherwise. In
32 witness whereof I, the said Alen Clampard, have here unto set my hand and
seal
33 the day and year above written.

Witnesses hereunto

William Wuare

Thomas Lenbury

George Salmon

Alen

130

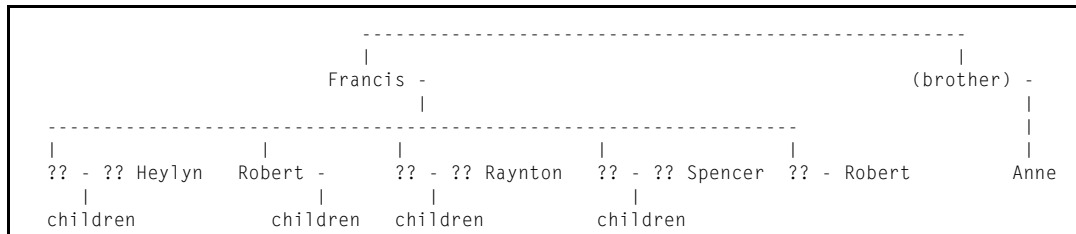
Clampard

1 In the name of god Amen. The third day of May
2 in the year of our lord god 1612 and in the tenth year of the reign of our
sovereign
3 Lord James, by the grace of God, king of England, France and Ireland,
defender of the faith,
4 etc. And of Scotland the five and fortieth, I, Francis Clampard, of Wrotham
in the county of
5 Kent, **gent.**, do make and declare my last will and testament in manner and
form following:
6 that is to say, **First:** I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty god,
and my body
7 to the earth, hoping by the merits and blood shedding of my saviour, Jesus
Christ, to have a
8 joyful resurrection and to be with him received into glory amongst the ?st. I
give to the poor people
9 of the parish of Wrotham the sum of 40s. And if I happen to die in any other
parish, then I give
10 to the poor of that other parish where I shall happen to depart this life the
sum of 20s more to

11 be distributed by mine executor with the help of the churchwardens at my
burial or within
12 fourteen days after at the furthest. **Item:** I give to **my son-in-law and my**
daughter Heylyn
13 the sum of £20 to be paid within one year next after my decease. **Item:** I
give to **my son-in**
14 **law and daughter Raynton** the sum of £13 6s 8d to be paid unto them within
two years
15 next after my decease. **Item:** I give to **my son-in-law Robert Bathurst,**
Esquire, the sum of
16 £10 to be paid unto him within four years next after my decease. **Item:** I
give to **my daughter**
17 **Spencer** the sum of £13 6s 8d to be paid unto her within three years next
after my decease.
18 **Item:** I give to every one of the children of my son-in-law and daughter
Heylyn, my son-
19 in-law and daughter Raynton and of my daughter Spencer which shalbe
living at the time of
20 my decease, the sum of 20s to be paid unto them within five years next after
my decease. And
21 if any of those children which shalbe so living at the time of my decease
shall happen to die before

22 his, her or their portion shalbe come due and payable, then my will is that
23 the portion of him, her or
24 them so dying shalbe equally divided amongst the surviving brothers and
25 sisters of the same
26 child or children which shall so die. **Item:** I give to every one of the children
27 of **my son, Robert**
28 **Clampard**, which shalbe living at the time of my decease, the sum of £6 13s
29 4d a piece, to be
30 paid unto them at their several ages of 23 years or at the days of their
31 several marriages
32 which shall first happen. **Item:** I will that my executor hereafter named do
33 pay unto **my niece, Ann**
34 **Clampard**, at the day of her marriage so much money as her portion which
35 she hath already (being
36 in the mean time employed to her best benefit) shall at that time want of
37 £20 to make the same
38 up to the full sum of £20. **Item:** I give to my servant, **George Lawrence**, the
39 sum of £3 6s 8d
40 to be paid unto him within four years next after my decease. Also I give to
41 my maid servant,
42 **Elizabeth Raffe**, the sum of ten? shillings to be paid unto her within half a
43 year next after my

33 decease. All the rest and residue of my goods, chattells, debts and credits
 whatsoever, my debts
 34 being paid and my legacies and funeral discharged, I wholly give and
 bequeath to **Robert**
 35 **Clampard, my son,** whom I do make sole executor of this my testament and
 last will. And I
 36 do utterly repeal and revoke all former wills by me made and in witness
 hereof I have
 37 hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year first above written. Francis
 Clampard,
 38 sealed, subscribed and published the day and year aforesaid in the presence
 of the persons hereunder named: **Charles Hutchinson, clerk, George Segas.**



This will (PCC: Fines 232; Prob 10/683) was written by **George Hooper**, one of the members of the Hooper family who wrote a large number of wills from the 1560s until after 1650 when this study ends. It is not decorated at all but George's writing is particularly distinguished by the long tails to the letter "p".

| | | | |
|--------|------------|--------|--------------|
| | | | |
| ----- | | | |
| x1521 | x1522 | x1523 | x1526 |
| John - | William | Mary - | John Brooker |
| will: | 7 Jul 1647 | | |
| | | ----- | |
| x1525 | x1527 | | x1528 |
| Thomas | William | | Elizabeth |

1 In the name of god Amen. The seventh day of July in the year of our Lord
2 Christ one thousand, six hundred forty and seven, Anno . .
3 Carols Regis Anglie . . . ¹³¹ I, William Clarke, of Leigh next Tonbridge
4 in the county of Kent, **husbandman**, being at this present sick and weak in
5 body but
6 of sound and perfect mind and memory, for which I praise God, for the
7 ordering and disposing of that
8 temporal state wherewith God hath blessed me hereon earth, do therefore
9 make and
10 ordain this to be ¹³² my testament and last will in manner and form
11 following: that is to say,
12 **First** and principally I will and resign my soul to the gracious acceptance of
13 Almighty
14 god, my maker, hoping and assuredly trusting to have the pardon and
15 remission of all
16 my sins and eternal salvation by the only merits, death and passion of his
17 dearly beloved
18 son Jesus Christ and my body to the earth in decent manner to be buried at
19 the

131 in Latin?

132 "bee", "hee", "shee", etc. throughout

12 discretion of mine executor hereafter named. I will and give to **John Clarke,**
13 **my brother,**
14 in token of my remembrance of him, twelve pence of lawful English money.
15 **Item:**
16 I will, devise and give to **Mary, my sister, the wife of John Brooker,** all that
17 my messuage
18 or tenement wherein the said John Brooker now dwelleth and the hay
19 house, edifice and building,
20 gardens, closes, orchard and two parcels of land containing by estimation
21 four acres, to the said
22 messuage or tenement belonging, situated at or near **Leigh Green** in Leigh
23 aforesaid,
24 to hold all the said messuage, tenement, lands and premises, with
25 th'appurtenances, unto the said Mary,
26 my sister, her heirs and assigns ?? from and after my decease for, by and
27 during the whole
28 term of the natural life of the said Mary. And immediately from and after
29 her decease, I will,
30 devise and give all my said messuage, tenement, lands and premises, with
31 th'appurtenances, unto **William**
32 **Brooker, son of my said sister Mary,** to hold to the only use and behoof of
33 the said William

23 Brooker, my said sister's son, his heirs and assigns forever. Notwithstanding
I will and give
24 to **Thomas Clarke, son of my said brother John Clarke**, the sum of ten
pounds of lawful
25 money of England to be paid unto him out of my said tenements and lands
at his age of one and
26 twenty years if he shall live to attain that age. And also I will and give to
Elizabeth Brooker,
27 daughter of my said sister Mary, the like sum of ten pounds of lawful
english money to be paid
28 unto her at her age of one and twenty years if she live to attain that age,
out of my said tenements
29 and lands. And my will is if the said legacies before given to the said
Thomas Clarke and Elizabeth
30 Brooker, or either of the same legacies, shall happen to be unpaid at the
several and respective times on which the
31 said sums to be paid by this my will, then I will it shall and may be lawful
to and for the said Thomas
32 Clarke and Elizabeth Brooker and either of them so unpaid their said
legacies into all and singular my said
33 messuage, tenements, land and premises and every and any part thereof,
with th'appurtenances, to enter and distress and the

34 distress and distresses there taken from there lawfully to bear, lead, drive,
carry away, impound, detain and keep
35 until they and either of them so unpaid their said legacies shall be fully
satisfied and paid the same and every part
36 thereof and all charges¹³³ occasioned by taking and keeping of such distress
and distresses. **Item:** all my moveable ??
37 ?? and chattles, I give to the said John Brooker¹³⁴, my brother-in-law, in
satisfaction of a debt of ten pounds ??
38 ?? to him. And I make and ordain the said John Brooker to be the sole
executor of this my testament and last will.
39 In witness whereof, I the said William Clarke, have hereunto set my hand
and seal the day and year first above written.

The "Read, sealed, published, etc. " section was written in the margin since the above will came to the bottom of the page. Thus the names of the witnesses are difficult to read but the probate copy gives George Hooper as one of the witnesses.

133 "charges"

134 by whom the will was proved

*The **Clarkes** of Seal*

Three Clarke wills have survived for Seal all from the time before parish records were being kept:

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------|--------------------|------------|
| Robert Clarke | 8 May 1492 | CKS: Drb/Pwr 5.190 | see below |
| Thomas Clarke | 22 Jul 1513 | Drb/Pwr 6.361 | page c.193 |
| Thomas Clarke | 12 Nov 1532 | Drb/Pwr 9.85 | page c.196 |

Robert's will was written in Latin and is difficult to read; he mentions **Thomas Olyver**¹³⁵ and the parish of **Sevenoaks** as well as Seal. His wife was Alice and he had two sons, Robert and Thomas, and a daughter Agnes. The witnesses to his will were **John Theobald**¹³⁶, **Henry Swaynland**; John ?? and others.

135 this could have been the Thomas Olyver whose will was written in 1505 (#3905)

136 John(1) Tebold died in 1501; Tebold is one of the many variations of Theobald and the one most commonly used at this time.

The Thomas Clarke who wrote his will in 1513 could have been Robert's son, particularly since he mentions a brother Robert. There are no other clues, however on which to base this supposition. This Thomas owned a considerable amount of land with a tenement in Seal and another in Chart (to the east of the parish). He also had a messuage at Stonepits which was to go to Alice for her marriage.

| | | | |
|--------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
| | #4418 | Robert - Alice | #4419 |
| <i>will:</i> | 8 May 1492 | | |
| | | | |
| | ----- | | |
| | #4420 | | #4421 #4422 |
| | Robert | | Thomas - Agnes |
| <i>will:</i> | | 22 Jul 1513 | |
| | | | |
| | | ----- | |
| | | #4423 | #4424 |
| | | William | Alice |
| <i>born:</i> | | after 1493 | |

Thomas left all the tools belonging to his occupation to his son William but his occupation is not specified.

There is no indication of the relationship (if any) between the two Thomases for whom wills have survived.

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|--------|-------|-------|
| will: | | | | |
| #4425 Thomas - Margaret #4426 | | | | |
| 12 Nov 1532 | | | | |
| | | | | |
| ----- | | | | |
| #4427 | #4428 | #4429 | #4430 | #4431 |
| Richard | Margaret | Thomas | Joane | John |

Will of Thomas Clarke 1513

written 22nd July 1513

transcript from probate copy; original not survived

1 In the name of god Amen. The 22nd day of July in the
2 year of our lord god 1513, I, Thomas Clarke of Seal,
3 whole of mind make my testament in this wise: **First:** I be
4 queath my soul to almighty god, my body to be buried in
5 the churchyard of Saint Peter in Seal. **Item:** I bequeath to
6 the high altar, for my tithes forgotten, 2d. Also I be
7 queath to a priest to sing a trental of masses for my
8 soul 10s(?). Also I bequeath to the church of Seal 3s 4d.

Also to **William Hadley, my servant** 13s 4d. Also I bequeath to **William, my son**, when he cometh to the age of 20 years, **all the tools belonging to my occupation**. Also I bequeath to **Alice, my daughter**, 40s in money to her marriage which **my brother, Robert Clarke**, oweth me. Also I bequeath to each of my godchildren 4d. The residue of all my goods not bequeathed I bequeath to **Agnes, my wife**, whom I make mine executrix with **William Olyver of Fawke**¹³⁷ to whom I bequeath 3s 4d for his labours. This is the last will of me the forsaid Thomas Clarke made the day and year above written. **First:** I will that Agnes, my wife, have all my lands and tenements lying in the parish of Seal during her life (if?) remaining sole. And if so be that she marry then will that she have . . of my 2 tenements one lying in Seal and the other lying in **Charte** for the term of her life. And the other to remain immediately to William, my son, and to his heirs and assigns forever more. And if my son, William, fault before he come to lawful age then I will that my wife have it for term of her life and, after her, to Alice, my daughter. Also I will that Alice,

30 my daughter, have my messuage at **Stonepit** and a garden
31 called **Edmonds(?) hope** to her marriage. And if she fault,
32 it to remain to her mother for term of her life. And also,
33 the residue of my lands afore bequeathed to my wife, after
34 her death to remain to the foresaid William, my son. And
35 if William, my son, fault before his mother, then . . to his
36 heirs and assigns if he live to a lawful age and, if
37 he fault, it to remain to Alice, my daughter and, if she
38 fault, I will that my brother, Robert Clarke, have it paying
39 20 marks of which one part to the church of Seal and
40 another 10 marks to foot ways within the parish of Seal and
41 Kemsing. Witness hereof: **Sir Thomas Carter**¹³⁸, .., **William**
Olyver of Godden¹³⁹, **William French, William Hadley**¹⁴⁰ and others

138 Nicholas Metecalf was vicar of Seal in 1513 (A.C. Vol. 20, p.265) but was Thomas Carter the curate?

139 #85 whose own will was dated 1516

140 testator's servant

1 In the name of god Amen. The year of our lord
2 1532, the 12th day of November, I, Thomas Clarke,
3 of Seal in the County of Kent, whole in mind but
4 sick in body, make my testament and last will
5 in this wise. **First:** I bequeath my soul to god
6 and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Seal.
7 **Item:** to the high altar there 12d. Also to my
8 mother church 2d. Also, my will is to have
9 3 priests at my burial and three at my month's day and
10 they to have for their labours as manner and custom is.

11 This is the last will of me, Thomas Clarke, made
12 and declared the day and year above said. **First:** I
13 give and bequeath to **Margaret, my wife**, my dwelling
14 house and all my lands for the space of 2 years with
15 all the ?? thereto belonging for the which I
16 will she to find a priest to sing for my soul and
17 all christians for the space of half a year, that is
18 to say, the first year, one quarter, and the second year a

nother quarter. And for to have for his labours £3
6s 8d. And at the second year end, I will that my
lands be divided equally by honest men between
Richard, my son, and Thomas, my son, indifferently. And
so to remain to them and the heirs of their bodies
lawfully begotten. Also, if it fortune that the said
Richard and Thomas should fail to have male the heirs
of their bodies lawfully begotten, then I will all
my lands unto **John, my son**, and to his male heirs
of his body lawfully begotten. And if so fortune
the said John, my son, to fail without heirs male,
then I will the said lands to the next of my blood.
Also I give and bequeath unto Thomas, my son, £19, the
which now resteth in the hands of **William Richard**,
to be delivered unto the said Thomas at the age of 24.
Also I will that Richard, my son, pay, or cause to be paid, to
the said Thomas at the forsaid age 50s. Also I will
Thomas pay, or cause to be paid, to the said John
at the age aforesaid 50s, the said £5¹⁴¹ to be paid out
of my lands. Also I will that Margaret, my wife,
shall have the use and effect of all my lands for the

141 i.e. twice 50s

40 space of 2 years. And then she to have 2 of the best¹⁴²
41 Also unto Thomas, my son, 2 kyne, unto Thomas,
42 my son, a cow? unto **Margaret?, my daughter** a cow?
43 **Item:** unto **Joane, my daughter**, a cow. Also I bequeath
44 unto Margaret, my wife, all my corn, . . lying my
45 . . , my hor. . and my maize. All the residue
46 of my goods moveable at the 2 years end, I will
47 it be equally divided by my neighbours? And the
48 first part unto Margaret, my wife, and the other unto Thomas,
49 my son, indifferently. Also I bequeath unto Margaret,
50 my wife, my best featherbed; unto Thomas, my son,
51 a mattress and all things necessary to the whole bed. The
52 residue to be divided as is before said. And
53 if it fortune that John, my son, fail within the
54 time above said, then I will the said £19
55 be equally divided between Richard, my son, and
56 Thomas, my son, at the . . of my executors
57 And overseer whom I make and ordain Margaret,
58 my wife, and Richard, my son. And the said Richard to
59 have for his labour 6s 8d and **William Denman**
60 to be my overseer to see this my will truly

142 text carries straight on; "2 of the best ??"

61 fulfilled as my trust is in him. Witness:
62 **John ??; Robert Harris; Thomas Baker;**
63 with others. Also I will unto Thomas, my son,
64 my second featherbed and all things to the same.
65 I will to Margaret, my wife, to have
66 free liberty and to her . . use during
67 her life the wither? garden

Probate: 15 September 1533 to Margaret, relict and Richard

Later in the century there were Clarkes in Seal who look to be descendants of those shown above in that the names John, Thomas and Robert continue to occur together.

The Family of John and Elizabeth Clarke

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M | C | Died |
|-----------|--|---|---------|---------------------|---|---|----------------------|
| #64 | <u>CLARKE, John</u> ----- | <1541 | | Elizabeth Clarke(m) | 1 | 5 | |
| | | there could have had other children born before records of baptisms have survived - see below | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| #65 | <u>his wife, Elizabeth</u> ----- | | | | 1 | 5 | 3 Oct 1599 |
| | | Elizabeth would have been in her 50s when she died | | | | | |
| • #66 | <u>CLARKE, John</u> | 1 Nov 1562 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • #158 | <u>CLARKE, Thomas</u> | 25 Feb 1565 | | | 0 | 0 | 12 Jan 1566 11 mnths |
| • #218 | <u>CLARKE, Robert</u> | 22 Dec 1566 | | | 0 | 0 | 7 Nov 1588 21 yrs |
| • #1777 | <u>CLARKE, Thomas</u> | <1572 | | | 1 | 1 | |
| | there is no evidence to put #1777 in this family except that #64 had a son Thomas who died in 1566 and #1777 could be a son born later | | | | | | |
| • • #1779 | <u>CLARKE, Edward</u> | 10 Dec 1592 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • #534 | <u>Clarke, Mildred</u> | 28 May 1572 | | | 0 | 0 | |

Three other possible children of John and Elizabeth are:

- #602 CLARKE, William** whose daughter Alice was baptised on 3rd August 1595 which means William was probably born in the early 1570s.
- #739 Clarke, Johane** who married John Gardner (#738) on 13th April 1578 and was buried on 13th April 1578. She was probably born in the late 1550s. See **Gardner** for details of her nine children.
- #1238 Clarke, Elizabeth** who married Thomas Emery (#1237) of Goudhurst on 9th October 1586 which implies she was probably born in the early 1560s. The Emerys lived in Seal at least until the birth of their fourth child, Mildred, Elizabeth being buried one month after her baptism. See the next page for their children.

The Emerys

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M | C | Died |
|---------|---|-----------------------|------------|------------------|---|---|---|
| #1237 | <u>EMERY, Thomas</u> ----- <u>Clarke, Elizabeth</u> ----- | <1566 of Goudhurst | 9 Oct 1586 | Elizabeth Clarke | 1 | 4 | >May 1593 |
| #1238 | <u>Clarke, Elizabeth</u> ----- | <1566 | | | 1 | 4 | 12 May 1593 in her 20s/30s died 1 month after baptism of Mildred |
| • #1442 | <u>Emery, Sara</u> | 27 Aug 1587 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • #1569 | <u>Emery, Mary</u> | 9 Mar 1589 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • #1615 | <u>Emery, Elizabeth</u> | 14 Feb 1591 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| • #1785 | <u>Emery, Mildred</u> | 8 Apr 1593 | | | 0 | 0 | |

The Two Marriages of Richard Clarke

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M | C | Died |
|---------|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------|--|---|---|-------------|
| #438 | <u>CLARKE, Richard</u> ----- | <1540 | | | 2 | 2 | 18 Mar 1589 |
| | | | | Richard witnessed the will of Ralph Dubble in 1582 | | | |
| | <i>Marriage 1</i> | | | Johane Clarke(m) | 1 | 1 | |
| #1800 | <u>his wife, Johane</u> ----- | | | | 1 | 1 | 9 Oct 1567 |
| ! #3758 | <u>CLARKE, Richard</u> | 29 Sep 1561(K) | | | 0 | 0 | |
| | <i>Marriage 2</i> | | >Oct 1567 | | 1 | 1 | |
| ! #440 | <u>Clarke, Julian</u> | 14 Feb 1569 | | | 0 | 0 | |

The Four Marriages of John Clarke, gent.

There is no proof that there was just one John Clarke who married four times but the following assembly of the available data is a possible interpretation.

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M | C | Died |
|-------|-------------------------------------|--|------------------|--------|---|---|------------------|
| #2404 | <u>CLARKE, John, gent.</u> ----- | <1608 | | | 4 | 6 | |
| | <i>Marriage 1</i> | | | | 1 | 3 | |
| ! | #2410 <u>CLARKE, George</u> | 24 Jun 1628 | | | 0 | 0 | 1 Jun 1630 age 2 |
| ! | #2411 <u>Clarke, Elizabeth</u> | 22 May 1631 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| ! | #2412 <u>Clarke, Katherine</u> | 17 Nov 1633 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| | <i>Marriage 2</i> | 25 Jul 1636 | Mary Goodhews | | 1 | 1 | |
| #2409 | <u>Mary Goodhews</u> ----- | <1616 | | | 1 | 1 | 23 Nov 1637 |
| | | Mary died, in her late 20s/early 30s, three weeks after the birth of her first child, #2413, who only survived for a week. | | | | | |
| ! | #2413 <u>Clarke, Margaret</u> | 9 Nov 1637 | | | 0 | 0 | 16 Nov 1637 1 wk |
| | <i>Marriage 3</i> | | | | | | |
| #2414 | <u>his wife, Anne</u> ----- | <1621 | 1638 to 1640 | | 1 | 2 | <Aug 1647 |
| ! | #2415 <u>CLARKE, John</u> | 23 Jan 1642 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| ! | #2416 <u>CLARKE, William</u> | 8 Jan 1643 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| | | If it was #2404 who married in 1647, Anne must have died by the summer of that year. | | | | | |
| | <i>Marriage 4</i> | | Elizabeth Calcot | | 1 | 0 | |
| #2417 | <u>Calcot, Elizabeth</u> ----- | 4 Aug 1647 | | | 1 | 0 | |

Other Clarkes of Seal

- #2403 CLARKE, William** and his wife, Alice, had a daughter Susanna baptised on 20th June 1623. Alice died twenty years later being buried on 20th June 1643 but no other children were recorded for William and Alice. William was probably born about 1600
- #2370 CLARKE, Robert** and his wife, Joan, had a daughter Elizabeth baptised on 25th March 1639. Nothing else is know of Robert (possibly born about 1615) and his family.

The Claygates of Shipbourne, Ightham and Kemsing

Claygates (or Claggets) were recorded in the parish records of Shipbourne, Ightham and Kemsing and two wills have survived from Shipbourne:

| | | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| Thomas Claygate | | 1521 | CKS: Drb/Pw 1 | not found |
| Margaret Claygate | 29 Dec 1579 | 29 Jan 1580 | CKS: Drb/Pw 12; Drb/Pwr 16.76 | page c.210 |

and also that of Margerie Underdowne, mother of Margaret Claygate:

| | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|--|-------------------------------|------------|
| Margerie Underdowne | 1 Mar 1576/7 | | CKS: Drb/Pw 11; Drb/Pwr 15.47 | page c.208 |
|---------------------|--------------|--|-------------------------------|------------|

Initially one might expect Margerie Underdowne to be the mother of the Margaret Claygate who died in 1579 but Margerie's daughter, married to Nicholas Claygate, had two daughters, born in the 1570s and mentioned in Margerie's will. The Margaret Claygate, widow, whose will has survived had a daughter, Maryon, who was old enough to be appointed her executrix. Margerie and Margaret were probably of the same generation and the Margaret who died in 1580 could have been the widow of the Thomas Claygate who was buried on 4th October 1570.

The wills of both Margaret and Margerie were written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Tonbridge, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618.

1 In the name of god Amen. The first day of March
2 in the year of our Lord god a thousand, five hundred, three score and
3 sixteen and in the nineteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord
4 Queen Elizabeth's Reign, I, Marjerie Underdowne of Shipbourne
5 in the County of Kent, **widow**, being weak and impotent of body but
6 yet of perfect memory and Remembrance, Lauded be god Almighty,
7 Do Ordain and make this my present testament and last will
8 in manner and form following: and **First** and principally I give
9 and commend my soul to almighty god, my maker, Saviour and Redeemer,
10 Jesus Christ, by the merit of whose passion I trust to be saved. And
11 my body to be buried in the churchyard of Seal aforesaid.
12 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Elizabeth and Margaret**¹⁴⁷
13 **Claygat, the daughters of Nicholas Claygat, my son-in-law**, to either
14 of them, one cow. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Marie Bownde,**
15 **my kinswoman**, one sheet being in the hands of **Reginald**
16 **Underdowne.**

147 Margaret was baptised 20th August 1571 and Elizabeth 4th March 1573 so that they were five and four when their grandmother wrote her will

17 The residue of all and singular my goods and cattalls, as well
18 moveable as unmoveable, my debts being paid, I wholly, fully
19 and with good effect and special intent, I give and bequeath to the
20 said Nicholas Claygat, my son-in-law, and to **Margaret, his**
21 **wife, my daughter**, which Nicholas and Margaret I ordain,
22 constitute and make my whole and sole executors to see my body
23 honestly brought to the earth and funeral discharged.
24 In witness whereof I, the said Marjerie Underdowne to
25 this my present testament and last will have set my Seale
26 and delivered the same as my proper act to my said executors
27 in the presence of **John Serunne?**, **Henry Collyn, weaver**, and
28 **Nicholas Hooper**¹⁴⁸

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 the 29th day of December in the year of our lord god
3 a thousand, three score and nineteen. And in
4 the two and twentieth year of the reign of our sovereign
5 lady Elizabeth, by the grace of god, Queen of England,
6 France and Ireland, defender of the faith. I, Margaret
7 Claygate of Shipbourne in the County of Kent, **widow**, being
8 sick and weak of body but yet of perfect mind and remembrance
9 (lauded and praised be god almighty) Do ordain and make
10 this my present testament and last will in manner and form
11 following: And **first** and principally I give, commend and
12 bequeath my soul to almighty god, my saviour and
13 redeemer, Jesus Christ. And my body to be buried in the
14 churchyard of Shipbourne aforesaid. **Item**: I give and
15 bequeath to the box or chest of the poor of Shipbourne
16 aforesaid six pence. The residue of all my goods and
17 cattalls¹⁴⁹ whatsoever as well moveable as unmoveable, my

debts paid and funeral discharged¹⁵⁰, I wholly, fully and
with good effect and intent, give and bequeath to my
natural daughter, Maryon Claygate, which Maryon
I make my whole and sole executor of this my present
testament and last will to see the same proved and my
body honestly brought to the earth. In witness whereof
I, the said Margaret Claygate, to this my present testament
and last will have set my hand and seal yeven¹⁵¹ the day
and year first above written in the presence of **Richard**
Collyn and **Nicholas Hooper**.

150 probate copy with a "d" but no "d" in original

151 "given"

Other Claygates and Claggets

Nicholas (i865), "**son of Jane Clagget**" (i864), was baptised on 18th October 1576.

An **Elizabeth Clagget** (i874) married **Richard Hunter** (i877) in **Ightham** on 30th June 1619. Although there were a number of Elizabeths in Shipbourne and one in Kemsing, none seem to be of the age to have married in 1619.

Harry Clagat (i866) married **Anne Fremlyn** in **Kemsing** on 11th May 1576 and **Anne** (i868), daughter of **Henry Clagget**, was baptised in **Ightham** on 26th July 1579. **Henry Clagget** (i873), possibly the father of the Henry who married Anne, was buried on 4th December 1579.

James Claggatt, ale taster (i869), was mentioned in the Court Records 1586-1618; see *Excerpts from Ightham Court Rolls* for details of an ale taster's duties. James was buried on 4th January 1619 when he was probably in his sixties; he had had two sons baptised in Ightham in the 1580s: **John** (i871) on the 7th August 1580 and **Richard** (i872) on 24th December 1581.

George Clagget and **John Clagget** were also mentioned in the Ightham Court Records between 1586 and 1618 but there was no George mentioned in the parish

records and the only possible John is the one in Kemsing having children in the 1580s:

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| k267 John - | | | |
| | | | |
| ----- | | | |
| k269 | k270 | k271 | k272 |
| Thomas | Elizabeth | John | Joan |
| bap: 12 Jun 1581 | 24 Aug 1582 | 10 Jan 1587 | 17 Sep 1588 |

The Coates of Seal

The Coates, or Cotes, first appear in the parish register on the 31st January 1580 when **Christopher Coates** married **Agnes Walter**; Christopher's will, written in 1595, has survived by which time his wife was Margaret. Margaret appears to have been Agnes's sister - see **Walter** for details of Christopher's two wives. Christopher, together with his brother-in-law, **John Walters**, was mentioned in the will of **William Pynden** in 1590..

John, a child from London, nursed at Coates (Cotes) was buried on 14th June 1587. It is not possible to tell whether John was nursed by Agnes or Margaret but presumably Christopher had a child born late 1586/early 1587 whose baptism was not recorded, at least in Seal.

According to the parish records, Christopher had two sons called Edmond, one baptised on 20 Oct 1588 and the other on 3rd September 1592. From his will, he had two sons, Thomas and Edward and a daughter Elizabeth; perhaps one of the "Edmonds" was "Edward", but, even so, one of the two presumably died before his father wrote his will. Interpretation is made more difficult in that it is Edmond that Christopher mentions in his will but it was "Edward Coates" whose will was Alice.

We know that Margaret, not Agnes, was the mother of Christopher's children since he refers to Margaret as their mother and that Thomas and Elizabeth were born before 1587 since their grandfather left them each a sheep. An Edward Coates had children between 1622 and 1633 and was listed in the Knole MS of 1648 as being of "Stone Street and Bitchet"; this could have been Christopher's younger son.

| | | | | | |
|--------------|---|----------------------|-------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | #1017 ¹⁵² | | #4004 | |
| | #51 Agnes Walter - Christopher COATES - | | | Margaret Walter - Ralph Gray | |
| <i>bap.</i> | 2 Aug 1562 | | | | |
| <i>will;</i> | | 20 Jun 1595 | | | |
| <i>bur.</i> | <1587 | 24 Jun 1595 | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | ----- | | | | |
| | #4005 | #4006 | #1517 | #3682 | #3683 |
| | Thomas | Elizabeth | Edmond | Edward - Alice | |
| <i>bap.</i> | <1587 | <1587 | 20 Oct 1588 | 3 Sep 1592 | |
| | | | | | |
| | ----- | | | | |
| | | #3684 | #3759 | #3760 | #3685 |
| | | Edward | Alice | Margaret | Christopher ¹⁵³ |
| <i>bap.</i> | | 10 Feb 1622 | 20 Jul 1628 | 3 Feb 1633 | |
| <i>bur.</i> | | | | | 16 Dec 1639 |

¹⁵² reference number in Seal database; Christopher Coates married Agnes Walter on 31st January 1580; since, according to his will, Margaret was the mother of all Christopher's surviving children, Agnes must have died sometime within five years of marriage

¹⁵³ "son of Edward and Alice"

Edward Coates (#3682) was overseer to the will of **Stephen Barre** (#350) in 1626.

A widow Coates married Ralph Grey on 4th January 1601; this could have been Christopher's widow.

Will of Christopher Coates of Seal

written 20th June 1595; probate 1596

transcript from probate copy; CKS: Drb/Pwr 18.479 Drb/Pw 17

- 1 In the name of god Amen. the 20th June and in the year of our lord God
1595
- 2 I, Christopher Cotes, being sick of body but of
3 perfect remembrance, god be thanked, therefore do
4 make and ordain this my last will and testament
5 in manner and form following: **First:** I bequeath
6 my soul to Almighty god, my maker
7 and Redeemer by whose Death and passion I hope to be
8 saved and my body to be buried in the churchyard of
9 of the parish of Seal. **Secondly:** I bequeath my
10 house and garden plot with all th'appurtenances
11 at **Stonestreet** in the parish of Seal unto **Margaret,**
12 **my wife,** during her natural life for the education

of my children keeping all manner of needful
reparations in and upon the premises and orchard
with all th'appurtenances thereunto belonging. If it
shall happen that any of the reparations be undone,
having lawful warning of my overseer whom
hereafter I shall constitute, within three months
after the said warning be given, that then it
shall be lawful to and for my overseer wholly to
enter the said Margaret and to do the said repairs
and to let and for the said tenement and orchard my
th'appurtenances yielding up a will account unto
my two sons Thomas and Edmond for the money by him
disbursed at or after the decease of their said mother
Item: I bequeath the said house and tenement after
my said wife's death unto my sons Thomas
Cotes and Edmond Cotes equally to be divided.
And, if any of my said sons do make any
bargain of sale before the age of 21 years,
that then my will is my other son wholly to
have it the said house and orchard to him and
to his heirs for ever. **Item:** I give and bequeath
to **Elizabeth Cotes, my daughter**, my g. .
20s of money to be paid to her by my . .

36 aforenamed within one whole year after (the decease
37 of Margaret, my wife. And all the . .
38 goods unbequeathed, I do give and bequeath to
39 Margaret, my wife, who I do make and ordain
40 my full and sole executrix. And I do . .
41 and appoint **my brother, John Walter**¹⁵⁴, (overseer)
42 of this my last will and testament (to which I)
43 have set my hand the day and year (abovesaid)

the signatures of **Christopher Cotes**

by me **John Olyver**¹⁵⁵
 Robert Olyver¹⁵⁶

154 #1218, brother-in-law; Christopher's father-in-law, another John Walter (#49) in his will of 1587 mentions his daughter Margaret married to Christopher Coates and #49 also has a son John.

155 #70, the elder of Fawke, died March 1596; probably the scriptor of the will; he was probably also the scriptor of the will of his father-in-law, John Walter, written in 1587.

156 #136

George Coates of Seal, his son and grandchildren

There was also a George Coates who had a son Thomas who married Margaret Whorton on 17th September 1609 when he was twenty-eight. He had six children, the last one, Sara, being baptised two months after he was buried on 18th June 1626. George could have been Christopher's brother.

| | | | | | | |
|------|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------|
| | #1137 George - | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | #1139 Thomas - Margaret Whorton #2093 | | | | | |
| bap: | 31 Dec 1581 | | | | | |
| bur: | 18 Jun 1626 | | | | | |
| | ----- | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | #3676 | #3677 | #3678 | #3679 | #3680 | #3681 |
| | Thomas | Sylvester | Elizabeth | Jane | Margaret | Sara ¹⁵⁷ |
| bap. | 25 Aug 1611 | 14 Feb 1613 | 17 Dec 1615 | 14 Mar 1619 | 30 Mar 1623 | 20 Aug 1626 |
| bur. | 10 Nov 1611 | | | | | 10 Apr 1638 |
| | at 10 weeks | | | | | aged 11 |

Thomas (#1139) married Margaret Whorton in 1609

¹⁵⁷ when she was buried, in 1638, she was recorded as "daughter of widow Coates" showing that her mother had not remarried

William Smith of Ightham, writing his will in 1615, made "[his loving neighbour, Thomas Coates of Seal, shoemaker](#)" one of his supervisors and overseers. Was he the father of the above children? See William Smith's will in Family & Transcripts.

First: I bequeath my soul into the hands of god, my maker and redeemer, and to the blessed virgin, lady Saint Mary, and to all the company of heaven. And my body to be buried in the churchyard of Chatham.

Item: . . . high altar, tythes negligently forgotten 4d. I bequeath to **Alice Cock, my wife**, my two houses in the parish of Chatham withall the land thereto lying and appertaining for the space of 20 years next after my decease, if the said Alice Cock, my wife, do live so long.

Afterwards: one house to **son John Cock**, other to **son William Cock**.
Margaret Cock, daughter

residue to his wife - executrix; **overseer John Sermon**

. . . being sick in body but whole in mind and of good remembrance (God be praised) . . . **First:** I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty god, my maker and redeemer and my body to be buried within the parish churchyard of Sutton (*no money, etc. to poor*)

Thomas Constable of Penshurst

Thomas Constable of Penshurst was a wealthy yeoman. His will, written 3rd February 1616/7, (**PCC: Weldon 22**) has survived; only the probate copy of the will has been looked at and the only one of the witnesses who is not shown as making his mark rather than writing his name was Richard Bennett who was Thomas Constable's "man".

A Thomas Constable wrote the will of Francis Giles of Speldhurst on 21st October 1614 signing his name "[Thomas Constable, scr.](#)". He could also have written the will of Robert Kerwyne of Penshurst on 4th December 1615. Although the Thomas Constable whose will has survived, made his mark rather than signing his name, this does not preclude him from being the scriptor of other wills. Thomas Leddall, who wrote a number of wills, made his mark on his own will. In the seventeenth century, signing one's name using a quill pen must have been a much more difficult task than it is nowadays, not something easily done when one was "[sick of body](#)" and in bed.

A Thomas Constable was churchwarden of Penshurst in 1601 and 1609 and Thomas Constable, the elder, most probably the testator, was buried on 11th February 1616/7. There were at least three generations of Thomas Constables having children in Penshurst between 1560 and 1615. These could have been grandfather, father and son with the Thomas whose will has survived being the one born in 1561 making him fifty-six when he died with his son Thomas, twenty-two, old enough to be Thomas Constable, the younger.

The testator's father was probably the Thomas Constable who had a water mill which was broken into in 1570 - see [Constable in More Families & Transcripts](#) for details.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|----------------------------|-------------|--|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|--|
| | p584 ¹ Thomas - | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ----- | | | | | | | | | | |
| | p586 | | | p589 | | p587 | | p588 | | | |
| | Thomas - | | | Ann | | Mercy | | Mary | | | |
| bap: | 23 Feb 1561 | | | | | 2 Jan 1564 | | 8 Sep 1566 | | | |
| will: | 3 Feb 1617 | | | | | | | | | | |
| bur: | 11 Feb 1617 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | ----- | | | | | | | | | | |
| | p590 | | | p592 | | | p594 | | p596 | | |
| | Thomas* | | | Alice | | | William* | | George* | | |
| bap: | 13 Apr 1594 | | | 17 Apr 1597 | | | 13 Jun 1602 | | 21 Jun 1607 | | |
| bur: | | | | | | | | | 9 Aug 1612 | | |
| | | p591 | | | p593 | | | p595 | | p597 | |
| | | Raffe | | | Anne* | | | Margaret | | Robert* | |
| bap: | | 27 Feb 1596 | | | 17 Feb 1600 | | | 7 Apr 1605 | | 1 May 1610 | |
| bur: | | 9 Jun 1596 | | | | | | 2 Aug 1612 | | 21 May 1615 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | 11 Jan 1617 | |

* denotes a child mentioned by Thomas in his will; the deaths of Raffe in 1596, Margaret and Raffe in 1617 (the latter, the youngest son, who died, aged 21 months, a month before his father) were recorded but not that of Alice.

Assuming Thomas had been married only once, Ann, his wife, had had ten children in twenty-three years but, although her husband was thirty-three when his eldest child was born, she could have been much younger. In addition to

¹ p indicates a reference in the Pendhurst database; it was probably this Thomas who had a watermill - see More F

Thomas, she was left with Ann, her only daughter, just seventeen, and four sons ranging in age from seven to thirteen.

There were other Constable families in Penshurst at this time but none of them included a Thomas.

Thomas's legacies included a total of £250 to his five underage children but the payments would have been spread over thirteen years - 1621 to 1634. He left his "man" 20s and two other men and three women sums ranging from 10s to 3s 4d "in respect they are and have been all my true and faithful servants".

Thomas does not mention any land in Penshurst; the messuage, land, etc. which he leaves to Ann, his wife and then, on her death, to Thomas, his son, was in Birling, about fourteen miles north east of Penshurst. Ann, however, was excluded from having "all oaks, elms and ashes, body, boughs and twigs, which shall be standing and growing in any part of my lands as shall be twelve inches, about a foot, about the ??¹²". From Thomas's death, his son was to have all the "evidences pertaining to the said messuage and lands with all manner of papers", etc. concerning them.

Thomas's will is also interesting for the religious beliefs which are indicated even before the preamble: "in the fourteenth year of the reign of our good and godly religious king James". The preamble is unusual: "I commend my soul unto Almighty god, my creator and to Jesus Christ, his dear son, my only redeemer, and to the holy ghost, my comforter, steadfastly believing without wavering that all my sins be forgiven and clean wiped away by the merit and passion of the son Jesus Christ and not for any works or merits of mine own".

His bequest to the poor of the parish is again unusual: "I give and bequeath unto the poor people that in respect of need shall come to my burial in hope to be relieved thirty shillings".

Will of Thomas Constable of Penshurst

written 3rd February 1616/7

transcript from probate copy; PCC: Weldon 22

- 1 In the name of god Amen. I, Thomas Constable of
- 2 Penshurst in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick of body but of perfect mind and memory,

3 thanks be given to Almighty God, do make and ordain this to be my last
will and testament
4 in writing the third day of February in the fourteenth year of the reign of our
good and
5 godly religious king James. And in the year of our Lord God one thousand
six hundred and sixteen
6 in manner and form following: **First:** I commend my soul unto Almighty
god, my creator and
7 to Jesus Christ, his dear son, my only redeemer, and to the holy ghost, my
comforter, steadfastly
8 believing without wavering that all my sins be forgiven and clean wiped
away by the merit
9 and passion of the son Jesus Christ and not for any works or merits of mine
own. And my body
10 to be buried in the church yard of the parish of Penshurst. Now, as
touching the bequeathing and
11 disposing of all such transitory goods, as Almighty God of his great
goodness hath blessed me
12 withall, **First:** I give and bequeath unto the poor people that in respect of
need shall come to
13 my burial in hope to be relieved thirty shillings. **Item:** I give unto that
learned preacher that

14 shall preach at my funeral, for his pains therein taken, ten shillings. **Item:** I
give unto my
15 **beloved wife** all my linen and all my pewter to give at her own disposing.
And also
16 I give unto her my bed in my chamber over my parlour which I always use
to lie upon
17 together with the steddle, one covering and one blanket with bolsters and
other th'appurtenances
18 belonging unto it wholly furnished. **Item:** I give unto **Ann Constable, my**
daughter, three
19 score pounds of lawful money of England to be paid unto her by my
executors hereafter named
20 when she shall accomplish her full age of one and twenty years or day of
her marriage which of
21 them shall first happen. And my will is that whereas I have given her
mother all my linen to
22 give at her own disposing, so like wise my will is that she give unto the
aforesaid Ann Constable, my
23 daughter, at her aforesaid age of one and twenty years or day of her
marriage, five pairs of
24 sheets, one dozen of table napkins, two table cloths and half a dozen of
towels. **Item:**

25 I give unto **William Constable, my son**, three score pounds of lawful money
of England. **Item:** I
26 give unto **George Constable, my son**, fifty pounds of lawful money of
England. **Item:** I give unto
27 **Robert Constable, my son**, forty pounds of lawful money of England. **Item:** I
give unto **John**
28 **Constable, my son**, forty pounds of lawful money of England. To be paid
unto each of them
29 severally by my executors hereafter named at such time and when as they
shall accomplish their
30 several ages of two and twenty years. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
Richard Bennett, my
31 **man**, twenty shillings. **Item:** I give to **William Pinett** ten shillings. **Item:** to
Walter Bright
32 five shillings. **Item:** to **Ann Farrow** five shillings. **Item:** to **Jane Moyse**
twenty shillings
33 to be paid unto her when her apprenticeship is out. **Item:** I give to **Jane**
Pullenger three
34 shillings and four pence in respect they are and have been all my true and
faithful servants.
35 This is now the last will and testament of me the said Thomas Constable,
made the day and

36 year and reign above written concerning the disposing, giving and devising
of all
37 that my messuage, buildings, lands and tenements with their
appurtenances, lying and being in the **West**
38 **Street** of the parish of **Birling** in the county of Kent aforesaid. I give and
bequeath unto **Ann**,
39 **my beloved wife**, to have and to hold for and during her natural life but not
without
40 impeachment of waste and excepting from her all oaks, elms and ashes,
body, boughs
41 and twigs, which shalbe standing and growing in any part of my lands as
shalbe twelve
42 inches, about a foot, about the ?? at my death. Afterward I give and
bequeath the afore
43 said messuage and lands, buildings and all other edifices with
th'appurtenances thereunto belong
44 ing unto **my loving son Thomas Constable** and to the heirs of his body
lawfully begotten
45 for ever. And my will is that the said Thomas Constable, my son, shall from
my death
46 have the custody and keeping of all my Evidences pertaining to the said
messuage and lands

47 with all manner of papers, ?? and escripts concerning the same. And my
will and
48 mind is that, whereas I have given to Ann, my wife, all my messuage,
buildings,
49 lands and tenements, to have and to hold during her natural life, yet my
mind is
50 that if the said Ann do unfaithfully keep or retain unto herself any of my
51 goods to the value of ten shillings and duly proved or ?? act or acts except
52 the making of such lease or leases of the said tenement and lands
aforesaid, to the
53 disturbance or hurt of the said Thomas Constable, my other executor,
without his consent
54 or assent or contrary to the intent and meaning of any thing of this my
present will
55 first had under his hand and seal in writing, then I will that this my devise
of
56 my messuage, building, tenement and lands to her bequeathed shall cease
and utterly be
57 void as though it had never been bequeathed unto her. And the like course
I will the
58 said Thomas Constable shall observe on his part in the execution of this my
will on the other

59 side. The residue of my goods, chattels, leases, debts, bills and bonds,
whatsoever,
60 after my debts be paid and legacies performed faithfully and truly and this
my will
61 there set down by law orderly and truly proven and my funeral discharged, I
will and
62 bequeath to be equally divided into two parts whereof one part I give unto
Ann, my wife,
63 and the second part I give unto Thomas Constable, my son, which said
Thomas Constable,
64 my son, and Ann, my wife, I make my sole executors of this my last will and
testament.
65 Provided always, and my will and mind is, that if Ann, my said wife, should
happen to
66 marry and betake her to a husband, then my will and mind is that the said
Thomas
67 Constable, my other executor, shall pay unto her one hundred pounds of
lawful money of England
68 and also deliver unto her such goods as I have freely bequeathed unto her,
meaning my
69 linen, my pewter and also one bed wholly furnished and together with my
lands and messuage

70 and tenement¹⁶⁰ as aforesaid to have during her life. And my will and mind
is that she
71 take my two younger sons with her and bring them up with her according
to her discre
72 tion and wishes. And I do here appoint and entreat **Master Thomas**
Holinge of
73 Penshurst aforesaid and **Mr. George Shiers of Westminster, my brother-in-**
law, to be my
74 overseers giving unto each of them for their pains a ring of eleven shillings
price.
75 In witness of this truth I have hereunto set my hand and seal. And also
made my mark
76 upon every leaf hereof being four in number. In the presence of the mark
of me,
77 the said Thomas Constable. The mark of **John Carter, Richard Bennett**, the
mark of
78 **William Lorkin**.

160 it would have been expected that, on her marriage, Ann would have forfeited the messuage, etc. with the £100 to recompense her for this loss. Perhaps an error has been made either in this transcription or in the probate copy.

In the name of god Amen. I, Samuel Cooke, of the parish of Mereworth in the county of Kent . . . to be feeble in body but well in mind, all praise and . . . God for it, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following. All things I most humbly adoring, the blessed trinity do (bequeath) my soul to God, the father, who hath created me, to God the son, to God the holy ghost, my comforter and my body to be buried in the churchyard of the parish church of Mereworth aforesaid.

Thomas Cook of Tonbridge

When Thomas was "visited with extreme sickness", James Lawrence demanded of him "whether he had taken any order for his goods or not". Thomas replied that he hadn't made any will in writing but that all his goods were to go to the two daughters of his son-in-law (most likely his granddaughters) because of their "diligent attendance and pains taken" with him during his sickness. James Lawrence was obviously not satisfied with this since he further demanded whether Thomas's brother should not have something. But Thomas Cooke answered: "As for my brother, he would not vouchsafe to come and see me this long while not even in this my extremity of sickness". Thus "my meaning is that he shall not have any part of the same".

Nuncupative Will of Thomas Cook of Tonbridge

written 26th July 1590

transcript from original

This will (Drb/Pw 15; Drb/Pwr 17.431) is in the handwriting of Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618.

Memorandum. That upon Sunday, being¹⁶¹ the six
and twentieth day of July, Ao. dm. 1590. Thomas
Cooke of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being
visited with extreme sickness, notwithstanding being of
perfect mind and remembrance, uttered and pronounced
these words following, touching his last will, or the
like in effect, viz. He, the said Thomas Cooke,
being demanded by one **James Lawrance of Tonbridge**
aforesaid, **yeoman**, then being present, whether he had
taken any order for his goods or not ¹⁶²
he, the said Thomas, answered that he had not made
any will in writing but, quoth he, the said Thomas
Cooke: As for my goods, my will is that **my son-in-**
law's daughters, Johane and Mercy Goldsmith, in
consideration of my diet¹⁶³ with their father during my
sickness and their own diligent attendance and pains
taken with me in the same, shall

161 "beeing", "hee", etc. throughout which was usual for Nicholas Hooper; also "folowing" on line 6

162 "answered that" crossed out

163 "Dyett"

18 have all the same immediately after my decease, both goods, chattells, and
19 ready money whatsoever. And being then farther demanded,
20 by the said James, whether his brother should not
21 have any part thereof, he, the same Thomas Cooke answered
22 As for my brother, he would not vouch safe to come and see me
23 this long while, neither in this my extremity of
24 sickness, notwithstanding it cannot be chosen but he must
25 needs here thought, wherefore my meaning is that he
26 shall not have any part of the same. All which words,
27 or the like in effect, were uttered and spoken by him, the
28 said Thomas Cooke as aforesaid in the presence and hearing
29 of the said James Lawrence and of **Nicholas**
30 **Latter** of Tonbridge aforesaid the day and
31 year above written.

This will and that of Ann Cooper, widow, have not been investigated in detail but Ann could have been John's widow. John's is a long will.

First: I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty god, my creator and redeemer, and my body to be buried at the discretion of my executor and overseers in Christian burial.

poor people of Maighfeld (Mayfield), Sussex £6

poor people of Leigh £4

Witnesses: John Charke, vicar of Leigh
 Stephen Penkherst, John Wilmsherst, William Umfrey,
 Henry Bellingham.

First: I commend my soul into the hands of god, my maker, hoping assuredly, through the only merits of Jesus Christ, my saviour, to be made partaker of eternal life and I commend my body to the earth and to be buried in the parish church of Leigh aforesaid besides my first husband **Mr. Richard Walter.**

Witnesses: Robert Symonds, Zacharie Taylor

John Cornford, carpenter, of Seal

The will of John Cornford, carpenter, is dated 26th April 1614 but he did not die until the spring of the following year being buried on 4th April 1615. All that is known from his will is that he had a daughter, Joan, who was married and a wife Else. He leased a house in which his daughter lived and also a "[certain house or cottage in Seal](#)" in which he and his wife lived. On his death, Joan was to have the house in which he lived with Else moving into the one his daughter had been living in. The bottom of the will has rotted away or been torn off and the probate copy has not survived so that the names of the witnesses cannot be determined. However, there are various references to "Cornford" in the parish registers of Seal and Ightham.

Richard Cornford married **Isabel Siflet** on 16 May 1571 in **Ightham**. **Isabel Cornford** was buried in **Ightham** on 26th February 1592; was she Richard's wife and was Richard John's brother?

Richard and John, sons of John Cornford, were baptised in **Ightham** on 4th March 1579 and 11th December 1580 respectively. Neither son lived very long, Richard being buried on 24th January 1580, before he reached his first birthday, and John on 19th December, eight days after being baptised.

In Seal:

Johane, daughter of John Cornford, was baptised on 24th March 1583. This was probably the daughter mentioned by the carpenter in his will written when she was thirty-one. **Rachel, the wife of John Cornford**, was buried on 7th December 1594; she could have been Johane's mother. But was the carpenter also the father of Richard and John baptised and buried in Ightham?

John Cornford married Sybil Pennet, widow, on 13th December 1595, almost exactly a year after Rachel had died. Sybil could have been the widow of **Thomas (#882¹⁶⁴)** or **William (#1115) Pennet**. On 11th April 1597, John Cornford was fined 6d for allowing his wife and servants to cut wood on Ightham Common - see Excerpts from Ightham Court Rolls. If Sybil was Thomas Pennet's widow, John Cornford had married a woman already experienced at "[plundering the lord's wood](#)" - see [Pennet](#)

On 2nd May 1613, John Cornford married widow Cock; if the John Cornford who married Sybil Pennet was the carpenter, Sybil must have died before 1613. Perhaps the "[J. Cornford, wife of John Cornford](#)" who died 9 Nov 1607 was really S. Cornford.

164 # indicates reference in Seal database

William Coxe (or Cock, #109) was buried on 1st September 1612 but he must have been in his seventies when he died since his children were born from about 1560 to 1568. The mother of his children would also have been in her seventies, too old to have married John Cornford. However she may have died earlier and William could have married again leaving a younger widow to become John's wife.

There could have been just one John Cornford who started married life in Ightham and, after the death of his two children (and also his first wife), moved to Seal where his daughter, Joan/Johane was baptised. Then, after the death of his second wife Rachel, he married the widow Sybil Pennet and then the widow (Else) Cock. He would probably have been in his sixties when he died. See the next page for a summary of this reconstruction.

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M | C | Died |
|---------|---|----------------|-------------|--------------------|---|---|---------------------------|
| #1189 | <u>CORNFORD, John</u> ----- | | | | 4 | 3 | 4 Apr 1615 in his 50s/60s |
| | Marriage 1 | | <1579 | | 1 | 2 | |
| • #3839 | <u>CORNFORD, Richard</u> | 4 Mar 1579(I) | | died at 11 months | 0 | 0 | 24 Jan 1580(I) |
| • #3840 | <u>CORNFORD, John</u> | 11 Dec 1580(I) | | died at 1 week | 0 | 0 | 19 Dec 1580(I) |
| | Marriage 2 | | | Rachel Cornford(m) | 1 | 1 | |
| #1190 | <u>his wife, Rachel</u> ----- | | | | 1 | 1 | 7 Dec 1594 in her 30s |
| • #1191 | <u>Cornford, Johane</u> | 24 Mar 1583 | | | 0 | 0 | |
| | Marriage 3 | | | Sybil Pennet(m) | 1 | 0 | |
| #1694 | <u>Pennet(m), Sybil</u> ----- | | 13 Dec 1595 | | 2 | ? | 9 Nov 1607? |
| | Marriage 4 | | | widow Cock/Coxe | 1 | 0 | |
| #1977 | <u>Cock/Coxe, (Else) widow</u> ----- | | 2 May 1613 | | 2 | 3 | |

1 In the name of god Amen. The six and twenty day of April in the
2 twelfth year of the king's majesty's reign, I, **John Cornford** of
3 Seal in the County of Kent, **carpenter**, do make and ordain
4 this my last will and testament in manner and form following:
5 **First:** I give and bequeath my soul to almighty god, my maker
6 and redeemer and my body to be buried in the churchyard
7 of Seal aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my daughter,**
8 **Joan**, a certain house or cottage in Seal with appurtenances
9 of land thereto belonging and containing, by estimation, one yard(?) and
abutting
10 to the land of **Robert French**¹⁶⁵ toward the west and north and to the
11 land of the said Robert toward the south now in the
12 tenure and occupation of me, the said John, also using and keeping
13 the articles and content . . . to be observed and kept
14 by me the said John. And if it shall happen the said Joan or her husband
15 or their assigns do fell or cut down any trees or wood contrary
16 to my lease, then my will is that **Else, my wife**, shall take

165 probably #938 who married in 1578

17 and enjoy the rest of the said lease and to expel and put out
18 my said daughter, her husband, or their assigns. **Item:** I give
19 and bequeath to my said daughter, Joan, all such household stuff as she
there
20 have in her possession. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Else, my wife**, the
21 lease of the house where my daughter now dwelleth with all
22 my goods and chattels whatsoever unbequeathed and to be my only and
sole executrix.
23 **Item:** I make and appoint **Gilbert Kipps of Kemsing** and **William Walker**¹⁶⁶
24 my overseers desiring them to see this my will and testament well
25 and truly performed. In witness whereof to this my present will I
26 have set my hand and seal the day and year above written.
signed: John Cornford

read and sealed in the presence of : Richard ?? ?? ?? scriptor.

¹⁶⁶ Gilbert Kips (k7 - k indicates reference in Kemsing database) had children in the 1570s and 1580s and died in 1617; William Walter (#1223) married in 1585

Robert Cornford, haberdasher of Tonbridge

There were Cornfords in Seal but there seems to be no connection between them and the testator of this will (**PCC: Essex 150**). It is interesting because when he died Robert had not received two legacies left him by his father, one of £400 and another of £300. Robert hoped that his executors would "endeavour, by due court of law, to recover the said respective legacies".

There were only two witnesses: Thomas Carpenter and George Cooke who made his mark. Was Thomas Carpenter the scribe?

Since Robert had two brother-in-laws with the surname "Jeffrey", his wife was presumably a Jeffrey:

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| t843 ¹⁶⁸ | Robert Cornford of Brickstead, Sussex | ?? Jeffrey |
| will: < 1648 | | |
| | t845 | t848 |
| | Robert - Ann | Thomas |
| will: 16 Jan 1648 | | t850 |
| | | William |
| | t851 | t852 |
| | John | Martha |

Will of Robert Cornford of Tonbridge

written 16th January 1647/8; proved 2nd November 1648

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Robert
 2 Cornford of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **haberdasher**, being sick
 3 and weak in body but of sound and perfect memory, thanks be to
 4 god, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form fol-
 5 lowing **First:** I bequeath my soul to god, my creator and merciful Re-
 6 deemer, and my body to the earth to be decently buried by my executor.
 7 And for such goods and estate with which God hath been pleased to bless
 8 me, I will and bequeath them as followeth: all my wearing apparel,

9 linen and woollen, I will and bequeath to my executor hereafter
10 named. And whereas there was a legacy of four hundred pounds since
11 given and bequeathed unto me by the last will and testament of **Robert**
12 **Cornford of Brickstead** in the county of **Sussex**, my father, and one other
13 legacy of three hundred pounds, both which said legacies were to have
14 been paid unto me by the executors in the said will named according to
15 the respective times therein mentioned as in and by the said will appea-
16 reth, which said several legacies are yet unpaid, I will, and my desire is
17 that my executors hereafter named will endeavour, by due court of law,
18 to recover the said respective legacies and to compel the executors or exe=
19 cutor in the said will named to pay the same, or else that they will take
20 such composition¹⁶⁷ for the same as they in their discretion shall think
21 fit of. Which said legacies, if my executors shall recover the same, or else
22 so much money as they shall take off the executors or executor of
23 the said Robert Cornford, my father, in composition for the same, I will
24 and bequeath, after and allowance and deduction of my executors expen-
25 ses, for and in the recovery of the said legacies and for my funeral
26 charges, as followeth¹⁶⁸, that is to say, one part of the said money so be-

167 compensation

168 "foloweth", also "mee" and "bee" on the next line; this is the probate copy.

queathed unto me in six parts to be divided¹⁶⁹; I will and bequeath unto **Martha Cornford, my daughter**, one other part of the said money in six parts to be divided, I will to **John Cornford, my son**. A third part, I will to **Ann Cornford, my wife**. A fourth part, I will to **Thomas Jeffrey, my brother in-law**, and **John Carpenter, an infant, the son of Thomas Carpenter** of Tonbridge. And the two other parts of the said money, I will and bequeath to my executors hereafter named. And I do hereby make, constitute and appoint **John Amherst of Brayes Inn** in the county of **Middlesex** and **William Jeffrey of Tonbridge** in the county of Kent, **my brother-in-law**, the executors of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this sixteenth of January in the year of our lord god, one thousand, six hundred, forty seven. Robert Cornford
Signed, sealed and published, by the said Robert Cornford, to be his last will and testament, in the presence of **Thomas Carpenter, George Cooke**, his mark

169 does mean that, after deducting the charges, etc., the remainder was to be divided into six parts wife Robert's wife, son and daughter each receiving one part, his brother-in-law and the infant son of Thomas Carpenter sharing another part and the remaining third (two parts) going to his executors?

May 15 1618

1 In the name of god Amen. I, William Cotchforde of
2 Penshurst in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being in good health of body and
perfect
3 memory, thanks be to God, and remembering that having lived many years
4 the time of my dissolution cannot be far off, do make this my last will and
testament
5 in manner and form following: **First:** I bequeath my soul into the hands of
god
6 to be eternally saved through the merits of Jesus Christ alone; And I will
that my
7 body be buried at the discretion of my wife and friend overliving me. **Item:**
I give
8 to the poor man's box at the said parish of Penshurst twelve pence to be
paid
9 within thirteen weeks after my burial. **Item:** I give to **Henry Cruttenden of**
Leigh next

10 Tonbridge in the county aforesaid, **gent.**, one joined bedstedle standing in
my now
11 dwelling house in Penshurst aforesaid in the chamber over the hall with a
featherbed and
12 bolster of feathers now lying upon that bedstedle and my best coverlet and
one pair of
13 sheets, he, the said Henry, to hold the same to himself, his heirs, executors
and
14 assigns ?? take after the decease of me and **Ellenor, my wife.** The residue
of all my
15 goods, moveables and chattels I give and bequeath to Ellenor, my said
wife, whom I
16 ordain and constitute sole executrix of this my last will and testament,
praying the said
17 Henry Cruttenden that he will be helpful to my said wife as I know he will
and ever hath
18 been. And I ordain him my overseer of this my last will and testament. In
witness
19 whereof I have hereto put my hand and seal the day above noted. The
mark of William

- 20 Cotchforde, testator. Delivered, signed and sealed in the presence of us
John Charte, clerk¹⁷⁰.
- 21 The mark of **John Remington, John Weeking**.

170

John Charte, clerk, was a witness to the will of John Everest of Leigh written on 24th June 1618 by Nicholas Hooper - see *evetol.will*. John Charte probably wrote this will.

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 in the year of our lord god 1564
3 the 4th July and in the year of the
4 reign of the sixth, I, Johane Cottman of
5 the parish of Seal in the County of
6 Kent, **widow**, being sick in body but,
7 thanks be unto almighty god, sound
8 and of perfect memory, do make my last
9 will and testament in manner and
10 form following: **First:** I bequeath my
11 soul unto almighty god, my saviour and
12 Redeemer and my body to be buried
13 in the churchyard of Seal afore
14 said. **Item:** I give unto **Elizabeth**
15 **Cottman** that is now with me, my best
16 kettle, a brasse pot, a possett, 2
17 pewter dishes, one saucer, a salt and
18 chafing dish, 2 pairs of sheets, a
19 latton candlestick and a little chest

20 to be delivered unto her by my executor
21 when the said Elizabeth shall come to the
22 age of 18 years. And if the
23 said Elizabeth do depart this world
24 before she come to that age, I will
25 the said stuff to her bequeathed then
26 to be sold and given to the poor.
27 **Item:** I give to **Francis Potter's wife**, a
28 mattress. **Item:** I give to **Johane Coston**,
29 a chest and a pewter platter. **Item:** I
30 give to **Johane Heath, widow**, my best
31 tyrbell and a cloak. **Item:** I give to **John**
32 **Brett's wife**, a red towel. **Item:** I give to
33 **William Cock, the younger, his**
34 **wife**¹⁷¹, my best gown. **Item:** I give to
35 **Frances Averill**, a pewter dish and to **Alice Holloway**,
36 a pewter dish. **Item:** I give to **Mother Starn**
37 of **Sevenoaks**, my crimson kirtle¹⁷².
38 All the rest of my goods I will that

171 the wife of #109

172 or towel?

39 it be sold and given to the poor by
40 **William Masters** whom I ordain
41 and make the executor of this my
42 last will and testament. These being
43 witness: **Gilbert Jenyns**, clerk, vicar
44 **William Hill, William Porter**¹⁷³, with others

173 William Masters - #105. Gilbert Jenyns (#15) wrote the wills of a number of his parishioners and could have written this one; William Hill - #615, William Porter - #58

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Robert Cotton, **gent.** being
2 in perfect memory (I praise Almighty god)
3 though weak in body, make this my last
4 will and testament, the twelfth day of March
5 in the eighth year of the reign of our sovereign
6 Lord, King Charles, 1632, as followeth:
7 **Imprimis**, I bequeath my soul into the hands
8 of Almighty god who gave it and my body
9 to Christian burial and to be buried in
10 decent manner.
11 As for all my lands and tenements, I have
12 disposed of already.
13 And for the goods that I should have had
14 which **Anne, my now wife**, seeing that she
15 was unwilling that I should have them
16 from her children, therefor I do give all
17 my goods unto **George Cotton, my son**, after
18 my decease, leaving my wife's goods to her
19 own discharge.

20 And I do also make George Cotton, my
21 sole executor of this my last will and
22 testament.

Richard Cotton¹⁷⁴

witness hereunto

Thomas White

John Stevenson

This will (CKS: Prs/w/3/170) was proved in the Deanery of Shoreham; no other Cotte wills have survived from the Chiddingstone locality. It was written by Thomas Leddall who wrote a large number of wills between 1615 and 1643 mainly for people living in the villages of Penshurst and Chiddingstone.

1 In the name of god Amen. The nine and twentieth day of May in the
2 year of our Lord one thousand, six hundred, twenty and nine and in the fifth
year of the
3 reign of our sovereign lord King Charles, etc. I, Thomas Cotte of
Chiddingstone
4 in the county of Kent, being sick and weak of body but of sound and perfect
mind
5 and memory, thanks be¹⁷⁵ to Almighty god, do ordain and make this my last
will
6 and testament in manner and form following: **First** and principally I
bequeath my

175 "bee" throughout

7 soul to Almighty god, my maker and creator, and to Jesus Christ, my only
saviour and redeemer,
8 by whose death, passion and blood shedding with an assured faith, I fully
trust to attain to the
9 joyful resurrection of eternal life, committing my body to the earth and to be
buried
10 in the churchyard of Chiddingstone aforesaid. **Item:** I give to the poor
people of the
11 said parish five shillings to be distributed to them at the discretion of my
12 executrix hereafter named. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **John Cotte**
and Joane Cotte,
13 **my children,** to either of them ten pounds a piece of good and lawful
english money to be
14 paid unto them when they shall attain to their several ages of sixteen years
by mine
15 executrix hereafter named which said money I borrowed of my **Aunt Joane**
Combridge,
16 widow, and she hath give it to my said children. **Item:** I give and bequeath
unto
17 **Joane, my wife,** and John and Joane Cotte, my said children, all my
moveable goods,
18 chattels and cattell whatsoever (wood excepted to my wife) to be equally
divided between them in manner and form

19 following: viz. I will and devise that all my said goods shall be prized sold
by
20 four honest men before Michaelmas next and the money that my said
goods so prized
21 and sold shall arise and accommodate?? unto my debts and funeral first
paid and discharged, shalbe equally divided between my said wife
22 and children provided, and my will and meaning is that if Joane, my wife
be now with
23 child and if it please god the said child live, then I will and devise that the
said
24 child shall have a equal part or portion of my said goods with my children
aforesaid. Also my will
25 and meaning is that Joane, my wife, shall have the profit of all my said
children's
26 portions, until they shall accomplish their ages of sixteen years or days of
marriage
27 which shall first happen, towards the education and bringing up of my said
children, the said Joane,
28 my wife, entering into sufficient bond for the payment of my said children's
portions when they
29 shall accomplish their ages or days of marriage as aforesaid. Also I do
ordain and

30 make the said Joane, my wife, the full and sole executrix of this my last will
and testament
31 and I do make my loving kinsman **Robert Combridge** and **William Wallis**
32 supervisors thereof.

33 This is the last will and testament of me, Thomas Cotte, made and
declared
34 the day and year aforesaid touching or concerning of the disposing of my
tenement
35 and lands, situated, lying and being in at **Kendlies Hoath** in Chiddingstone
aforesaid.

36 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto John, my son, all the said messuage or
tenement with
37 the orchard, gardens, yards and appurtenances thereunto belonging, lying
in Chiddingstone
38 as aforesaid, to have and to hold unto the said John, my son, his heirs and
assigns
39 for ever, provided, and my will and meaning is that Joane, my wife, shall
have the benefit
40 and profit of my messuage or tenement aforesaid until the said John, my
son, shall
41 accomplish the age of one and twenty years, my said wife keeping the said

42 message or tenement well and sufficiently repaired during the said term.
In witness
43 whereof to this my present testament and last will, containing one sheet
and
44 a half of paper, I have here unto put my hand and seal the day and year
aforesaid.

Thomas
Cottye
T

Read, published and acknowledged
in the presence of

Nicholas Pigott
Thomas Leddall, scr.

And first I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty god, my most loving and gracious father through Jesus Christ, my Lord and only saviour, by whose only merit I trust to have forgiveness of all my sins and eternal salvation. And I will my body to be buried in Christian burial at the discretion of my executor.

to the poor of Sundridge 10s to be distributed immediately after burial.

Witnesses: John Carott, Henry Shoebridge, John Style

The Coxes of Seal

This name is spelt Cock, Cocks, Cocke, Cox; here "Coxe" is used throughout. The will of William Coxe, senior, (#625¹⁷⁸) has survived:

written 7th July 1569; William buried 18th December 1569

CKS: Drb/Pw 9; Drb/Pwr 13.452 page c.267

It was written by **John Hooper, senior**, and has decorated letters and some terminology which is typical of "Hooper wills". It seems to have been proved, in Seal, in front of the vicar, Gilbert Jenyns. This proving of wills locally happened on occasion but, so far, the reason for this is not known.

On 8th October 1589, **Agnes (s436), the relict of John Cox (s435) of Sevenoaks** was appointed her husband's administrator¹⁷⁹.

¹⁷⁸ # denotes number in Seal database and "s" in that for Sevenoaks

¹⁷⁹ Duncan, A.C. Vol. 18

The William Coxes

The name "William" occurs in many families but not usually quite as frequently as in the Coxe family.

A William Coxe witnessed the will of Maryan Olyver in 1532, this could have been #625 but is more likely to have been his father.

In 1559, a William Coxe and his wife Agnes were defendants against a case regarding a messuage and some land in Seal brought by John Wright and his wife, Joan - see **Seal Fines in More Families & Transcripts**

In 1592 a William Coxe was appointed the overseer of the will of Agnes's husband, William Christopher (#251) who describes this William Coxe as his "cousin". Agnes had a brother William (#109) who had a son William (#1235) who would have been about thirty in 1592 and "cousin" is sometimes used for nephew but there could have been earlier marriages between the two families.

A "**widow Coxe**" married **John Cornford** (#1189) on 2 May 1613, 8 months after William (#109) died; perhaps he had married twice since the mother of his children must also have been in her seventies by 1612 - see **John Cornford**.

William Coxe, senior

William was a tenant in fee simple of about two and a half acres at Padwell in Seal¹⁷⁸ which he left initially to his wife, Johane, and then to his son William who already owned some land adjacent to that of his father. It is not known how long this tenancy was to last but they were often taken out for 99 years. However, his sister Agnes and her husband, William Christopher (#251), were to "enjoy the said garden, orchard and parcel of land and wood" until the Christmas following Johane's death. Johane was buried on 27th April 1582 so that Agnes and her husband would have had thirteen years in which to enjoy their occupancy.

Agnes and her brother were also to make and maintain a hedge or closure which had already been agreed upon "at the northside of the said strake thereof from the upper part or corner of the land . . . to a certain tree standing in the east hedge of the said upper garden or orchard as the same is now marked out". Did they make this hedge directly after William's death or did they wait until their mother died by which time it might have been difficult to decide which was the "certain tree".

178 Padwell is about 1½ miles from the centre of Seal, towards Stone Street

- 1 In¹⁷⁸ the name of God Amen. The seventh day of July, in the year of our
lord god a
2 thousand, five hundredth, three score and nine. I, William Cocke of Seal in
the county
3 of Kent, **senior**, being old¹⁷⁹, feeble and weak of body but sound and perfect
of memory, thanked be god,
4 Do make and Ordain this my present Testament and Last will in manner
and form following¹⁸⁰.
5 And **First** and principally I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty
God, mine only
6 Saviour and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, and my body to be buried in the
church yard of Seal

178 decorated "I" with small decoration above "name"

179 given that his eldest grandson, son of William Coxe the younger, was born 1560 at the latest, William Cocke, senior, must have been at least 60 when he wrote his will

180 spelt with only one "l", a form also used by Nicholas Hooper when writing wills

7 aforesaid. **Item:** I give unto the box of the relief of the poor of the parish of
Seal aforesaid
8 4d. The residue of all and singular my goods, cattels and moveables
whatsoever, my debts paid and
9 legacies fulfilled, I give and bequeath unto **Johanne, my wellbeloved wife**,
whom I make and
10 constitute my whole and sole executrix of this my last will and testament.
These witnesses
11 underwritten.

12 This¹⁸¹ is the last will and testament of me the said William Cocke made
and declared the day and year
13 above written concerning all my land and tenements undisposed lying and
being in Seal aforesaid. And first
14 I will and bequeath to the said Johane my wife and her assigns during her
natural life¹⁸², All that my Garden or

181 decorated "T" and similar decoration over "last" as over "name" at the top of the will; the second part of the will is written to a longer line length than the first part

182 this initially read "to William Cocke, my son, and to his heirs in fee simple, for ever"

15 Orchard called **Th'upper Orchard** and one parcel of land and wood thereto
adjoining called the **Upper Croft** and a strake? of land ?? the same ??
containing in
16 the whole, by estimation, two acres and a half together lying and being at
Padwell in Seal aforesaid; to the Common
17 there against the North and East, to the lands of me the said William Cocke
and the land of the said **William**
18 **Cocke, my son**, against the south, and to the land of **John Christopher**¹⁸³
against the west now in the tenure or
19 occupation of me the said William, the father, or of mine assigns. And,
after the decease of the said Johane my wife, I will
20 and bequeath the said Orchard and parcel of Land and wood and strake
with all and singular th'appurtenances to the said William Cocke, my
21 son, and to his heirs in fee simple for ever. Provided always, And my will is
that **William Christopher** and
22 **Agnes, his wife, my daughter**¹⁸⁴, their executors, administrators, and
assigns shall have and enjoy the said Garden, Orchard and
23 parcel of land and wood and strake with th'appurtenances until the feast of
the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ which shall next and

183 In 1562, William Christopher (#257) left a piece of land at Padwell to his son John (#2376)

184 they married on 29th October 1564 and had nine children - see #251 in *chrisww.will*

24 Immediately ensue and follow after the decease of me the said William the
father and Johane my wife and the longest
25 liver of us¹⁸⁵, quietly, without any vexation or Contradiction of the said
William, my son, his heirs, executors and
26 administrators. And that the said William and Agnes, their heirs or
assigns, at his, her or their proper cost and charge shall
27 make and maintain a hedge or closure agreed upon to be made at the
northside of the said Strake
28 thereof from the upper part or Corner of the land of the said William Cock
directly over the land thereto next
29 adjoining to a certain tree standing in the east hedge of the said upper
garden or orchard as the same is
30 now marked, bounded out, limited and appointed (Anything before
mentioned to the Contrary notwithstanding
31 standing.) In witness whereof I, the said William Cocke, the father, to those
present, have set
32 my seale yeven¹⁸⁶ the day and year first above written.
Present at the ensealing and delivery hereof:

185 Johane lived for over twelve years after the death of her husband, being buried on 27th April 1582 when she must have been in her 70s

186 "given"; a term used practically always by the Hoopers

John Hooper, sen.
James Barre, and others
the said William Cocke, the son

Probate before me, **Gilbert Jenyns**¹⁸⁷, clerk, vicar of Kemsing
and Seal, by virtue of a .

William Coxe, senior's family

The will makes it possible to fit together some of the people with names spelt in a variety of ways but the only grandchild William mentions is another William. The following tree has been built up from the parish registers. Although everything is not straightforward, Roger is a relatively uncommon name so that it is likely that the Roger who married Elizabeth Chownings of Ightham, in Seal, on 2nd December 1587 and had a daughter baptised and buried in Ightham was the man

¹⁸⁷ occasionally authority was given for a will to be proved before the vicar of the parish and this seems to have happened here

who, on 21st December 1588, married Timothy Beomond. In that case Elizabeth must have died earlier in 1588, probably as a result of the birth of her daughter.

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| will; | #625 William - Johane #110 | |
| bur: | 7 Jul 1569 | 18 Dec 1569 27 Apr 1582 |
| ----- | | |
| | #109 | #252 #251 |
| | William - | Agnes - William Christopher |
| bur: | 1 Sep 1612 | 22 Feb 1591 12 Oct 1592 |
| | | 9 children |
| ----- | | |
| #1235 | #1236 | #1345 #1344 (2) #2756 #111 #197 #419 |
| William - | Clemence Atherfold ¹⁸⁸ | Elizabeth Chownings - Roger - Timothy Beomond Agnes Sara ¹⁸⁹ Johane |
| born/bap: c1560 | | c1562 1 Jan 1564 17 Mar 1566 18 Jul 1568 |
| | | |
| | | #2755 Elizabeth James #2757 |
| bap: | | 28 Mar 1588 19 Dec 1591 |
| bur: | | 7 May 1588 |
| | | at 6 weeks |
| ----- | | |
| #1435 | #1584 | #1614 #1808 #2064 #1436 #2319 #3761 |
| Jane | Susan | William - Robert Mary ¹⁹⁰ - Henry Edward Richard |
| bap: 2 Jul 1587 | 12 Oct 1589 | 20 Dec 1590 7 Oct 1593 23 Jan 1597 MONKE 4 Jan 1601 12 Feb 1604 ¹⁹¹ |
| bur: 31 May 1595 | 12 Oct 1589 | 5 Jun 1647 30 Oct 1595 10 Dec 1646 |
| aged 7 | <1 week | aged 56 aged 2 aged 49 |
| see page c. 168 | | |

- 188 William and Clemence married on 2nd October 1586 - see [Atherfold](#)
- 189 Another "[Agnes, daughter of William Coxe](#)", was baptised on 1st April 1566; Sara and this Agnes cannot both be the daughters of #109 (unless she was a twin of Sara and they were baptised on different days)
- 190 Mary married Henry Monke on 15th June 1617 when she was twenty; see [Monke](#) for details of Henry's parents and siblings; they had a son William (#2951) baptised on 17th December 1620
- 191 baptised in Kemsing

Since the two eldest sons of William (#109) - William and Roger - were married in 1586 and 1587 respectively, they must have been born before William's daughters, say in 1560 and 1562. #109 was therefore born about 1535 and his father about 1510.

Some of the entries in the parish registers have been combined to make a very tentative family for William (#1614) the son of William and Clemence:

| | | | | | | | |
|------|-------------|-------------|----------------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | | | #1614 William | | Mary #4037 | |
| bap: | | | | | | | |
| bur: | | | | | 20 Dec 1590 | | |
| | | | | | 5 Jun 1647 | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | #2489 | #2425 | #2429 | | #2427 | #2428 | #2491 |
| | | | | | | | |
| | William | Henry | Richard | | Anthony | Marie | Anne |
| bap: | 25 May 1618 | 12 Dec 1619 | | | 23 Apr 1628 | 14 Mar 1631 | 28 Nov 1637 |
| bur: | 2 Feb 1641 | 4 Mar 1620 | 20 Dec 1621 ¹⁹² | | | | |
| | aged 22 | at 3 months | | | | | |

The children shown for #1614 could all be from a marriage in 1616 which would be reasonable for #1614's first marriage. There is a big gap between the burial of Richard and the baptism of Anthony in 1628. Anne Coxe, daughter of William and Mary, was baptised on 28th November 1637. Perhaps the mother of William, Henry and Richard died and their father remarried; even so there is another long gap between the baptism of Marie and Anne.

¹⁹² "an innocent", no father given

#2489 was recorded as William Coxe, junior when he was buried in 1641. His father, #1614, was presumably the William Coxe who was buried over six years later in 1647. In 1638, **Margerie Tebold** left "unto **William Coxe, the younger son of William Coxe, the elder**, of Seal aforesaid, **yeoman**, one double Testament and to either of his daughters a chest".

Other Coxes

A William Coxe (#4375) married **Elizabeth Smale, in Sevenoaks**, on 31st July 1608 and John (#2728) looks like the son of this William but there is no clue as to where, if at all, this William fits into the Seal family.

A William Coxe (#2424) married **Katherine Welfare** in 1639 and had two children in the 1640s (see **Welfare**) but where did he fit in with the rest of the Coxes?

Another William Coxe who cannot be fitted in is the one who married **Margaret Hadlow** on 23 Oct 1575 in **Kemsing** but it could not have been any of the Williams included here unless it was a second marriage of #109 about whose wife we know nothing at all.

Alexander Coxe (#4377) was buried on 16 April 1588 in **Kemsing**.

On 19th May 1641, **Mary, relict of William Coxe**, was appointed his administrator. (Duncan, Vol.20, 1893) Again it is not known which William Coxe this was.

In dei nom. Amen. primo die mon. January Anno one million 5 hundred ? ?
.. Robert Cramforde of Seal compose . . .

Impris. lego . .
... **Item:** lego .. altar for .. oblig. 16d. **Item:** lego **Johanne** ..

Johanne .. and **Robert Warre**, executors and ordain **William Denman** (overseer?)

witnesses: Thomas Sa. . , William Denman and others.

In the name of god Amen. 4th October 1556

I, John Crane, of the parish of Hadlow.

First: I bequeath my soul unto Almighty god, my maker and all the holy company of heaven and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Hadlow.

I bequeath to **Christian, my daughter**, the whole present of my house and land, lying and being in the parish of **Rotherfield**¹⁹³, for the space of two years and one half and, after the 2 years and half, then to remain to **John, my son**, and his heirs.

Item: I will that if John die without heirs to remain to Christian.

Item: I bequeath to John, my son, a brass pan lying in the hand of **John Assedowne** of Rotherfield.

(The residue to) Christian, my daughter, whom I make my sole executrix.
I ordain **William Samson** overseer.

The transcript of this will has been made from the film of the original (CKS: Drb/Pw 17¹⁹⁴) which, whilst fairly clear is difficult to read because of the language and peculiar spelling used and what appear to be strange arrangements. There also appears to be a contradiction in that, on lines 24-25, the testator refers to William Pate as his executor but on line 28 he mentions an executrix and refers to Pate and Thomas Hobson as his overseers. From the probate clause, it appears that Pate was appointed executor. William's daughter Elizabeth was the main beneficiary but a child which his wife "doth go withall" is mentioned; this is the only mention of a wife.

- 1 In the name of god Amen. I, William Cronkeshanke of the parish of Strood
2 and in the county of Kent, gardener, sick in body but whole in mind,
3 thanks be unto almighty god, ?? do make this my last will
4 and testament in manner and form following: **First:** I commend my soul
unto
5 ?? almighty god, my maker and redeemer, and my body to be buried
6 in the parish church yard of Strood as nigh unto my wives

194 the probate copy reference is CKS: Drb/Pwr 18.438

7 as they can lay my¹⁹⁵ written the 15th day of September Anno dm
8 1594. **First:** I give and bequeath unto my daughter Elizabeth my feather
9 bed, four feather bolsters with four pillows. Also I give unto my said
10 daughter Elizabeth four pairs of sheets, five chests and all that is in
11 them and cupboard and ten platters and pewter dishes?, four pewter pots
12 ten saucers and four salt sellars, five kettles, one stepnet, one spit,
13 one cobiron, one pair of tongs, one frying pan, one gouge iron
14 with one fire shovel. **Item:** I give unto Thomas Hebson my best cloak
15 and my best doublet and my cassock. **Item:** I give unto **William Pate**
16 my best red petticoat¹⁹⁶. Also I give unto my said daughter Elizabeth
17 my best Bast Tabill and the Tressells¹⁹⁷ which belong unto it, one
18 form, one bench which belong unto the table. Also I give
19 unto the said Thomas Hebson my best breeches after my decease.
20 Also there is in the hands of **Robert Move?** dwelling in Sasalk
21 in Witingam ten pounds and **John Sparke** hath the bond and he doth
22 dwell in ?? that I do then give unto my daughter, Elizabeth
23 and the child which my wife doth go with all other of them five pounds.

195 word "body" omitted here?

196 "petikote" - originally a short or small coat

197 best ?? table and the tressels; the word before Tabill looks like Best, the first two letters being the same as the first two of "Bench" on the next line where table is spelled "Tabill" as here.

24 Also, I give unto my said daughter Elizabeth and William Pate, my
25 executor, one house which is my right in Sasalk with the ??
26 ?? there unto belonging to be equally divided between
27 them if it ?? ??¹⁹⁸.
28 Also I do make my executrix and William Pate and Thomas Hobson
29 my overseers of this my last will and testament.

William W Cronkeshanke, mark
Thomas Bering, witness
Abraham Hawkins
Thomas Hebson, the writer

198 be necessary?

1 In dei name Amen. The 20th day of April in the
2 year of our lord god 1512, I, Margaret Crower
3 of Seal, **widow**, whole in mind but sick in body, ordain
4 and make my last will and testament in this wise:
5 **First:** I bequeath my soul to god, my body to be buried
6 in the churchyard of Seal. **Item:** I bequeath to the
7 high altar 12d. **Item:** to saint Catherine's (?) altar
8 a tablecloth. **Item:** 5 masses to be done for me at
9 my burying. Also at my month's mind ? masses.
10 And also 20d to be done for me yearly, the space of 12
11 years. **Item:** to each one of my daughters, a spoon of silver,
12 a puck? and --ercher. **Item:** to each of my godchildren, 4d.
13 **Item:** to **Thomasine, my daughter**, a featherbed, a pair of sheets,
14 a bolster, a brass pot and 3 pieces of pewter. **Item:** I
15 bequeath to **John Alan's wife**, 1 sheet
16 and 1 gown. **Item:** to **Margery, my daughter**, my best gown.
17 **Item:** to **Simon, my son**, 1 pair sheets and 1 coverlet. **Item:**
18 to **my son Harry**, one chest and one poss. . ett. **Item:**
19 I bequeath to **my daughter, Johane**, one pair of sheets

20 and 2 pieces of pewter and 1 candlestick. **Item:** I bequeath
21 the residue of all my goods not bequeathed unto
22 **William Wodd, my son** whom I make my executor
23 to dispose for the health of my soul. **Item:** I will
24 that the said William Wodd, my son, have one piece
25 of land, called the **postern croft**, for ever to have
26 to him, his heirs and assigns. **Item:** I bequeath to
27 ?? Wigth, ?? to **William Atwod**, my best
28 tablecloth. **Item:** to **John Howard**, a little heifer
29 witness of this: **Sir Xpher Blande, Henry Swaynland,**
30 **Robert Olyver** and others.

1 In the name of god Amen. The 22 day of April in the year of
2 our lord 1502, I, Thomas Crudde, of the parish of Seal
3 in whole mind being, make my testament in this wise. **First**
4 I bequeath my soul to Almighty god and my body to be
5 buried in the churchyard of Seal. **Item:** I bequeath to the high altar
6 there 6s 8d. **Item:** to the rood loft there 3s 4d. The
7 residue of my goods, my debts (and) bequests paid, I give and bequeath
8 to **William Porter, the younger**, whom I ordain and make my
9 executor to dispose for my soul as he thinks best.

The Crundwells of Brasted and Penshurst

Five Crundwell (or Crondwell) wills have survived, one from Brasted and four from Penshurst two of which were proved in the Deanery of Shoreham and two at the PCC:

| | | written: | proved: | |
|--------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-------------|--|
| Nicholas Crundwell | Brasted | 7 Apr 1618 | 16 Apr 1618 | CKS: Prs/w/3/142 page c.287 |
| Robert Crundwell | Penshurst | 4 Jan 1619/20 | 7 May 1620 | PCC: Soame 49; Prob 11/135 page c.294 |
| Thomas Crundwell | Penshurst | 24 Dec 1623 | | PCC: Bryde 14 |
| Richard Crundwell | Penshurst | 16 Nov 1629 | 8 Apr 1630 | CKS: Prs/w/3/173 page c.314 |
| Clemence Crundwell | Penshurst | 14 Jun 1633 ¹⁹⁹ | 7 Oct 1633 | CKS: Prs/w/3/187 page c.311 |

Only the preamble and witnesses to Thomas Crundwell's will has been investigated: "**First:** I give and bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty god, my only creator, and unto Jesus Christ, my only saviour and redeemer by whose merits, death and passion I hope to be saved. And my body to be buried in the churchyard of Penshurst." The witnesses were **Thomas Rivers, John Budgen and Samuel Halforde.**

In the Penshurst parish records the name Crundwell is, for certain periods, in particular 1602 to 1616, recorded as Krendwell.

The Early Crundwells of Penshurst

The first Crundwell family to be recorded is that of an early Nicholas who had four daughters:

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| p321 ²⁰⁰ Nicholas - | | | |
| | | | |
| ----- | | | |
| p339 | p340 | p341 | p342 |
| Margaret ²⁰¹ | Mary | Anne | Phoebe ²⁰² |
| bap: 10 Sep 1560 | 20 Aug 1564 | 18 May 1569 | 1 May 1572 |

²⁰⁰ p indicates reference in the Penshurst database

²⁰¹ Thomas, a base child of Margaret Crundwell was baptised on 22nd September 1585 when Nicholas's daughter would have been twenty-five; she is the only Margaret recorded

²⁰² The wife of **Allen Loker** who was baptised on 15th February 1573 was called Phoebe, a very uncommon name. Perhaps Phoebe Crundwell married Allen Loker about 1600; the baptisms of nine children were recorded - see [Loker in Families & Transcripts](#)

followed by those of Richard, Robert and George, probably born in the 1540s:

| | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| p322 Richard - | | | | |
| ----- | | | | |
| p344 Robert | p345 Alice | p346 Alice | p347 Jone | p348 Thomas |
| bap: 18 Jul 1568 | 20 Aug 1570 | 26 Oct 1572 | 1 May 1575 | 21 Aug 1580 |
| | | | | |
| p323 Robert - | | | | |
| ----- | | | | |
| p352 John | p353 Anna | p354 Mary | p355 Robert | p356 Katherine |
| bap: 21 Sep 1572 | 3 Mar 1574 | 16 Aug 1577 | 16 Mar 1580 | 3 Jan 1585 |
| | | | | |
| p324 George - | | | | |
| ----- | | | | |
| p358 George | p359 Abraham | p360 Nicholas | p361 John | p362 John |
| bap: 5 Dec 1574 | 10 Nov 1577 | 12 Jul 1579 | 21 Sep 1581 | 9 Jun 1583 |

Two children were recorded for **Passwater Crundwell** (p892), Elizabeth (p894) baptised 16th December 1582 and Henry (p895) on 3rd July 1586.

The only other Crundwell having children at the end of the sixteenth century was William:

| | | | |
|------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | p325 | William - | |
| | | | |
| | ----- | | |
| | p364 | | p365 p366 |
| | Anne | William | Alice |
| bap: | 17 Sep 1587 | 23 Nov 1589 | 23 Sep 1593 |

Nicholas Crundwell of Brasted

A Nicholas Crundwell had children in Penshurst between 1560 and 1572 - see above - and another (or a second marriage of the first Nicholas) between 1589 and 1594; the latter children included Edward and Mary whom Nicholas mentioned in his will. There is no other mention of an Edward Crundwell in the parish register for Penshurst but Nicholas presumably moved to Brasted sometime between Mary's birth and 1618.

| | | | |
|-------|-------------|-----------------|------------|
| | p319 | Nicholas - Mary | b327 |
| will: | 7 Apr | 1618 | |
| | ----- | | |
| | p328 | p329 | p330 |
| | Anne | Edward | Mary |
| bap: | 25 May 1589 | 27 Mar 1592 | 4 Aug 1594 |

Nicholas Crundwell's will is difficult to read but he left his wife a large number of items including a great brand iron and a chamber pot.

The Will of Nicholas Crundwell of Brasted

written 7th April 1618

transcript from original

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The seventh day of
- 2 April in the year of our lord god 1618,
- 3 I, Nicholas Crundwell of Brasted ?? in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, sick of
- body
- 4 but of good and perfect memory (thanks be
- 5 unto god) do make and ordain this my
- 6 last will and testament in manner and
- 7 form following: **First:** I give to **Mary**
- 8 **my wife**, two bedsteads and feather beds, two

9 feather bolsters, three feather pillows, one
10 covering, one blanket, one carpet, seven
11 pairs of sheets, one great and one small
12 chair, one cupboard, one great brand
13 iron, three chests, one ?? pan, one brass
14 pot, two brass chafers, two brass
15 kettles, one iron dripping pan, eight
16 pieces of pewter, three candlesticks, two
17 saucers, two pewter ?? and one chamber
18 pot. **Item:** I give to Mary, my said wife,
19 fifteen shillings out of my tenement wherein
20 I now live, half yearly to be paid,
21 the first payment to be made at the first
22 of the four ?? feasts which shall happen
23 after my decease. And if it shall happen
24 the said annuity, or any part of it, to be
25 behind at the time which it ought to be
26 paid, that then it shall and may be
27 lawful for the said Mary to enter in
28 and upon the said tenement with the
29 appurtenances and the same to distrain
30 and hold till she be fully satisfied.
31 **Item:** I give to **Mary, my daughter**, forty shillings to be paid within

32 one year after my decease. The residue
33 of all my goods and chattels I give and
34 bequeath to **Edward Crundell, my son,**
35 whom I make sole executor of this my
36 last will and testament and I entreat
37 **Thomas Stanford?** and **John Page?** of
38 **Hever** to be overseers of my will to see it
39 performed. In witness whereof I have
40 set my hand and seal. signum

Sealed and acknowledged **Nicholas X Crundwell**
as the last will of the said
Nicholas Crundwell in the presence of
?? ?? **Thomas Waters**

Robert Crundwell

Six children baptised in Penshurst between 1601 and 1613 were recorded as "of Robert" but John, the eldest, was the son of "Robert of Withiham" and Robert was the son of "Robert the miller".

The Robert whose will has survived was described, in his will, as a yeoman but the children whose baptisms were recorded in the parish register match those mentioned by Robert in his will with the addition of Thomas and Anne for whom baptisms were not recorded. Was this Robert one of those mentioned above? Robert, son of Richard, born in 1568 (x344) would have been thirty-two in 1600 whereas Robert, son of Robert, (x355) at only twenty, was very young to be starting a family in 1600.

From his will, Robert's wife was called Clemence and his daughter, Clemence, must have been the Clemence who wrote her will in 1633 when she would have been twenty-two. She mentions brothers Robert, John, Thomas and Henry and also a sister Anne. She also mentions her nephew, John, son of her brother Robert, who can not have been very old in 1633 since Robert was only twenty-seven.

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|-------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | p326 Robert - Clemence ^r p367 | | | | | | | |
| will: | | | | 4 Jan 1620 | | | | | | | |
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with Thomas probably younger. Richard had presumably died before his father. Robert's will was complicated because he had to give details of what was to happen if any of his sons did not live to inherit.

Robert's will was written by Robert Saxpes who was one of the five supervisors who were to have a considerable responsibility during the seven years until Robert, the son, came of age. Robert charged "them and every of them as they will answer before the high judge Christ at the dreadful day of judgement that they see the same truly performed and fulfilled without respect of any person or persons whatsoever." Also "if any doubt or question shall happen to arise and grow amongst my children or any other claiming any benefit by this my will by reason of any imperfections or defaults in any the words or sentences in this my will contained, that my said supervisors before named shall expound, explain and finally determine the same according to the best of my mind and the literal sense and meaning hereof, any thing to the contrary notwithstanding".

Until Robert the son came of age, he and his mother were to be "duly and orderly in decent sort, educating, maintaining and bringing up all my other children". If they did not do so, the supervisors were to take the issues and profits of all the lands, etc. until Robert reached the age of twenty one, maintaining and bringing up his children and "all such profits or advantages over and above and after my said son's maintenance and bringing up of my said children . . my will is my said

supervisors shall deliver unto my said son Robert when he shall accomplish his said age of one and twenty years".

After Robert came of age, he was to pay his mother an annuity of £6 a year (£4 if she remarried again) provided that, within three months of him being twenty-one, she "in consideration thereof, by her writing or otherwise sufficient in the law, release unto the said Robert, my son, . . . all her jointure, third and dower whatsoever which she might or could have or claim to have in all my lands and tenements whatsoever". It would be interesting to know what would have been the value of one third of Robert's estate although claiming it instead of an annuity would, no doubt, have involved a considerable amount in legal fees.

Although during her widowhood Clemence was to have "free liberty of egress and regress to come and go to and from the" parlour and parlour loft assigned for her use and "liberty to bake in the oven in the kitchen of my said house and to draw water at the well" she was not to let or assign these liberties "to any person or persons whatsoever".

In addition to his main messuage and land left to his son Robert, Robert had the mortgage of some land belonging to George Harris of Ashurst. This land, or the money repaid by Harris, was to be divided between the sons, John and Henry with the youngest son, Thomas, having a legacy of £40 and an annuity of 26s 8d which Robert had from some lands in Brenchley.

Robert's daughter Clemence was twenty-one in February 1632 and would therefore have received her father's legacy before she died.

The Will of Robert Crundwell of Penshurst

written 4th March 1619/20
transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The fourth day of January in the
2 year of our Lord according to the computation of the church of England,
one thousand, six
3 hundred and nineteen, I, Robert Crondwell of Penshurst in the county of
Kent, **yeoman**,
4 be in perfect bodily health and good remembrance, praised be god
therefore, calling to
5 mind the uncertainty of death and willing to set in order those transitory
possessions
6 which god in this world hath made me steward of that no contention
happen about the

page 2:

7 same after my decease, do make and ordain this my testament and last in
manner and form
8 following, that is to say, **First** and principally I commend and bequeath my
soul into the hands of
9 Almighty God, my maker and redeemer, with a steadfast faith and belief
that the same, by and through
10 the merits, death and passion of my only saviour and redeemer, Jesus
Christ, after my departure
11 out of this valley of tears and vale of misery, shalbe made partaker of life
everlasting. **Item:** I
12 commit my body to the earth to be buried at the discretion of my executor
and supervisors hereafter
13 named in sure and certain hope of a joyful resurrection of the same unto
life everlasting. **Item:** I
14 give and bequeath unto the poor people of the parish of Penshurst
aforesaid, thirteen shillings
15 and four pence of lawful english money to be distributed unto them at the
day of my burial at the discretion of my executor
16 and supervisors hereafter named. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
Clemence, my wife, the bedstead
17 in the chamber over the hall with one feather bed and one flock bed
thereon lying where we

18 commonly use to lie, withall other things thereunto appertaining fully
furnished. **Item:** I give
19 more unto the said Clemence, my wife, such of my household stuff as she
shall think fit and make
20 choice of not exceeding the value of forty shillings. **Item:** I give and
bequeath unto the said
21 Clemence, my wife, the two chests that she brought with her at her
marriage with me or else two
22 other chests as good as they are. **Item:** I give all my linen whatsoever to
the said Clemence, my wife,
23 and my six children equally to be divided betwixt them. **Item:** I give and
bequeath unto **my son**
24 **John** one great chest standing in the parlour loft and my best covering to
be delivered him at
25 his age of one and twenty years. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Henry,**
my son, one chest. **Item:**
26 I give and bequeath unto **Thomas, my son,** one chest. **Item:** I will that the
twenty pounds
27 of lawful english money that **George Harris** of **Ashurst** now oweth me by
bond shalbe paid
28 into the hands of my supervisors hereafter named and, by them, be
employed and paid unto

29 such uses and persons as the other hundred pounds that the said George
Harris oweth me (for which
30 I have a messuage and land mortgaged) is hereafter in and by this my
testament and last will
31 appointed to be paid and employed. The residue of all my goods, cattell
and chattels, debts and
32 credits whatsoever, I give and bequeath unto **Robert, my son**, whom I make
and ordain the
33 whole and sole executor of this my testament and last will. And I also
make and ordain **Henry**
34 **Stretfield, James Beecher, William Barr, Benjamin Jessop and Robert**
Saxpes, the writer
35 hereof, supervisors of this my testament and last will, to see the same
proved and performed,
36 my debts and legacies paid and my funeral expenses discharged and I will
that they, and every
37 of them, shalbe truly paid and contented all such costs and expenses as
they, or any of them, shall disburse
38 or lay out for or about the premises, charging them and every of them as
they will answer
39 before the high judge Christ at the dreadful day of judgement that they see
the same truly performed

40 and fulfilled without respect of any person or persons whatsoever. **This is**
41 **the** last
42 will and testament of me the said Robert Crondwell made and declared the
43 day and year aforesaid
44 concerning the order and disposition of all and singular my lands,
45 tenements, rents and annuities
46 whatsoever, situated, lying and being within the parish of Penshurst
47 aforesaid or else where
48 within the realm of England, that is to say, **First:** I will that the said
49 Clemence, my wife, and Robert,
50 my son, shall have the use and occupation of all that my messuage or
tenement wherein I now
dwell, together with all the lands, tenements and hereditaments thereunto
belonging, situated
lying and being within the parish of Penshurst aforesaid until the said
Robert, my son, shall
accomplish his full age of one and twenty years, they, the said Clemence,
my wife, and Robert
my son, until the said time, duly and orderly in decent sort, educating,
maintaining and bringing
up all my other children, if the said Clemence, my wife, shall so long
remain and continue a

51 widow and unmarried. And if the said Clemence, my wife, shall before
that time be married
52 again or be departed this life, then I devise and will the same only unto the
said Robert, my son,
53 until his said age of one and twenty years, he, my said son Robert orderly
bringing up all
54 the other of my said children until the time as aforesaid. Provided always
that, if the said
55 Clemence my wife and Robert my son shall not duly and orderly, in honest
and decent manner
56 until my said Robert's age of twenty one years, educate and maintain and
bring up all
57 my said children according to the tenure and true meaning of this my
testament and last will,
58 then I will that my said supervisors shall enter and take the issues and
profits of all my said
59 lands and tenements aforesaid until my said son Robert's age of twenty
one years, maintaining

page 3:

60 and bringing up all my said children as is aforesaid and all such profits or
advantages over and above

61 and after my said son's maintenance and bringing up of my said children
as is aforesaid at my said son's Robert's age
62 of twenty one years, my will is my said supervisors shall deliver unto my
said son Robert when he
63 shall accomplish his said age of one and twenty years, I give and bequeath
my said messuage and lands unto
64 the said Robert, my son, to have and to hold the said messuage or
tenement, lands and premises, withall and singular
65 the appurtenances unto the said Robert, my son, and the heirs male of his
body lawfully
66 begotten and for want of such issue then unto John, my son, and the heirs
male of his body
67 lawfully begotten. And for want of such issue of my said son John, then to
Henry, my son,
68 and the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten and for want of such issue
of the body of
69 my said son Henry, then to Thomas, my son, and the heirs male of his body
lawfully
70 begotten and for want of such issue then to the right heirs of me, the said
Robert
71 Crondwell for ever. Provided always, and it is my very will and true
meaning, that the said

72 Robert, my son, or any other of my said sons to whom my said messuage
and lands as
73 aforesaid shall, by virtue of this my testament or last will descend and
come, shall pay
74 or cause to be paid unto the said Thomas, my son, the full and whole sum
of forty pounds
75 of lawful english money in manner and form following, that is to say, at my
said son
76 Thomas his age of one and twenty years, twenty pounds parcel thereof and
at the full age
77 of my said son Thomas of four and twenty years the sum of twenty pounds
residue of
78 the said sum of forty pounds. And unto **Clemence, my daughter**, the sum
of twenty pounds
79 of like lawful money when she shall accomplish her full age of one and
twenty years or day
80 of her marriage which of them so ever shall first happen. And unto **Anne,**
my daughter,
81 the sum of twenty pounds of like lawful money at her full age of one and
twenty
82 years or day of her marriage which of them so ever shall first happen.
Provided always

83 that if it shall happen the said Robert, my son, his heirs or assigns or any
other of my
84 said sons and their heirs to whom my said messuage and lands by force
and virtue of this
85 my will shall descend and come, to make default in payment of all or any
sum or sums
86 of money before willed and appointed to be paid out of my said lands, that
then it shall and
87 may be lawful to and for all or every of my said children so unpaid as
aforesaid contrary
88 to the tenor and true meaning of this my will, to enter into and upon the
said messuage and
89 premises and every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances and
the issues and
90 thereof coming and arising, to receive and take until he, she or they so
behind and unpaid
91 shall have received of the issues and profits of the said messuage and
premises as much as
92 shall suffice to pay him, her or them, his her of their said legacies or portion
together with all
93 expenses and costs disbursed and laid out about the same. **Item:** I give
and bequeath unto

94 Clemence, my wife, and her assigns, one annuity or yearly rent of six
pounds
95 of lawful english money yearly and every year to be issuing and going so
with
96 and out of all my said messuage and lands aforesaid from and after my said
son Robert's
97 age of one and twenty years for and during the full and whole term of her
natural life if
98 she shall so long remain a widow, at four the most usual feasts or days of
payment
99 in the year, that is to say, the nativity of our lord Christ, the Annunciation
of Saint Mary
100 the virgin, the nativity of Saint John Baptist and Saint Michael the
Archangel,
101 by equal portions, the first payment to begin at the first of those feast that
shall first
102 happen after my said son Robert shall accomplish his full age of twenty
one years. And
103 if it shall happen, the same or any part thereof to be behind and unpaid
after one of the said
104 feasts by the space of ten days, that then it shall and may be lawful for the
said

105 Clemence, my wife and her assigns, into the said messuage or tenement
and other the said premises,
106 or any part or parcel thereof, to enter and distrain and the distress and
distresses taken to impark, detain and
107 keep until the same and every part thereof so behind and unpaid be unto
her or her assigns
108 truly paid and contented. Provided always that the said Clemence, my
wife, shall in consideration
109 thereof, by her writing or otherwise sufficient in the law, release unto the
said Robert, my son,
110 or such other of my children to whom the said premises by force and virtue
of this my will shall
111 descend and come and their heirs, all her jointure, third and dower
whatsoever which she might
112 or could have or claim to have in all my lands and tenements whatsoever
within one quarter of

page 4:

113 a year next after my said son Robert shall accomplish his said age of one
and twenty years. But if
114 the said Clemence, my wife, shall happen to marry again, then I give her
but only four pounds of

115 like lawful money yearly during her life after my said son Robert's age of
twenty one years to
116 be paid her as aforesaid and for non payment whereof, she or her assigns
shall enter and distrain
117 as aforesaid. **Item:** I will that the said Clemence, my wife, shall have the
use and occupation, during
118 her widowhood from and after my said son's age of twenty one years, of the
parlour and the
119 parlour loft in my now dwelling house and the little outlet coming into the
said parlour
120 and free liberty of egress and regress to come and go to and from the same
and liberty to
121 bake in the oven in the kitchen of my said house and to draw water at the
well not letting nor
122 assigning the same to any person or persons whatsoever. **Item:** I give unto
my sons John
123 and Henry all such lands and tenements as George Harris hath mortgaged
unto me to have
124 and to hold unto them and their heirs for ever and if either of them shall
happen to depart this
125 life, then I will his part so dying unto the survivor of them and the said
Thomas, my son, and

126 their heirs and if both my said sons happen to depart this life, then I will
the same to remain
127 wholly unto my said son Thomas and his heirs for ever. And if the said
George Harris, his
128 heirs or assigns, do pay at the time appointed such money as the same was
mortgaged
129 unto me for and so thereby redeem the same, then I will the same money
unto my said sons John
130 and Henry in manner aforesaid as they should have enjoyed the said lands.
And my meaning
131 further is that the profits of the said lands, if it be not redeemed and if it be
redeemed by
132 the said George Harris or his heirs, then I will the said money shalbe paid
into the hands of
133 my said supervisors by them to be employed and put out to the best and
most advantage that
134 they can or may and the issues and profits thereof shalbe by them
employed until my
135 said son Robert's full age of twenty one years for and towards the better
education and bring
136 ing up of all my said children and afterwards unto the use and behoof of
my said sons John

137 and Henry or such other as should have enjoyed the said lands if they had
not been redeemed
138 until their full age of twenty one years and then, together with the increase
and advantage
139 thereof coming, be paid by my said supervisors unto my said sons John and
Henry or such
140 other as ought to have and enjoy the same as is aforesaid. **Item:** I give and
bequeath unto Thomas,
141 my son, all that rent, charge or annuity of twenty six shillings and eight
pence of lawful
142 english money per annum which I now stand seised of, issuing out of
certain lands and tenements
143 in **Brenchley** in the county of Kent to have and to hold unto him and his
heirs for ever from and
144 after my said son Robert's age of twenty one years; and in the meantime I
will the same towards
145 the better education and bringing up of all my children. And if my son
Thomas happen to
146 depart this life, then I will that as well the said rent charge as also the said
legacy of forty pounds
147 before given unto the said Thomas, my son, shalbe paid and remain unto
the said John and Henry,

148 my sons, and their heirs. **Item:** my will and true meaning is that, if the said
Robert, my son,
149 shall happen to depart this life without issue male of his body lawfully
begotten so that the
150 said lands before given and bequeathed unto the said Robert, my son, do
descend and come
151 unto the said John, my son, that then the part and portion of my said son
John hereby given
152 shall remain and be paid unto my said other two sons Henry and Thomas
in such manner and
153 form as the said John should have had and enjoyed the same or any part
thereof. And if the
154 said Robert, my son, depart this life without heirs male and have issue
female of his body
155 lawfully begotten, then I will the said John, my son and his heirs, shall pay
unto the said
156 Robert's daughters one hundred and fifty pounds of lawful english money
but if my said
157 son Robert depart this life without heirs male and have one daughter only
that then the
158 said John, my son or his heirs, shall pay the said daughter but one hundred
pounds only of

159 like lawful money. But if my said son Robert shall not in his life time have
paid all the
160 legacies and sums of money given out of the said lands and tenements as
is aforesaid and have
161 no issue male, that then my said son John and his heirs shall abate so
much out of the said Robert's
162 daughters portions (if he have any) as shall not be paid of the said legacies
or sums of money given to be paid out of my lands as aforesaid. **Item:** I
163 hereby devise and will that if any doubt or question shall happen to arise
and grow amongst
164 my children or any other claiming any benefit by this my will by reason of
any imperfections

page 5:

165 or defaults in any the words or sentences in this my will contained, that my
said supervisors before
166 named shall expound, explain and finally determine the same according to
the best of my
167 mind and the literal sense and meaning hereof, any thing to the contrary
notwithstanding.
168 In witness whereof to every sheet of this my testament and last will
containing eleven

169 sheets of paper and this part of a sheet, I have set my hand and unto the
last have also
170 set my seal, revoking, disannulling and utterly frustrating all former wills
by me
171 heretofore made and do publish this to be my last will and testament the
day and year
172 aforesaid. Robert Crondwell. Read, sealed and published and
acknowledged to be his last
173 will and testament in the presence of us **Andrew Gouldsmith, Joseph
Jessop, Benjamin**
174 **Jessop, Paul Budgen** and **Ro: Saxpes**. The mark of the said Andrew
Gouldsmith
175 the mark of the said Paul Budgen.

1 Memorand that Clement Crondwell, late of
2 Penshurst in the county of Kent, spinster deceased,
3 on or about the fourteenth day of June in the
4 year of our lord god 1633, being sick of the
5 sickness whereof she died and being then of perfect
6 mind and memory, with an intent to settle her
7 estate did make and declare her last will and
8 testament nuncupative as followeth, or like
9 in effect, viz. first she willed her soul to god
10 and her body to the earth. **Item:** she gave unto
11 **Anne Crondwell, her sister,** all such sums of
12 money as were due and owing unto her from
13 **John Jeffery of Wadhurst** in the county of
14 Sussex, being to the value of four pounds or thereabouts
15 and also all her linen and the one half of
16 all her wearing apparel. **Item:** she gave
17 unto **Bridget, the wife of John Crondwell, her**
18 **brother,** the other half of all her wearing
19 apparel. **Item:** she gave unto **Henry Crondwell**

20 and Thomas Crondwell, her brothers, fifty shillings
21 a piece to be paid unto them when they shall attain
22 their several ages of 21 years and if either of them
23 shall die before, she willed the survivor of them shall
24 have the portion of him so dying. **Item:** she gave
25 unto **John Crondwell, her godson, son of**
26 **Robert Crondwell, her brother,** 20s to be paid
27 unto him at his age of 21 years. All the residue
28 of her goods and chattels she gave unto John
29 Crondwell, her brother, desiring him to see her
30 buried and to have a sermon at her burial. At the
31 uttering and declaring whereof were present
32 and hearing **Henry Silcocke of Speldhurst** in the
33 said county of kent, yeoman, and **Bridget, his**
34 **wife** and others.

The witnesses took oath
hereupon October 7 1633
?? ?? **Edward West**²⁰³
?? Speldhurst

Henry Silcocke
Bridget Silcocke her mark

Richard Crundwell, will 1629

It is not known how the testator of 1629 was related to the other Crundwells of Penshurst. His will was written by Thomas Leddall who wrote many wills from about 1615 to the 1640s, mainly for people of Penshurst and Chiddingstone. Thomas, although not twenty-four is obviously the eldest son inheriting Richard's land and paying his brothers an inheritance from the profits.

| | | | | | |
|-------|---------------------------|-------------|------|-------------|-------------|
| will: | p320 Richard - Susan p333 | | | | |
| | 16 Nov 1629 | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | |
| bap: | p332 | p334 | p335 | p336 | p337 |
| | Thomas | Richard | John | Anne | Nicholas |
| | | 19 Feb 1615 | | 22 Nov 1618 | 30 Apr 1620 |

1 In the name of god Amen. The sixteenth day of November Anno dm 1629,
the
2 fifth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord King Charles, etc. I, Richard
Crundwell of
3 Penshurst in the county of Kent, **husbandman**, being weak of body but of
good
4 and perfect mind and memory, thanks be²⁰⁴ to Almighty god, do ordain and
make this my last will and testament in
5 manner and form following: **First:** I bequeath my soul to Almighty god, my
maker and ??
6 and to Jesus Christ, his only son, by whose death, passion and blood
shedding, I fully trust to
7 attain to the joyful resurrection of eternal life committing my body to the
earth and
8 to be buried in the churchyard of Penshurst aforesaid. **Item:** I give to the
poor

9 people of the said parish three shillings to be distributed to them on the
day of my
10 burial by mine executrix hereafter named. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
Richard,
11 **John and Nicholas Crundwell, my sons,** to either of them twenty pounds a
piece
12 of lawful english money to be paid unto them at their several ages of four
and twenty years by **Thomas**
13 **Crundwell, my son,** or his assigns. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the said
Thomas

14 my son, one cow. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the said Thomas,
Richard, John and
15 Nicholas Crundwell, my four sons, all my household stuff whatsoever to be
??²⁰⁵
16 divided between them. The residue of all my goods unbequeathed, my
debts and funeral ??
17 I give and bequeath unto **Susan, my wife,** whom I do make my full and sole
executrix
18 of this my last will and testament. And I do make my loving friends **John**

19 **Benett** and **Robert Crundwell of Saints Hill in Penshurst**²⁰⁶ supervisors
thereof to whom
20 I give twelve pence a piece over and above their²⁰⁷ pains taken therein.

21 This is the last will and testament of me, the said Richard Crundwell, made
and
22 declared the day and year aforesaid, touching and concerning the
disposing of all
23 my messuage, tenement and lands. Also my will and meaning is that
Susan, my wife,
24 shall have the profit and benefit of my said messuage, tenement and lands
until Thomas,
25 my son, shall accomplish the full age of four and twenty, the said Susan,
my wife,
26 paying ten pounds unto John Benett which my lands stand bound for and
bringing up John, Richard and Nicholas Crundwell my sons and not
otherwise²⁰⁸

206 about 1.5 miles south of Penshurst village

207 "charges for their" appears to have been omitted here

208 this line has been "squashed in" and is difficult to read

27 not felling nor spoiling my woods but taking convenient hedgeboot and
stakeboot and for reparations
28 and keeping my said messuage and buildings well repaired. And also
keeping her self a
29 widow and not otherwise. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto Thomas
Crundwell, my said
30 son, all my said messuage, tenement and lands when he shall accomplish
his said age
31 of four and twenty years, to have, hold and enjoy unto the said Thomas, my
son,
32 his heirs and assigns, forever, upon condition that the said Thomas shall
well and truly pay,
33 or cause to be paid, out of my said tenement and land unto Richard, John
and Nicholas
34 Crundwell, my said sons, to either of them, twenty pounds a piece of good
and lawful
35 english money when they or either of them shall attain to their several ages
of four and twenty
36 as aforesaid. And if the said Thomas, my son, shall refuse to pay the
several sums of money so given to
37 my sons when they shall attain to their several ages as aforesaid, that then
it shalbe lawful for any of

38 them so unpaid to enter in upon my said tenement and lands and the same
to have and to hold until their said
39 portions of twenty pounds a piece be fully satisfied and paid with all
arrearages. And if it shall happen
40 that the said Thomas shall die and decease before he shall attain to his
said age of 24 years, then I will and
41 devise that Richard, my son, shall have all my said tenement and lands, to
have, hold and enjoy unto the
42 said Richard, his heirs and assigns for ever upon condition that he shall
pay unto John and Nicholas, my
43 said sons, to either of them, thirty pounds a piece of like lawful money
when they shall attain their ages
44 before said. And if it shall fortune that the said Richard shall die before he
shall attain his said age, then I will
45 all my said tenement and lands unto John, my son, to have and to hold to
the said John, his heirs and assigns, for ever upon
46 condition that the said John shall pay unto Nicholas, my son, fifty pounds
of like lawful money when he shall attain to

47 his age aforesaid²⁰⁹. In witness whereof to this present testament and last
will, I have put my hand and seal

48 the day and year first above written

Richard Crundwell

Read and acknowledged in the presence
of **Thomas Leddall, scr.**

T
his mark

George ??
his mark²¹⁰

209 Thomas has to pay a total of £60 (£20 to each of his three brothers); if Richard inherits, he also pays a total of £60 (£30 to his two surviving brothers but John just pays £50 to his one surviving brother. Although nothing is said in the will, presumably if one of Thomas's brothers dies before he reaches the age of 24, then Thomas would pay out only £40.

210 there was probably another witness whose name cannot be deciphered

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James Cubit of Ightham

No Cubits were recorded in the parish register; nor were any of the other people mentioned in the will.

James mentioned neither a wife nor any children but he left £20 to two of his brothers, Richard and Robert, and £20 to his sister Elizabeth who was married to Simon Waife. Another sister, Bridget, was left £10 but his executor, another brother, John) was to keep it "[for her use](#)" paying her interest until he paid her the £5 which was to be when he found "[she hath need thereof](#)". A niece was to have £5 when she reached the age of twenty-one and here the interest of six shillings a year was to be paid by his executor - an annual rate of 6%.

His other bequests were pairs of gloves to the local parish gentry: Sir Isaac Sedley, knight, who was to have a pair of "[the price of five shillings](#)" and Mr. Nathaniel Hancock, his wife Katherine and Mr. Thomas Crompe who were each to have a pair of "[the price of two shillings and six pence](#)".

1 In the name of god Amen. The twentieth day of July Anno dom. ?? , I,
2 James Cubit, late of Ightham in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, sick of body
but
3 of a good and perfect memory (God be praised) do make and ordain this my
last will
4 and testament in manner and form following: That is to say, **First:** I
commend my
5 soul into the hands of God, my maker, hoping assuredly through the only
6 merits of Jesus Christ, my saviour, to be made partaker of life everlasting.
7 **Item:** I give unto the poor of the aforesaid parish of Ightham ten shillings to
be
8 distributed as the churchwardens of the said parish shall think fit. **Item:** I
give
9 and bequeath unto **my brother Robert Cubit** the sum of twenty pounds and
unto
10 **my brother Richard Cubit** twenty pounds and unto **my sister Elizabeth,**
11 **the wife of Simon Waife,** the like sum of twenty pounds which my desire is

12 that the said legacies be paid unto them as soon as my executor shall have
got
13 in so much of my debts as will do it. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my**
sister
14 **Bridget** ten pounds which money my will is shall be kept for her use in my
executor's
15 hands paying to her interest for the same as long as she shall keep it in his
16 said hands and to pay to her the principal when as he shall find she hath
17 need thereof. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my niece Carbar, the**
daughter
18 **of Robert Carbar**, the sum of five pounds to be paid unto her when she
19 shall accomplish the age of one and twenty years and my executor to pay
her six
20 shillings every year for the interest of the said money until she shalbe of the
21 said age. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Sir Isaac Sedley, knight²¹¹**, one
pair of gloves
22 of the price of five shillings and to **Mr. Nathaniel Hancock and Katherine,**
his wife,
23 each of them a pair of gloves of the price of two shillings six pence and to
24 **Mr. Thomas Crompe** a pair of like gloves of the said price of two

211 Sir William Sedley (or Selby) of Ightham died in 1638

25 shillings and six pence. And lastly I do make, nominate and appoint, **my**
26 **brother**
27 **John Cubit** my sole executor of this my last will and testament, desiring
28 him to see this my last will and testament performed. In witness whereof
29 I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year first above
written.

James Cubit

Signed and sealed in
the presence of

Isaac Sedley

George Hurse

Thomas Crompe

D

| | |
|--|-----------|
| The Danes of Seal | page d.3 |
| Will of John Dane | page d.4 |
| Will of John Daniell of Seal | page d.6 |
| Will of John Darbie of Leigh | page d.8 |
| | |
| William Daulton of Tudeley | page d.10 |
| Will of William Daulton of Tudeley | page d.11 |
| Nuncupative Will of Richard Day of Tonbridge | page d.17 |
| The Deddicotts of Seal | page d.19 |
| Will of Arthur Deddicott | page d.20 |
| | |
| The Denmans of Seal and Ightham | page d.24 |
| The Two Johns and Their Brother William | page d.28 |
| Will of John Denman, the prebend | page d.31 |
| Will of William Denman of Seal | page d.34 |
| John Denman, married in Ightham 1569 | page d.40 |
| Other Denmans of Seal and Ightham | page d.41 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Dennis Wills from East Peckham | page d.43 |
| Will of Edward Devenish of Frindsbury (extract) | page d.49 |
| Nuncupative Will of Thomas Dive, husbandman, of Tonbridge | page d.50 |
| The Will of Edward Dodge of Wrotham | page d.51 |
| Will of John Donstone of Edenbridge | page d.58 |
| The Douglasses of Hever | page d.62 |
| Will of John Drinke of Shipbourne | page d.70 |
| The Dubles of Seal and Tonbridge | page d.79 |
| Will of John Duple of Seal | page d.80 |
| Ralph Duple and his Possible Descendants | page d.83 |
| John Duple of Tonbridge | page d.90 |

The Danes of Seal

The will of John Dane, written in 1491, has survived. He had a brother, Robert, and was married but does not appear to have had children alive when he died.

When the parish records started there were a few records for Danes:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| John Dane (#1744 ²¹²) | buried on 24th December 1588. |
| William Dane (#1690) | married Elizabeth Garland (#1691) on 17th August 1595 |

The baptisms of three children of Symond Dane (#3766) were recorded:

| | | |
|----------|-------|-------------|
| John | #3794 | 14 May 1638 |
| Clemence | #3795 | 3 Nov 1639 |
| Symond | #3796 | 18 Apr 1641 |

212 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

1 In the name of god Amen. the 10th day of October, the seventh year of King
Henry the 7th, I, John Dane
2 of the parish of Seal, make my testament in this manner and form: **First:** I
bequeath my soul
3 to Almighty god, to our lady saint Mary, My body to be buried in the
churchyard
4 of Saint Peter in Seal beside my mother. **Item:** I bequeath to the high altar
there
5 for tithes forgotten for years 8d. **Item:** I bequeath to the making of the rood
loft
6 12d. The residue of my goods not bequeathed I give to **Sinott, my wife,**
whom I
7 make mine executrix. Also I ordain and make **Raynold Pelstin**^{213?} mine
overseer.
8 This is the last will of me the said John Dane. **First:** I will that my feoffees
9 . . Sinott, my wife, to have and enjoy yearly (for the) time of her life 6s 8d.
And at

²¹³ Pelsett?, a variation of Persolt a family of which there were members in Seal from at least the 1480s

10 her decease I will that **Robert, my brother**, . . . his life. And
11 if it happen the said Robert to die without having heirs of his body lawfully
12 begotten . . .

- . . . that Sinott,
- my wife, become the wife of any other man, 40s. And . . . the money that
- . . . I will a priest sing half a year . . . And
- the other half year in the chapel of Seal aforesaid to pray for the souls
- of my father and mother and all my benefactors' souls . . .

no witnesses given

1 In the name of god Amen, the 22nd day of the month of August and in the
year of our lord god
2 1521. I, **John Daniell**, of **Seal and Croydon** in the County of **Kent and**
Sussex²¹⁴, **yeoman**, of good and whole mind,
3 thanks be to god, make this my testament containing my last will in this
manner: **First:** I bequeath
4 my soul to Almighty god, to his blessed mother Mary and to all the saints
in heaven and my
5 body to be buried in the parish church of Seal in the County of Kent if it
fortune me
6 within the said parish to decease. Also I bequeath to the high altar of the
said church 13d
7 Also I bequeath to the altar of the parish church of Croydon 8d. Also I
bequeath
8 to the . . . of (a) mass in the said church of Croydon 8d. Also I bequeath to
the

9 ??²¹⁵ of Saint Barbara in the said church 14d. And all other the residue? of
my
10 goods, my funeral expenses, my bequests and my debts paid, I give and
bequeath to **Richard**
11 **Skute**²¹⁶, my son-in-law, and to **Margaret, his wife, my daughter**, to dispose
them as they
12 shall see best to the pleasure of god and for the health of my soul in the
best manner they
13 can. And of this my present testament I ordain and make the said **Richard**
Skete
14 and **Margaret, my daughter**, to be my two executors and they only. I make
Andrew
15 **Corphall** . . of a lady in Croydon and I bequeath to the said Andrew forty
16 ? ?

215 beadeshedd?

216 no Skutes/Sketes recorded in Seal but this is a long time before records started.

Originally written in the first person with "I", "my", etc., this will was changed to be nuncupative with practically all the "I"s changed to "me", "my" to "his" and verbs to the past tense. John Darbie did not sign or put his mark to the will.

1 In the name of god Amen. The seventh day of March
2 in the year of our lord god a thousand, five hundred, fifty and eight and in
3 the first year of the reign of our Sovereign lady Elizabeth, by the grace
4 of god, Queen of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith,
5 I, John Darbie of the parish of Leigh, within the diocese of Rochester in the
6 county of Kent, made²¹⁷ and declared this my last will and testament
7 in manner and form following (that is to say) **First:** I commend
8 my soul unto Almighty god, my maker and redeemer. And his body to be
9 buried within the churchyard of the parish church of Leigh aforesaid. **Item:**
10 He willed that his executor give and bestow among the poor of the parish
11 of Leigh eleven shillings and eight pence at his burial and at
12 other times as by the discretion of his executor shall be thought good.

217 originally "make"

13 He desired? his said executor to be good unto **Agnes Fowling, his sister,**
14 to give unto her some part of his goods as unto him shall be thought meet.
15 **Item:** his very will was that **his brother, Thomas Darbie,** should enjoy and
16 have no part or portion of his goods. But the residue of his goods and
cattell not before
17 willed and bequeathed, he devised unto **John Harryson, his father-in-law,**
18 whom also he did ordain and constitute his sole executor. In the presence
19 of **Cr. . Parkin, Henry Harte, Nicholas Crewe** and divers others.

William Daulton of Tudeley

William Daulton was a broadweaver; his will (CKS: Drb/Pw 28) was written by **John Hooper**, notary public and parish clerk of Tonbridge, one of the Hooper family by whom a large number of wills in the area were written from the 1560s up to 1650 and beyond.

There are a number of peculiarities in this will which was written when the testator was in good health. He mentions five sons and two daughters but leaves nothing to William and James and only a shilling to Andrew who had already been preferred. The only two to receive anything of note were George, who was probably also a weaver and was to have the looms and associated equipment, and Marie who was to have a table, frame and four benches. John was left only a brass stupnet which had been his grandfather's and Joane only a brass kettle (which had been her mother's) and some pewter.

Although he describes himself "of Tudeley", the only land he mentions is in Brenchley: two pieces of which were to go, eventually, to three of his grandsons. However, if before he died he sold the land which Richard was to inherit, then Richard was to receive only five shillings which seems a very small alternative to four acres of land.

x1529
- William - Margaret x1538
will: | 12 Jun 1626

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|--|--------|-------|--|---------------|--|-------|---------|-------|--|---------------|--|-------|--|
| x1539 | x1531 | | x1541 | x1532 | | x1533 | | x1534 | | x1535 | | x1536 | | x1537 | |
| Anne - William - Elizabeth | | | Andrew | | | George - John | | | James - | | | Joane - Marie | | | |
| x1540 | | | x1542 | | | x1544 | | | x1546 | | | Weekes | | | |
| Nicholas William | | | | | | Richard | | | Thomas | | | | | | |

Will of William Daulton of Tudeley

written 12th June 1626

transcript from the original (probate copy has not survived)

- 1 In²²¹ the name of god Amen. The twelfth day of June in the
- 2 second year of the reign of our sovereign lord Charles, by the grace of God,
- 3 king of
England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. Ao. dm.
- 4 1626: I, William
Daulton, the elder, of Tudeley in the county of Kent, **broadweaver**, In the
- 5 time of my health and good memory,
for which I praise God, for the ordering of that estate whereof God, of his
great mercy hath blessed me,

221 slightly decorated "I"

6 that no contention may arise thereabouts after my death, do ordain and
make this my testament and last will
7 in manner and form following: **First:** therefore, yielding my soul to
Almighty god, my maker, with
8 an assured hope of salvation by and through the merits, precious death and
blood shedding of
9 his dear son Jesus Christ, my saviour, and my body to the earth in decent
manner to be²¹⁹ buried. **I will**
10 and give to **George Daulton, my son,** my looms, sleyes²²⁰ and tackling
thereto belonging. And the cupboard
11 standing in the buttery of this house wherein I now dwell. **Item:** I give
unto **John Daulton, my son,**
12 one Brass Stupnet which was his grandfather's. **Item:** I give unto **Joane**
Weekes, my daughter,
13 one Brass kettle (which was her mother's²²¹) and six pieces of pewter (viz.
one platter, three

219 "bee", "beeing", throughout

220 "sley": a weaver's reed, an appliance for separating the warp threads and breaking up the weft

221 this would tend to imply that Joan's mother was dead; William had a wife whom he made his executrix - perhaps she was his second wife.

14 pewter dishes and two saucers. **Item:** I give unto **Marie Daulton, my**
15 **daughter**, the table, frame,
16 four Benches standing in my house wherein I now dwell. **Item:** I give unto
17 **James Daulton,**
18 **my son, Thomas, his son**, five shillings to be paid unto him at his age of
one and twenty years.
17 **Item:** I will and give to **Andrew Daulton, my son**, whom I have already
preferred, one shilling
18 of English money.

19 The residue²²² and all my goods, cattle and chattels, I wholly give and
bequeath to **Margaret,**
20 **my loving wife**, whom I make and ordain the full and sole executrix of this
my testament and last will,
21 to see the same proved, all my debts and legacies paid and my body
decently brought to the earth.
22 This is also the last will of me the said William Daulton, the elder, made
and declared the day and year
23 above written, touching the disposing of my land and tenements. **Item:** I
will that Margaret, my wife, shall

222 "reaside"

24 or may have and hold for term of her natural life my land called **Beechfield**
containing four acres more
25 or less lying and being in **Brenchley** in the county of Kent which I
purchased of **Robert Kepping** late deceased
26 And after the decease of the said Margaret, I will, give and devise the said
land called Beechfield with
27 th'appurtenances unto **Richard Daulton, son of George Daulton, my son**, to
hold to the said Richard, his heirs and
28 assigns for ever. **Item:** I will, give and devise to the said Margaret, my wife,
for term of her natural
29 life and after her death to **William Daulton, my son**, during his life. And
after the deaths of the said Margaret
30 or William to **Elizabeth, the now wife of the said William**, during her
widowhood, all that messuage or tenement,
31 housing or orchard and land thereto belonging with the appurtenances
lying and being at **Kynsstool** in Brenchley
32 aforesaid, now or late in the occupation of **Azarias Higham**, containing, by
estimation, five acres (more or less).
33 And after the death of the said Margaret, my wife, and William, my son,
and the next marriage of the said
34 Elizabeth, or her death (which shall first happen) I will, give and devise all
the said messuage, housing,

35 orchard and land with th'appurtenances, unto **Nicholas Daulton, eldest son**
36 **of the said William Daulton,**
37 **by Anne his first wife** and to **William Daulton, his son by the said Elizabeth.**
To hold to the said Nicholas
38 and William Daulton, the sons of my said son William, and to their heirs
and assigns forever.
39 And my will is that, if my wife shall claim any jointure or dowry or other
demand unto all or any
40 my lands, tenements or other the premises or any part thereof (other than
to her appointed by my will
41 as aforesaid) that then she shall loose the benefit of this my will and any
bequests and devises therein contained.
42 Provided further that if I shall hereafter sell my land called Beechfield, then
I will and give
43 the said Richard Daulton, the son the said George Daulton, my son, only
five shillings to be paid
44 him by my executrix before named and she to have no benefit of the said
land called Beechfield
45 (Any thing in this my will contained to the contrary thereof
notwithstanding). In witness whereof
46 I have to this my testament and last will set my hand and seal yeven the
day and year first
above written.

Sealed, subscribed and
declared in the presence of

Cha Hutchinson

William M Champs

John Hooper, notary pub.

the mark ²²³ of William Daulton
the elder

²²³ a capital "W" on its side

This will was written by Nicholas Hooper; it was nuncupative but the people present when Richard Day made his wishes known included Hooper, John Stockwood, vicar of Tonbridge and a schoolmaster and usher from Tonbridge School. This looks like an arranged event rather than, as with many nuncupative wills, a spontaneous speaking of a person's wishes as it is realised that there is insufficient time for a written will to be made.

1 **Memorandum** that Richard Day, late of Tonbridge within
2 the diocese of Rochester, **husbandman**, deceased, the tenth day
3 of June 1590 or thereabouts, and in the presence of **John Stockwood**,
4 **vicar of Tonbridge**, **William Hatche**, **schoolmaster** of the
5 **Free School of Tonbridge**, **William Webb**, **usher** of the same school,
6 and **Nicholas Hooper**, **curate** at Tonbridge aforesaid and
7 divers others did speak and utter these words hereafter following²²⁴
8 touching his last will, or the like in effect, viz. he willed and
9 gave all the goods that he had whatsoever unto **Martha Rootes** and

224 "folowing" and "hee" on the next line which spellings were usual for Nicholas Hooper; the memorandum is in Nicholas Hooper's writing

10 made the said Martha his whole executor. In testimony
11 whereof we have hereunto set our hands the eleventh
12 day of July 1590²²⁵

William, Hatche
Nicholas Hooper

225 this last sentence appears to have been crossed out.

The Deddicotts of Seal

In the 1630s Arthur Deddicott and his wife Martha had four children baptised in Seal having moved there sometime after the spring of 1630. They came from Ightham where a son, Arthur, was buried in March 1630. Their other two sons died in 1638, one aged 4½, the other at under 2 weeks.

Arthur Deddicott's will has survived (**PCC: Harvey 126**). He left £300 to each of his daughters, Anne and Elizabeth, which they were to receive on their marriage or when they were 21 but, in 1639, Anne was only seven and Elizabeth three; Elizabeth married but nothing is known of Anne. Arthur's executrix was Martha, "his loving wife" who was to receive the rest of his estate and "take upon her the care and charge of the education, breeding, maintaining and keeping" of Anne and Elizabeth. Although testators sometimes mention the education and bringing up of their children, this is the only use so far found of the term "breeding".

In September 1646, a Martha Deddicott and Robert Baker were married at Shipbourne. Was this the Robert Baker who had been Vicar of Seal and witness to Arthur's will?

manner and form following: **Imprimis** I give and commend my soul into the hands of almighty God, my creator, with assured hope in the merit of Christ Jesus, my saviour, of eternal salvation and joyful resurrection. And my body to be buried in Christian and decent manner according to the lout and discretion of mine Executrix hereafter named. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my two daughters, Anne Deddicott and Elizabeth Deddicott**, three hundred pounds a piece to be paid unto them by my executrix upon their several days of marriage or when they shall severally accomplish the age of one and twenty years which shall first happen. And if either of my said daughters shall happen to die before their said marriage or age of one and twenty years, then the portion of her so dying shall in?? and be paid to her who shall survive at the time of her marriage or age aforesaid. And I do hereby make and ordain **Martha Deddicott, my loving wife**, my executrix of this my last will and testament, to whom, my debts, legacies and funeral expenses being paid and defrayed, I give and

15 bequeath all the rest of my goods and Chattells. And do will and appoint
my said executrix to take
16 upon her the care and charge of the education, breeding, maintaining and
keeping of my said
17 daughters until such time as their said several legacies shalbe paid unto
them, or either of them, in
18 such manner and form as is above specified and ordained. And I do further
by this my last will,
19 intreat and ordain my very loving friends, **George Polley, Esquire and**
Charles Burgess, gent. to be the
20 overseers of this my said last will and testament, earnestly praying my said
overseers to be care
21 ful and respective of the due performance and execution thereof according
to my true intent
22 and meaning herein. In Testimony whereof I, the said Arthur Dedicott,
have hereunto put my
23 hand the first day of May, Anno Dm. 1639. And in the fifteenth year of the
reign of our
24 Sovereign Lord Charles, by the grace of God, King of England, Scotland,
France and Ireland,

25 defender of the faith, Arthur Deddicott. This will signed, made and
published in the presence of me
26 **Robert Baker²²⁸, Francis King, Alice Baker, her mark**

228 vicar of Seal (#1293); presumably from the "in the presence of me", Robert Baker wrote the will; Alice could have been Richard's wife. Although there were Kings in Seal, there is no other mention of a "Francis".

The Denmans of Seal and Ightham

A number of Denman wills have survived; the two from Seal are:

| | written | buried | | |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| John Denman | 4 Feb 1555/6 | | PCC: More 40 Prob 11/37 | page d.31 |
| prebend of Rochester | | | | |
| William Denman | 30 Sep 1598 | 27 Nov 1599 | CKS: Drb/Pwr 19I.211; Drb/Pw 18 | page d.34 |

Other surviving wills not investigated are:

| | | proved | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|--------|---------------------------|----|---------------|
| William Denman | Tonbridge | 1559 | Drb/Pwr 12.293; Drb/Pw 24 | | son of Robert |
| John Denman | Teston | 1625 | 21.133 | 27 | |
| Nicholas Denman | Tonbridge | 1608 | | 21 | joiner |
| Robert Denman | Leigh | 1612 | 20.459 | 22 | millar |
| William Denman | Tonbridge | 1639 | 22.324 | 30 | husbandman |

The will of William Denman of Tonbridge (**CKS: Drb/Pw 24**) was written on 29th January 1610/1 by John Hooper. The “I” at the beginning is decorated and there is a small version of the Hooper mark at the top. It was not proved until 1618. It has not been transcribed.

There were Denmans in Seal at least from the beginning of the sixteenth century as can be deduced from the wills of a number of Seal inhabitants. The earliest to mention a Denman were:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|---|-------------|
| Johane Chowll, widow | July 1503 | William, witness | see: |
| William Walter | March 1505 | William, executor with John Pelsett "to have 6s 8d for his labours" | Walter |
| Robert Cramforde | January 1512 | William, overseer | |
| Thomas Moger | December 1522 | William, witness | Mogier |
| John Pelsett | May 1526 | William, supervisor and witness | Pelset |
| William Olyver of Fawke | January 1527 | William, witness | Olyver |
| John Duble | January 1527 | John, witness | Duble |
| Alice Overy | January 1528 | John, witness | Oveal |
| Richard Christopher | March 1532 | William, overseer | Christopher |
| Thomas Clarke | November 1532 | William, overseer; "to see this my will truly fulfilled as my trust is in him" | Clarke |
| Gilbert Biggins | 1541 | John, overseer; "12d for his labour" | Biggins |
| Richard Blatcher | April 1545 | John, overseer and witness | Blatcher |

But then it gets more complicated:

John Denman, gent. of Seal, another **John Denman** and a **William Denman** witnessed the will of **John(2) Tebold (#673)¹** in June 1545. A William occupied

1

indicates a reference in the Seal database

land owned by the Tebolds - see **Tebold** - but this need not have been the same William as witnessed the will.

Then followed:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|---|-----------------|
| Julian Goodhew, widow | October 1545 | John, witness | Goodhew |
| Johane Blatcher | December 1545 | Doctor Denman, vicar of Seal? witness John Denman, th'elder, witness | Blatcher |
| Henry Hadlow | June 1548 | John Denman, vicar of Seal, witness John, the son of William witness | Hadlow |

John Sennocke was vicar of Seal in 1542 when he was assessed as one of the contributors to the loan made to Henry VIII². Thus John Denman was not the vicar when Gilbert Biggins wrote his will but a John Denman was the vicar of Seal from 1545 to 1550.

From the two Seal Denman wills it looks as if John and William were brothers and they had another brother also called John. These could be the three Denmans who witnessed the will of John(2) Tebold with the John Denman, gent. being the prebend of Rochester. The William who witnessed the earlier wills could have been their father.

The prebend, in his will, gives £40 to Margaret, the daughter of John Denman so it would appear that, since his brother was married, it was he who was the vicar of Seal from 1545 until 1550 when his successor was installed. In this case, from the will of Johane Blatcher, the prebend was the younger of the two Johns.

It seems that, in 1550, John Denman, vicar, went to London having effected an exchange with Thomas Hicklyng, vicar of St. Bartholomew the Less; Hicklyng was installed at Seal on 26th November 1550³. But there was a John Denman in Seal at least until 1563:

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|---|---------|
| George Goodhew | February 1556 | John, witness | Goodhew |
| William Olyver of Leybourne | September 1561 | William, executor and overseer, with Richard Tebold, of a complex will | Olyver |
| Richard Fynne | August 1563 | John, executor, " 10s towards his pains " | Fynne |
| John(3) Tebold | February 1578 | William, witness to codicil | Tebold |
| William Best of Kemsing | June 1580 | William, witness | Best |
| John Walter | July 1587 | William, witness | Walter |

The will of George Goodhew was written on 5th February 1556, the day after the prebend's will was written. Since the prebend's will was witnessed by men of

Seal, it looks as if he was with his family in Seal when he wrote his will. Both these wills were witnessed by "John Denman", presumably the prebend's brother.

From the prebend's will it can be deduced that there was also a sister Joan. The house which the prebend leaves to William might have been in Seal although his clothes appear to have been in John's house.

The Two Johns and Their Brother William

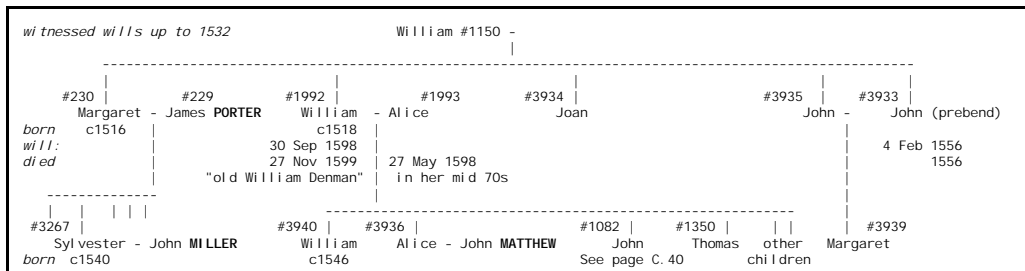
When the William Denman who died in 1599 (#1992) was buried, he was recorded as "old William Denman" and he describes himself in his will as being "very aged". If he was in his late twenties/early thirties in 1545 and lived until 1599, he would have been in his eighties which would certainly have made him "old" and it is certainly possible that the William who witnessed John(2) Tebold's will in 1545 was the one who died in 1599. His wife Alice died only eighteen months before him when (assuming he married only once) she must have been well into her seventies if not in her eighties.

This William Denman could have witnessed all the wills from 1545 to 1587 including being the overseer to the will of **William Olyver of Leybourne (#3927)** in 1561 and one of the trustees for William Olyver's two underage daughters.

By 1556 when the prebend died, his brother William had at least two children - William, presumably the eldest son, and Alice. William was left £8 by his uncle to keep him "to school at Rochester" but he is not mentioned again; presumably he was of an age to go away to school in 1566. Either the younger William, after being educated at Rochester school and possibly at university, became established outside Seal or he died before his father. By the time of her father's death, when she must have been in her forties (if not her fifties), Alice was married to John Matthews. "Old William Denman" appointed his son John (#1082) as his executor and mentions "other my children" besides Alice and John so that Thomas (#1350) could have been his son. He does not, however, mention any grandchildren.

Sylvester Miller(m) of Kemsing, the daughter of **James Porter** who witnessed the prebend's will, had an "uncle Denman" according to her will of 1597. Thus her mother, **Margaret** (see **Porter**) must have been a Denman and, since Sylvester was having children in the early 1560s, Margaret was probably born in the 1510s and could be the eldest sister of William and the two Johns (see **Miller** for details of Sylvester's family and will).

It is thus possible to construct a very speculative family tree (some of the dates are very approximate; these are indicated with a "c"):



A **Margaret Denman** married **William Lorkyn**, in Ightham in 1566 and she could have been the younger John's daughter (#3939). There was also a **Joan**, "daughter of -- Denman" baptised, in Ightham, on 18th January 1601.

John Porter, one of Margaret (#230)'s sons, was a citizen and fishmonger of London. In his will of 1607 he left £50 to his "loving friend and cousin **Richard Denman, citizen and grocer of London**". In 1564, William Masters brought a case against Richard Denman, citizen and grocer of London and his wife Clementine regarding a messuage and some land in Seal. There is over forty years between these two references which are thus more likely to be to father and son than the same man. The elder Richard could have been the brother of William (#1992) and the two Johns. See **Porter in Families & Transcripts** and **Seal Fines in Section Z of More Families & Transcripts** for details of the fine.

"**First**, I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God and of Jesus Christ my maker and redeemer and desire our blessed Lady Saint Mary and all the holy company of heaven to pray for me. And my body to be buried in the church of Seal and there to be bestowed among priests and poor people 20s at the day of my burial another 20s at my month's mind. And 10s to buy some necessary ornament to the maintenance of God's service at the discretion of my executor.

"**Item**: my will, mind and intent is that, when it shall please God to appoint, to cause my out of this wretched world, to have also a dirige and a mass of Requiem to be done of the ministers of the **cathedral church of Rochester** and to be given them being there present 20s, equally to be divided amongst them. And I heartily desire master Dean to take the labour and pains to sing the mass of Requiem and to declare to the people by a little exhortation that prayers and alms doth profiteth the souls of them that be departed²³². And he to have for his pains 10s.

232

although this will was written in 1556, John expected a month's mind to be held in Seal and desired "master Dean" to declare to prayers and alms profited the souls of the departed.

"Also I will that all my goods that are in my house at Rochester to be priced by indifferent means and to be sold and the money to be distributed to the poor lot of Rochester except my two best gowns and my surplice which I will to **my sister Joan**. Also my pewter vessel, I will shall be bestowed by **my brother William** where I have appointed him. And my grey Amice²³³, my will is that **Master Collins** shall have it for three pounds ten shillings.

"And also I will to have done for me in the cathedral church of **Canterbury**²³⁴ by the ministers of the same church, dirige and a mass of Requiem and they to have 30s to be divided equally amongst them being there present. And also the goods and implements which I have in my chamber at Canterbury, I will them to be indifferently priced and sold and given to the poor people of Canterbury. Also I will that the three pounds which is due to me from the Nativity of our Lord unto the date of my death be also given to the poor of that place except ten shillings which I give to the ?? to pray for me.

"And also I give to **Alice Denman**, the daughter of William Denman, to her marriage £6 which was due to me at Canterbury at Michaelmas last past. Also I

233

a furred hood with long ends hanging down in front; a cape with a hood. £3 10s seems a large amount at which to value this

234

John must have been connected with Canterbury as well as Rochester

will 53s and 4d to be bestowed for my soul at **Saint Faiths under Pauls in London** in this manner: 13s 4d to be given to priests and clerks to sing Dirige and mass for my soul and the residue to be distributed to the poor people of Saint Faiths parish.

"Also I will that **Margaret Denman**, the daughter of John Denman shall have £40 to her marriage. Also I will all my books that be at London, at Rochester and at Canterbury to **Robert Holder**, my kinsman and **Clariner(?)** of Pauls churchyard except it be all my written books which I do bequeath to the parson of **Kinsderont(?)** and other two books of Bonaventure upon the . . of the . . and he to bestow 4s amongst the poor.

"Also I will to my brother **John Denman** my fox furred gown and all my raiment which is in his house and 24s in money saving any short gown to be given to a poor priest at his assignment.

"Also I give to **William Denman**²³⁵, the younger, £8 to keep him to school at Rochester".

"Also I make and ordain Robert Holder my executor and therefore I give him my books because he should see my will faithfully performed. Also I make **William**

235

assumed to be the prebend's nephew and William's eldest son, #3940

Denman, my brother, my other executor and to him I give my house because he should see my will faithfully performed."

Witnesses: **James Porter, William Hills, John Denman**²³⁶

Will of William Denman of Seal

written 30th September 1598; probate 1600
transcript from original supplemented by probate copy

The will of William Denman of Seal was written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills in the locality - see hooper.

Nicolas Hooper's
mark

1 In²³⁷ the name of god Amen. the year of

²³⁶ #229, #611 and John's younger brother also called John (#3935)

²³⁷ a decorated "I"

our Lord God One thousand five hundredth, four score and eighteen and the
fortieth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen
of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, I, William Denman of Seal, in the County of Kent, **yeoman**, being at the time of making hereof in reasonable good health
as well of body as of mind, thanks therefore be given to the Almighty, notwithstanding very aged. And
thereby, as also by daily experience, put in mind of my last end and of the change of this transitory life
knowing assuredly that the same shall once have an end, but the time thereof being altogether uncertain
and willing that those transitory things which God hath here made me steward of in earth be equally
enjoyed after my decease by those whom I have meant the same unto, therefore I do order and
make this my present Testament and last will in manner and form following: **First** and
principally I give and commend my Soul to God who gave it, knowing and ?? myself most
assuredly by a sure faith in the merit and death of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ his dear son,

14 that the same shall be presented without spot before the Throne of his
majesty and my body to the
15 Earth in sure and certain hope of a joyful resurrection to eternal bliss. **Item:**
I will there
16 shalbe given and bestowed among the poor of Seal resorting to my burial
or otherwise among
17 the poor people of Seal at the discretion of my executor hereafter named
twenty shillings.
18 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Alice, my daughter**²³⁸, now the wife of **John**
Matthew, all my goods and
19 household stuff which I have in my mansion house at Seal wherein I now
dwell.
20 **The residue**²³⁹ of all my goods, debts and chattels I wholly, fully and with
good effect, intent
21 and purpose, give and bequeath to **John Denman, my son**²⁴⁰, which John
Denman I make

238 #3936

239 large with decoration before the "T"

240 #1082

22 and ordain my whole and sole executor of this my will. And I ordain and
make my
23 very good neighbour and trusty friend **Gilbert Kipps** my Overseer of this my
will, to
24 whom I give as a token of my good will 10s over and above his necessary
charge about this
25 my will to be expended or laid out.

26 **This is the last will**²⁴¹ of me the said William Denman, made and declared
the day and
27 year first above written concerning the order and disposition of All my
land, Tenements
28 and hereditaments whatsoever within the parish of Seal aforesaid or else
where within the county
29 of Kent. And furthermore, as the above named John Denman, my son and
executor, hath already
30 paid certain money and entered into bond for the payment of more to other
my Children at my appointment,
31 Therefore I will, give and bequeath All that my messuage wherein I now
dwell, sometimes an Inn and called by the

241 large with the "T" decorated

32 name of **the Tabbard**²⁴² or by what other name it be called, withall the
33 Barns, Stables, Edifices and building
34 with the close, gardens, hempland and Orchards thereto belonging and
35 adjoining, situated and together in **Seal Town**.
36 And Three other parcels of land to the said messuage belonging which one
37 is called **Southfield**, another the croft in
38 the said and the third the **Leycroft** or by what other name or names they, or
39 any of them, are or have been called or
40 known, containing in the whole by estimation Eighteen acres of land
whether more or less thereof be had
severally, situated, lying and being in Seal aforesaid. And all other my
land whatsoever ?? my said John
Denman, my son, To have and to hold the same, with all and singular the
appurtenances, unto the said John Denman,
my son, his heirs and assigns for ever. In witness whereof, to this my
present last will and
Testament, I, the said William Denman, have set my hand and Seal
yeven²⁴³ the day and year

242 land called Thebauds in 1352, the Tabbard in 1454 and 1619 appears in Tebold wills and in Robert Sankyn's will of 1475 there appear to be complicated arrangements to be made with the Tebolds but this mention of the Tabbard as an Inn appears to be unique

243 given

41 first above written,

Nicolas Hooper's
mark
with initials

Read, Sealed and acknowledged by
the above named William Denman in

by me William
Denman²⁴⁴

the presence of me, **Nicolas Hooper**
writer hereof and of
Robert Hooper²⁴⁵.

²⁴⁴ signature

²⁴⁵ this could have been Nicholas Hooper's sixteen year old son

John Denman, married in Ightham 1569

A John Denman married Elizabeth Perry, in Ightham, on 14th November 1569 and their eldest three children were baptised in Ightham.

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--|---------------------------|------------|
| #1082/i716 ²⁴⁶ | | | | i717 | |
| John - Elizabeth Perry ²⁴⁷ | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | |
| i718 | | i719 | | i720 | |
| William | | Marie | | Joane | |
| bap: | 24 Jul 1571 | 13 Jul 1573 | | 17 Jul 1575 | |
| | | | | i755 | |
| | | | | Elizabeth - Samuel Godden | |
| | | | | i757 | |
| | | | | | i756 |
| | | | | | Dorothy |
| | | | | | 3 Jul 1580 |
| | | | | | (in Seal) |

The John Denman above could have been John, the son of "old William Denman" of Seal (#1082). He could have moved back to Seal after the birth of Joane so that Dorothy, daughter of John Denman baptised in Seal, could be a younger daughter.

Elizabeth Denman "of this parish" (i.e. Seal), who married **Samuel Godden of Snodland** in Seal on 24th April 1598, "the banns 3 times proclaimed", could also

²⁴⁶ i indicates a reference in the Ightham database

²⁴⁷ married, in Ightham, 14th November 1569

have been one of his daughters. No children were recorded for Elizabeth and Samuel but they probably lived in Snodland.

Marie, daughter of John Denman, was baptised in Ightham on 20th May 1594; she could have been a younger daughter of the above John, perhaps by a second marriage, with the family having moved back to Ightham. Obviously, she could have been the daughter of another John Denman. "**Mary, daughter of John Denman**" was buried in Seal on 29th October 1598 when Marie would have been four years old.

Other Denmans of Seal and Ightham

Margaret Scrakes married **John Fremlyn, the elder** on 2nd November 1562; they had at least three children and, after John Fremlyn's death Margaret married Thomas Denman. No children were recorded for this marriage and Margaret was buried, in Kemsing, on 29th May 1587. She must have been a "character" since she was still known by her maiden name being recorded at her burial as "**Margaret Scrackes, wife of Thomas Denman**". Eighteen months later, on 4th November 1588, Thomas Denman married Dorothy Collyns, widow of Thomas

Collyns and they had a son William baptised on 16th August 1590 in Kemsing. Dorothy (#308) was the daughter of John Tebold (#1) of Seal - see **Tebold**.

| | | | | | | | |
|------|---------------------|-----|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|-------|
| | k409 ²⁴⁸ | (1) | k410 & #3763 | #1350 | #308 | (1) | #1022 |
| mar: | 2 Nov 1562 | | 1577-1587 | 4 Nov 1588 | | | |
| | John Fremlyn - | | Margaret Scrakes - | Thomas Denman - | Dorothy Tebold ²⁴⁹ - | Thomas Collyns | |
| bur: | 10 Apr 1577 | | 29 May 1587 | | | | |
| | | | | #3762 | | | |
| | children | | | William | | | |
| | see Fremlyn | | | baptised 16 August 1590 | | | |
| | | | | in Kemsing | | | |

There were also Denmans in Ightham. **William Denman, husbandman**, was mentioned in Court Records of Ightham between 1553 and 1574 and it could have been **his wife, Margerie**, who was buried in Ightham on 21st May 1567.

A John Denman was mentioned in the Ightham Court Records of 1586 to 1618.

In Shipbourne, on 31st January 1614, Mary Denman (\$1123) married Andrew Hoadley (\$1120). This is the only mention of a Denman in Shipbourne.

²⁴⁸ k indicates a reference in the Kemsing database, \$ in that for Shipbourne

²⁴⁹ Dorothy Tebold married Thomas Collyns on 4th July 1580 and they had two children, Susan and Stephen and Dorothy was pregnant when her husband wrote his will - see *collynw.will*

Dennis Wills from East Peckham

Two Dennis wills have survived from East Peckham:

| | | | |
|---------------|-------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| Henry Dennis | 18 Jul 1598 | PCC: Lewyn 99 Prob 10/187 | page d.44 |
| Arthur Dennis | 14 May 1614 | PCC: Weldon 44 | see below |

The will of Henry Dennis was written by **Nicholas Hooper**, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618. This will is one of a few Hooper wills where the decoration of the initial "I" includes a face and the type of decoration at the top of the will, which occurs often on these wills, appears twice. Arthur was one of Henry's sons, Arthur Dennis but his will was not written by a Hooper; only the introduction has been transcribed:

"First and principally I commend my soul unto Almighty God hoping and steadfastly believing that, through the merits, death and passion of Jesus Christ, I shall have forgiveness of all my sins. And my body I commend unto the earth from whence it first came to be buried in the churchyard of East Peckham aforesaid."

The witnesses were **Guy Himes** and **Thomas Ayerst**.

3 our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of England,
France and Ireland,
4 defender of the faith, etc. I, Henry Dennis, of East Peckham in the county
of Kent, **yeoman**,
5 being²⁵⁰ at the time of the making hereof of good and perfect health as well
of body as of mind, thanks be to
6 God, notwithstanding aged and thereby put in mind of my last end,
knowing that I shall surely die But
7 of the time thereof being altogether uncertain. And willing to set some
order with those transitory possessions
8 that God hath made me Steward of in this world, that no disorder or
variance fall out about the same after
9 my decease. Therefore I Ordain and make this my present last will and
testament in manner and form following²⁵¹.
10 And **First**: and principally I commend and bequeath my Soul into the
hands of God who gave it, being assured
11 that that thing which is committed unto him cannot perish. And my body
to the earth to be buried in the churchyard of

250 "bee", "beeing", "mee" throughout which is usual for Nicholas Hooper and, in this will, includes "beefore".

251 "folowing", another usual form for Nicholas Hooper

12 East Peckham aforesaid in sure and certain hope that the same shall rise
again to life eternal at the last day. **Item:**
13 I give and bequeath to the box or chest of the poor of East Peckham
aforesaid 3s 4d. And to be distributed
14 among the poor resorting to my burial 5s. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
Henry Dennis, my son, the
15 sum of forty pounds of good and lawful money of England to be paid to him
in manner and form following, that
16 is to say, At the end of every year next after my decease, Ten pounds lawful
money until the said forty
17 pounds be fully paid. All and every the said payments of Ten pounds to be
paid at or in the mansion house wherein
18 I now dwell in East Peckham aforesaid. And if it happen the said Henry,
my son, to decease before the end of the
19 said four years and leave child or children behind him, of his body lawfully
begotten, Then I will that
20 the said sum and several sums of Ten pounds, or as much thereof as shalbe
unpaid, at the time of his such decease,
21 shalbe paid, at the place aforesaid, to the child or children (equally
between them) of him the said Henry. At such
22 ti,e and times as the said Henry should have been paid if he had lived.
Item: I give and bequeath unto **Alice**

23 **Dennis, my daughter**, the sum of five pounds of good and lawful money of
England to be paid unto her within
24 two whole years next after my decease. **Item:** I give and bequeath to
Johane, my daughter, now wife of Thomas
25 **Salmon**, the sum of four pounds of lawful money to be paid unto her, the
said Johane, within one whole year
26 next after my decease. And if it happen the said Johane to decease before
the end of the said year, then I will the
27 said four pounds shalbe paid to the child or children, equally between
them, of her the said Johane at such time as she
28 should have been paid. **Item:** I will and bequeath to **Alice Garland,**
daughter of Henry Garland, my son-in-law,
29 one two-yearling heifer²⁵² bullock to be delivered unto her within half a
year next after my decease. **Item:** I
30 give and bequeath to **my son Arthur**, one of my best kine to be taken at his
choice.

31 The residue of all my goods and cattells, leases and chattels, and all other
my debts to me owing and moveable goods whatsoever, my
32 debts being paid and funeral discharged, I wholly, fully and with good
effect, intent and purpose, give and bequeath

33 unto **William Dennis, my eldest son**, which William I make my whole and
sole executor of this my will, to
34 see my debts and legacies paid, my funeral discharged and my body
honestly brought to the earth. And I desire
35 my good neighbour and trusty friend, **Stephen Arnold**²⁵³, to be supervisor of
this my will, to whom I give, as
36 a token of my goodwill 3s 4d over and above all his charge that he shall
expend, in any pains taken about
37 this my will. In witness whereof I, the said Henry Dennis, to this my last
will and testament have set my
38 hand and seal in the presence of me **Nicholas Hooper, writer hereof**, and of
Thomas Ingleton and Robert
39 **Hooper** with others, the day and year first above written.

I bequeath my soul to god and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Frindsbury.

Dine (Dyne) and Dive (Dyve) are separate families but they are often confused and it is often not possible to tell which family is intended.

1 **Memorandum** that upon the nineteenth day of
2 December in th year of our lord Christ one thousand, six
3 hundred, twenty and seven, Thomas Dive of Tonbridge
4 in the county of Kent, husbandman, being of good mind and
5 memory in the presence of **Robert Williamson** and **Anna**
6 **Beach**, did make and declare his last will and testament,
7 nuncupative, in these words following or the like in effect, viz.
8 I will to **my two children** that I have already and to the
9 child that my wife now goeth withall, forty shillings
10 a piece out of my goods. And the residue of my goods and
11 chattels I will to **Hester, my wife**, whom I make my executor.
12 And my brothers to be overseers.

The mark of **R** Robert Williamson

the mark **A** Anna Beach

In 1587, Edward Dodge was appointed joint executor of **Dame Audrey Allan's** will, the other executor being her son Gerard. The Allans, at that time, were the owners of **Ightham Mote**.

Edward Dodge owned land in **Lechlade, Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire** as well as in Kent. Even so debts "[at this instant](#)" of over six thousand pounds seem very high. But Edward expects that his nephews will see "[every one paid and satisfied unto the full](#)" with all the "[speed they may](#)" from the debts presumably owed to him and the reversion of his lands in Wrotham and Lechlade "[until the feast of St. Michael next](#)" and of other land and woods for "[a further time if they shall not be discharged](#)". He then goes on to leave a number of large annuities to his nephews and nieces. But there is no hint as to how he came to have such a large income.

The will that has survived is a copy of the original which was written by Edward Dodge himself (see lines 68-70). The will and the memorandum is written in the same hand and the phrase "interlined" on the second page is included directly in the text. The date concerning the legacies to Edward's niece Holing was still written as 1999 and then amended to 1599 (not 1598 as in the memorandum).

Robert Hooper was also a witness of the will of Henry Dennis which was decorated in the style of other wills written by the Hoopers (a family of scriptors). Here it seems that Robert was just a witness with the memorandum probably added by the clerk, Henry Qarbet.

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Edward
2 Dodge do make this my last will and testament
3 in manner and form following: I bequeath my
4 soul unto Almighty god, my creator, his sweet
5 son, Jesus Christ, my only redeemer and the holy
6 ghost, my comforter and to all the holy company
7 of saints in heaven. My body to be buried
8 within the parish church of Wrotham or
9 Lachlande²⁵⁴ nearest unto which of the places it
10 shall please god to call me. **Item:** I give unto
11 **my dearly beloved niece²⁵⁵, the Lady Vavaster,**
12 all my houses and lands in Wrotham and
13 **Leybourne** or elsewhere within the county of

254 Lechlade, Gloucestershire - see line 29

255 written "niece"

14 Kent. I say I give it to her and to those
15 males of her body to be begotten, paying yearly
16 unto **my niece Patte** and her heirs male fifty
17 pounds of current english money at our Lady
18 day and the feast of St. Michael by
19 even portions. And my intent and meaning is
20 my niece Vavaster shall not enter upon my said
21 land before the feast of St. Michael next
22 after my decease. If it shall please god to call
23 the Lady Vavaster not leaving any issue
24 male, then my will is that my niece Patte,
25 or the heirs of him²⁵⁶, shall pay unto the issue
26 female, if any be or to **Sir Thomas Vavaster**,
27 fifty pounds yearly during the longer liver
28 of them. All my house and lands within Lachlande
29 in county of Gloucestershire, I give and bequeath
30 in manner and form following: where my particular
31 debts are at this instant above six thousand pounds
32 that **my loving nephews Robert Bathurst and**

256 "him" not "her"

page 2:

33 **Edward Clampard** shall withall the
34 speed they may see every one paid and
35 satisfied unto the full with my debts,
36 goods and the reversion of **Compe**²⁵⁷ and
37 **Lachlade** until the feast of St. Michael
38 next and of **Lash Land** and my woods for
39 a further time if they shall not be discharged
40 within that time, my debts and legacies and
41 the charge of my executors born and
42 sundry all charges, I will and give yearly
43 annuity or rent charge of one hundred
44 pounds by the year unto my nephews
45 Edward Clampard and his heirs. I give
46 unto niece Patte one annuity or rent
47 charge of fifty pounds by year. I give
48 unto nephew Francis Clampard for
49 two years, one annuity of twenty pounds
50 by the year and every year during 8
51 years after, one annuity or rent charge
52 of fifteen pounds by the year and then yearly

257 Comp is about one mile south of Wrotham Heath

53 during his natural life and to the heirs
54 male of his body begotten²⁵⁸. **Item:** I give
55 unto **my niece Heling** and her heirs male
56 **Rufford farm** wherein **Richard Hignell**
57 now dwelleth, she to receive the rent
58 thereof after the feast of St. Michael
59 which shall be in the year of our lord 1599.
60 And I will that **Henry Heling, my**
61 **nephew**, shall take the full profit the
62 houses in the **Old Baylye**. **Item:** I give unto

end of sheet two

63 my most honest friend **John Varman**, my only
64 **executor**, for those things only
65 if any deserve be? that I have not
66 set? down orderly as I should, I desire
67 the true meaning with quiteness may be
68 performed. All being written with my
69 own hand and ended this 18th of
70 December 1597, by me Edward Dodge.

71 **Item:** all my lands, rents and hereditaments
72 within Lachlade or any where within the
73 county of Gloucestershire And all my
74 woods and lands in Oxfordshire, I
75 give as before is said unto my loving
76 nephew **Robert Bathurst** and the heirs
77 male of his body to be begotten.
78 And for want of such issue I give
79 all the said land unto my nephew
80 Edward Clampard and the heirs
81 of his body to be begotten. And for lack
82 of such issue to my nephew Francis
83 Clampard and the heirs male of his
84 body to be begotten. And for lack of
85 such issue to my niece Vavaster and
86 the heirs male of her body to be begotten.
87 And for lack of such issue unto my
88 niece Patte and the heirs male of
89 her body begotten and to be begotten
90 by me Edward Dodge
end of sheet three

90 **Memorandum** that this will was read unto

91 the testator and approved by him
92 and those words in the second sheet
93 betwixt the 10th and the 11th lines
94 viz: unto my nephew Edward Clampard
95 and his heirs by his commandment
96 interlined by the hand of **Mr Henry**
97 **Qarbet, clerk**, and that the false
98 date in the legacies of his niece Holing
99 being 1999²⁵⁹ should be amended and
100 made 1598 in the presence of those
101 underwritten: **Thomas Dochen, Henry**
102 **Qarbet, William Ramton, Robert**
Hooper

259 "1999" (i.e. not a typing error for 1599)

1 In the name of god Amen. The second day of April
2 in the third year of the reign of our Sovereign lord king Charles, by the
grace
3 of god, king of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith,
4 the third and in the year of our lord god 1627. I, John Donstone, of
Edenbridge in
5 in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being of good and perfect remembrance
(god be praised)
6 do here make and ordain this my present last will and testament in manner
and form
7 following, that is to say, **First** and principally I commend my soul into the
hands of
8 Almighty god, my maker and redeemer, my body to the earth whereof it
was made. **Item:** I give
9 and bequeath unto **Richard Tapefeild, son of my daughter Margery**, all my
10 moveable goods and chattels. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Jude**
Tapefeild, daughter
11 **of my said daughter Margery**, the sum of four pounds of lawful money
12 of England ?? out of my lands lying in the parish of **Hever** in the

county aforesaid to be paid to her at the age of four and twenty years.

Item: I

give and bequeath to **John Tapefeild, son of my said daughter Margery**, all my

lands and tenements lying and being within the parish of Hever aforesaid and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten for ever²⁶⁰. And if it

happen the said John Tapefeild to decease without heirs of his body lawfully

begotten that then I give and bequeath my said lands and tenements unto the aforesaid Richard

Tapefeild and to the heirs of his body lawfully begotten for ever. And for default of such issue

unto the right heirs of me the said John Dunstone forever. **Item:** I will that **John**

Piggott of Hever in the said county, **yeoman**, shall have the ruling and bring=

ing up of the said John Tapefeild until he shalbe of the age of four and twenty

years and also shall have the rent, commodity and profit coming and growing of

260 the last phrase inserted

23 the same lands and therewith shall save and keep himself harmless from
all charges
24 and payments which shall come of years aforesaid. Provided always and
my true content and
25 meaning is that, if it happen the said John Tapefeild to decease before me,
26 the said John Dunstone, that then I will the said John Piggott shall
immediately
27 after the decease of me the said John Dunstone receive and take the rent
28 of my said lands and pay himself towards his charges for the bringing up of
the
29 said John Tapefeild during his said life so that the said John Piggott shalbe
30 at no loss or hindrance thereby²⁶¹. Also, after my debts paid, my funeral
expenses
31 performed, I make and ordain the above John Piggott my executor, in trust
32 until the said John Tapefeild shalbe at the age of four and twenty years
whom
33 afterwards I make my executor hereof. And I make **William King** of
34 Edenbridge the said overseer hereof. In witness whereof I have
35 set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

261 does this clause, from "Provided that" mean that John Piggott was already spending money on bringing up John Tapefeild? Otherwise, how could he incur such charges if JT died before JD, the testator?

Subscribed, delivered, published to be
his last will and testament in the presence
of **William King** his mark

John J²⁶² Piggott

John Harefield

The Douglasses of Hever

The wills of two William Douglas of Hever have survived, both proved at the PCC:

| | |
|--|--|
| William Douglas of Hever and Chiddingstone | Montague 9 |
| written: | 22nd February, 44th year of Elizabeth (1602) |
| witnesses: | Thomas Darnell, Robert Leigh, junior; Richard Still, Robert Dodd. |

This will has not been investigated.

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| William Douglas of Hever | Scroope 80 |
| written: 1st August 1630 | page d.64 |

William Douglas married Margaret Beecher about 1604; she was the daughter of James Beecher of Penshurst but is known from the will of her sister Anne (1611) rather than from that of her father written on 13th April 1604, perhaps soon after she had married.

Margaret had a brother, James (p61²⁶⁶), who was one of the overseers of William's will and also a witness to his will and Anne mentions four children:

- William who was to be his father's executor,
- Elizabeth (who was not mentioned by her father but was probably the mother of his grandchild William King),
- Richard and Thomas, both left bequests by their father. Richard was probably just about 21 but Thomas was still underage - see [Beecher](#) for more details.

When he wrote his will in 1630, William Douglas's wife was Joan and he had five more daughters and another son, some of whom could have been Margaret's children since it is not known when she died.

William was a wealthy yeoman; he left his five unmarried daughters £50 each, his wife Joan £20, Richard and Thomas £60 each but the youngest son, Henry, was to receive only £30; this totals £420. All his land was to go to William, his eldest son.

5 parish of Hever in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick and weak in body
but of
6 sound and perfect memory (thanks be to God therefore) do make and
declare this my
7 last will and testament in manner and form following: **First** and principally
I give and
8 commend my soul into the hands of Almighty god, my maker, Jesus Christ,
his son, my
9 only saviour and redeemer. And my body to the earth from whence it came
with a full
10 assurance of a joyful resurrection at the last day. And as concerning the
disposing of such
11 worldly goods as God hath lent me, **First**: I give to the poor of the parish of
Hever
12 twenty shillings to be given unto them the Sunday after my burial by my
executor
13 hereafter named and the churchwardens for the time being. **Item**: I give to
him that shall
14 preach at my burial ten shillings. **Item**: I give to **my five daughters, Mary,**
Susanna,
15 **Margaret, Joane and Dorothy Douglas**, and to each and every of them, the
sum of fifty

16 pounds a piece of good and lawful money of England to be paid unto them,
and either of
17 them, at their and either of their several ages of one and twenty years or
their several
18 days of marriage which shall first happen, by my executor hereafter named
and my
19 executor to keep and provide for them until their portions shall become due
and payable.

20 **Item:** I give to **Joan, my wellbeloved wife**, twenty pounds to be paid unto
her within three
21 months after my decease by my executor hereafter named. **Item:** I give
unto **my son Richard**
22 **Douglas** the sum of three score pounds to be paid unto him within six
months after my decease
23 by my executor hereafter named. **Item:** I give to **my son, Thomas Douglas**
the sum of threescore
24 pounds to be paid unto him at his age of one and twenty years by my
executor as aforesaid. **Item:** I
25 give unto **my son Henry Douglas** the sum of thirty pounds to be paid unto
him at his age of
26 one and twenty years. And if any of my five daughters before mentioned
happen to die before

27 their or any of their portions to become due and payable, that then the
portion of her so dying
28 shalbe equally divided between the residue of my daughters which shall
survive. And if any of
29 my three sons happen to die before their portions become due, that then
the portion of him so
30 dying shalbe divided between the survivors likewise. **Item:** I give to
everyone of my children
31 before named two pairs of sheets and to every of my daughters half a dozen
of table napkins.
32 **Item:** I give to Joane, my wellbeloved wife, one featherbed and bedstead
with a coverlet, two blankets,
33 two pairs of sheets, a bolster, two pillows. And further my will is that Joan,
my wife, shall
34 have the parlour at the right hand coming into the house during the time of
a lease granted
35 to me by **Edward Waldegrave** for the term of twelve years to begin at the
feast of
36 St. Michael Anno. one thousand six hundred thirty one²⁶⁵. **Item:** I give
more unto the said Joan,

265 fifteen months after the date of the will but it sounds as if William was already living in the house mentioned

37 my wife, one chest standing in the parlour before appointed to my said
wife. **Item:** I give unto
38 **William King, my grandchild**, ten shillings to be paid unto the said William
King at his
39 age of fifteen years. The residue of all my goods, cattell, chattels,
moveables and
40 unmoveables whatsoever, I do, with good intent and purpose, give and
bequeath to
41 **William Douglas, my eldest son**, whom I do ordain and make my whole and
sole executor
42 of this my will whom I do appoint to see my debts and legacies paid and
this my will performed
43 and my body decently buried. And as concerning the disposing of all my
lands, I give and bequeath
44 unto my said son William Douglas, my executor before named, and to his
heirs and assigns
45 forever, all my lands and tenements whatsoever and wheresoever, to have
and to hold
46 to him, the said William Douglas my son and to his heirs and assigns
forever. **Item:** my will
47 is that my executor shall likewise keep and maintain his three younger
brothers

48 until their portions be paid unto them²⁶⁶. In witness whereof to this my will
containing
49 one side of paper and a quarter, I have to both of them set my hand and to
the last set
50 my seal being dated the day and year first above written. **Item:** I do intreat
my
51 **cousin Henry Streatfield and my brother-in-law James Beecher** to be
overseers of
52 this my will and to take some pains to see it performed. **William Douglas**
signed
53 seal and acknowledged to be his will in the presence of **William Birsy,**
Henry Streatfield, James Beecher

266 Richard was probably already twenty-one and he was to get his legacy within six months of his father's death; Thomas, who was born before 1611 could not have had long to wait. Henry, who was William's stepbrother, could have been much younger.

This will was written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills in Shipbourne and other towns and villages between 1574 and 1618. It is the only Drinke will from West Kent which has survived.

Nicolas Hooper's
mark

- 1 In²⁶⁷ the name of god Amen. The four and twenty day of March,
- 2 being the first day of the sixth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord
James by the
- 3 grace of God king of England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith,
etc. And of
- 4 Scotland the One and fortieth, and in the year of our lord God one
Thousand Sixty

5 and Seven. **I, John Drinke**, of Shipbourne in the county of Kent, **yeoman**,
being
6 very sick and weak of body but yet of perfect mind and remembrance,
thanks therefore be²⁶⁸ given
7 to Almighty God, do ordain and make this my present last will and
testament in manner and form
8 following²⁶⁹: And **First** and principally I give, commend and bequeath my
soul into the hands
9 Almighty God, who gave it, trusting by an a assured faith which I have in
merit and precious blood
10 and bloodshedding²⁷⁰ of his dear son Jesus, my only saviour and Redeemer,
that the same shalbe presented,
11 pure and without spot before the throne of his majesty. And my body to
the earth to be
12 buried in the churchyard of Shipbourne aforesaid, in sure and certain hope
of a joyful

268 "bee", "mee", etc. (including "beeing and "beefore") throughout which is usual for Nicholas Hooper

269 "folowing" which is usual for Nicholas Hooper

270 "bludshedding" also usual for Nicholas Hooper

13 resurrection to life everlasting. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my daughter,**
14 **Susan Drinke,**
15 the sum of ten pounds of lawful money to be paid to her, the said Susan, at
16 the day
17 of her marriage or at the age of One and twenty years, which shall first
18 happen, by my wife
19 and executrix hereafter named. **The Residue** of all my goods and cattells
20 and ??
21 and Chattels and all other my moveable goods and cattels, I wholly, fully
22 and with good effect,
intent and purpose, give and bequeath to **Sylvester, my natural and loving**
wife, which Sylvester
I make and ordain my whole and sole executrix of this my last will to see
the same proved
my debts and legacies above by me given, paid and my body honestly and
decently buried.

This is the last will of me, John Drinke, made and declared the day and
year first above written concerning the order and disposition of my lands
and tenements

page 2:

23 situated at and near **Dynes Plain** in Shipbourne aforesaid. **And first**
24 I give and bequeath unto the said Silvester, my wellbeloved wife, All that
message or
25 tenement wherein I now dwell, situated, lying and being at and near
Dynes Plain in
26 Shipbourne aforesaid and all the buildings and Edifices, closes, gardens,
orchards, lands, meadows,
27 pastures, steadings²⁷¹ and woods thereto belonging, by what name or
several names they, or any of the
28 same, are or have been called or known, containing in the whole, by
estimation T²⁷²
29 whether more or less thereof be held severally situated, lying and being in
Shipbourne aforesaid.
30 To have and to hold the same and every of the same, withall and singular
th'appurtenances, unto the said
31 Silvester, my wife and her assigns during her natural life keeping the
reparations thereof and paying the lord's rent

271 farmstead

272 only the "T" has survived, the right hand side of the will having decayed; from the description twenty acres sounds more likely than two

32 thereunto yearly going. Notwithstanding I will that if my said wife be alive
at the time that my
33 **son, Henry Drinke**, shall attain and come to his age of One and twenty
years, then I will
34 that the said Henry Drinke, my son, shall have, hold and enjoy the one half
of all my said
35 messuages, Edifices, closes, gardens, orchard and all and every other the
premises, withall and singular
36 th'appurtenances (except one little parcel ?? those called the **Littlecroft**
containing by estimation quarter of
37 an acre, more or less). To have and to hold all the said moiety or half of the
premises with th'appurtenances
38 unto the said Henry Drinke, mine eldest son, (presently after the such age
of the said Henry,
39 my son²⁷³, his heirs and assigns forever keeping half of the reparations
thereof and paying half the
40 lord's rent thereunto yearly to grow due. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
the said Henry
41 Drinke, my son, All the said moiety or one half of all the said messuage and
all other the

273 this phrase was originally "decease of the said Silvester, my wife.

42 premises, withall and singular th'appurtenances (except only the said Little
croft) To have and to hold unto the said Henry Drinke,
43 my son, his heirs and assigns, presently after my said wife's decease, to the
only use ??

44 ?? of the said Henry, my son, his heirs and assigns, forever.

Notwithstanding

45 my will and meaning is that the said Henry Drinke, my son, his heirs or
assigns, shall

46 pay out of my said lands and tenements (and other the premises to him
willed) the sum of

47 Twenty pounds of good and lawful money of England unto **John Drinke,**
my son, or his assigns at the full age of

page 3:

48 One and twenty years of the said John, my son, or at the lease within eight
and two ?? ??

49 after that he, the said John, my son, shall accomplish and come to his full
age of one and twenty

50 years. After in the said messuage or tenement before my will, without all
fraud or coven.

51 And ?? that my said son John happen to decease before his said age of one
and twenty years, then I will that Henry, my son,

52 his heirs and assigns, shall repay unto my said wife the other half of the ten
pounds which shall have before paid unto the said Susan
53 my daughter²⁷⁴

54 **And** I further will and devise that if default happen to be made in payment
of the said Twenty
55 Pounds before herein willed to my said son John Drinke contrary to the true
intent
56 of this my will, then I will that it shall and may be lawful to my said son
John Drinke,
57 and his assigns, to enter in and upon all the said messuage, land and
premises before ? ?
58 me to him given, withall and singular th'appurtenances, and the same
shall hold, occupy and enjoy until
59 he shall have received, of the issues and profits thereof, the said sum of
Twenty pounds and
60 every parcel thereof according to the true tenor, meaning and effect of this
my will and th. .
61 herein before mentioned to the contrary hereof in any wise
notwithstanding. **Item:** I give

274 From "After" on line 50 to here the writing is small and it looks as is these lines were written after the initial will was produced. Because of this they are difficult to read.

62 and bequeath unto the said John Drinke, mine youngest son, All that little
63 parcel of land or
64 meadow called the Littlecroft before herein excepted, containing by
65 estimation half an acre,
66 whether more or less thereof be had, lying and being at **Gavelers** in
67 Shipbourne aforesaid,
68 bounding to the said plain against the east and to the land of **Nicholas
Myller, the elder**, against the
69 south west and north. To have and to hold the said parcel of land called
70 Littlecroft withall and
singular th'appurtenances, unto the said John Drinke, my youngest son, his
heirs and assigns, to the
only use and behoof of the said John, my youngest son, his heirs and
assigns forever. **In**
witness whereof I, the said John Drinke, the father, have to this my present
last will set my
hand and seal yeven the day and year first above written.

Nicolas Hooper's
mark
with initials

Read, sealed, pronounced and declared

to be ²⁷⁵true and last will of the said
John Drinke, the father, in the
presence of me **Nicholas Hooper**
scriptor?²⁷⁶ hereof and of
Henry Sallyen
Richard Freilde?
?? O ??

sign **J** John

Drinke

²⁷⁵ the expected "the" omitted

²⁷⁶ Nicholas Hooper definitely wrote this will but this word does not look like "scriptor", "scrivener" or "writer"

The Dubles of Seal and Tonbridge

Two Duple wills have survived from Seal:

| | | | |
|-------------|---------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| John Duple | 13 Jan 1526/7 | CKS: Drb/Pwr 8.184; Drb/Pw 2 | page d.80 |
| Ralph Duple | 7 Feb 1581/2 | CKS: Drb/Pwr 17.135 | page d.86 |

There is also a will from Tonbridge:

| | | | |
|------------|---------------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| John Duple | 12 Jan 1586/7 | CKS: Drb/Pw 14, Drb/Pwr 17.176 | page d.91 |
|------------|---------------|--------------------------------|-----------|

The wills of Ralph of Seal and John of Tonbridge were written by Nicholas Hooper who was curate of Shipbourne and wrote wills for a number of people in Shipbourne and the surrounding towns and villages.

The will of John Duple of Tonbridge was proved, "[the second day of June 1587, before John Stockwood, vicar of Tonbridge, in the church of Tonbridge according to a commission in that behalf to him directed](#)".

The testator of 1527 owned land in Seal and Tonbridge and had a son John who was one of his father's executors but John of Tonbridge was only about thirty

when he wrote his will in 1587 and therefore, if descended from John of Seal would have been his grandson rather than his son. In 1515 John Duble made a complaint about some land - see More Families & Transcripts

Even if they were not closely related, the Dubles of Seal and those of Tonbridge seem to have shared a connection with Bidborough, possibly both with the same man - John Weeks.

It is not known if there was any connection between Ralph Duble and the others but, like John before him, he owned land in Tonbridge as well as Seal and Leigh.

Will of John Duble of Seal

written 13th January 1526/7

transcript from probate copy

1 In dei now Amen. The year of
2 our lord 1526 the
3 13 day of January, I, John Duble,
4 of Seal, whole in mind make my
5 testament and last will in this
6 manner: **First:** I bequeath my soul
7 to Almighty god, my body to be
8 buried in the churchyard of Seal.

9 **Item:** I bequeath to the high altar
10 of Seal for my tithes forgotten
11 20d. **Item:** I will to be (sung?) one
12 trentall of masses at my burying
13 and within the time of my months
14 mind and at my months days.
15 Also, I bequeath to **Alice, my wife,**
16 six kyne to be delivered to her
17 immediately after my decease. Also
18 I bequeath to Alice, my wife, all such
19 household stuff as she brought with
20 her and 20s in money. The residue of
21 all my goods unbequeathed, my debts
22 paid and my bequests fulfilled, I
23 give to **John, my son,** whom I make
24 mine executor and **John of Chalde..**
25 the said John to have for his labour
26 all the cost and charges besides 20d.²⁷⁷

27 This is the last will and testament of me
28 John Duple made the day and year afore

277 "besides" - and in addition

29 said. **First:** I will that **Alice, my wife,**
30 have the house that I bought of
31 **Robert Clarke** lying in the parish
32 of Seal to her during her
33 life, keeping the reparation of the said
34 house and, after her decease,
35 I will the said house with th'appurtenances
36 remain to **John, my son**, to him and
37 his assigns for evermore. Also I
38 will that it shall be lawful for Alice,
39 my wife, to declare her will of
40 the profits of all such land and tenements
41 with their appurtenances that I had .
42 the said Alice for one whole year after
43 my decease. And after the said year
44 I will the said land and tenements with
45 the appurtenances lying in **Seal**
46 and **Tonbridge** or wherever in
47 the shire of Kent. And all this land
48 that I had by my wife except be
49 fore (bequeathed?) to John, my said son,
50 after my decease, paying yearly to
51 Alice, my wife, during her life

52 4 marks by year to be paid by
53 one portion quarterly. And for
54 . . . none payment . . .
55 it shall be lawful to the said Alice
56 and my feoffees and her assigns to distrain
57 in all the foresaid land and tenements.

witnesses: **John Theobald²⁷⁸ John Denman**
 and others

Ralph Duple and his Possible Descendants

Ralph's will was written when he was in "perfect health" but "mindful of . . . this troublesome life"; he did not die for another five years being buried on 9th January 1586/7. There were Duples in Seal from the 1570s who were probably Ralph's descendants.

The testator's eldest son was John who could have been the John Duple of Seal, glover, who bought from John Tebold "one annuity or yearly rent of forty shillings

278 John(2) Tebold, #673

The testator's eldest son, John, could have been the John Duble of Seal, glover, who bought from John Tebold "[one annuity or yearly rent of forty shillings issuing out of Shoodes](#)" (messuage and land in Underriver) for £20 in 1586²⁸¹. He could also have been the father of the Mildred Duble who married Richard Pelsett (#178) on 10th July 1598 - see [Pelsett in Families & Transcripts](#) for their children.

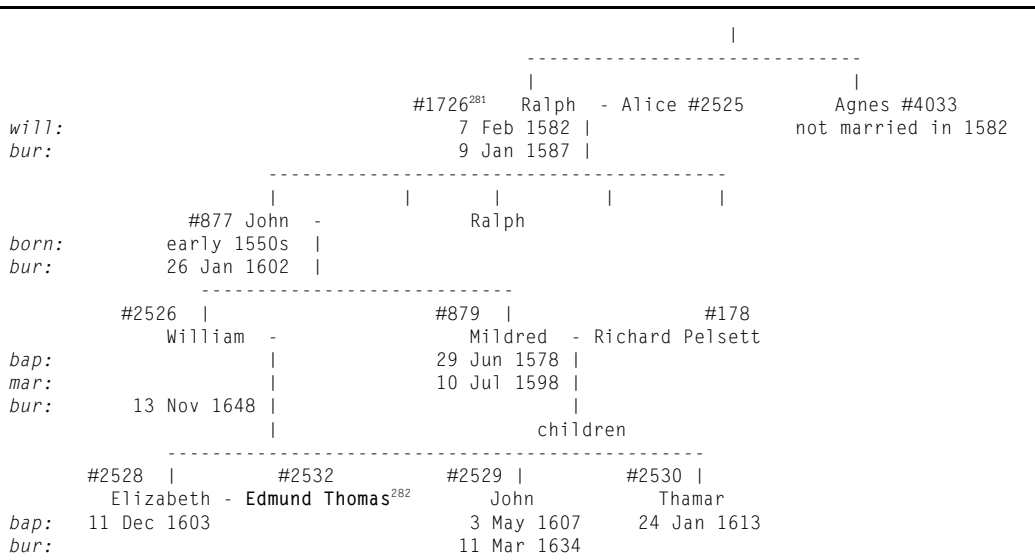
The testator was "Ralph Duble the elder" and he had other sons besides John so that it is likely one of these was "the younger".

There was a William Duble having children in Seal at the beginning of the seventeenth century; he could have been Mildred's brother. He could also have been the William Duble who:

- in the Assessments to a Subsidy granted to Charles I in 1628²⁸², was assessed for £5 for land and 20s (£1) for goods. This was one of the three highest assessments for Seal
- witnessed the will of William Olyver of Fawke in 1634 - see [Olyver in Families & Transcripts](#)

281 indenture CKS: U1000/T28 ; see [Indentures & Writings in Section Z in More Families & Transcripts](#)

282 CKS: U1000/10



²⁸¹ # denotes reference in Seal database

²⁸² Elizabeth married on 27th June 1625 when she was 22 but no children were recorded

William's son John was twenty-seven when he died; on 29th April 1635 a Grant of Administration was made to William, his father, with a further grant in 1649²⁸³, presumably because of William's death. John's estate must have been such that it had still not been wound up fourteen years after his death.

Margaret Duple, widow, was buried, in Seal, on 5th March 1634.

Will of Ralph Duple, the elder, of Seal

written 7th February 1581/2; proved 1587

transcript from probate copy; original has not survived

this will is very long and becomes unreadable

- 1 In the name of god Amen.
- 2 the seventh day of February in the year
- 3 of our lord god a thousand, five hundred
- 4 four score and one and in the four and
- 5 twentieth year of the reign of our Sovereign
- 6 lady Elizabeth, by the grace of god, Queen
- 7 of England, France and Ireland and defender

283 A.C. Vol.20, p.30; Lelnd L. Duncan, Kentish Administrations 1604-1639

8 of the faith. I, Ralph Duple, th'elder
9 of Seal in the County of Kent, **yeoman**,
10 being at the making hereof (thanks be
11 to god) in sound mind and perfect health
12 and of good remembrance and being and aged
13 mindful of the . . . and
14 of . . . this Troublesome Life . .
15 do ordain and make this my present testament
16 and last will in manner and form following:
17 that is to say, **First:** and principally I give,
18 commend and bequeath my soul to god Almighty
19 and to Jesus Christ, his dear son, my only
20 Saviour and Redeemer, by whose merits, precious
21 death and bloodshedding I trust to be saved and
22 my body to be buried in the churchyard of Seal
23 aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath to the
24 box or chest of the poor within the parish of Seal
25 aforesaid 20d. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
26 **my sister, Agnes Duple**, 6s 8d. **Item:** I
27 will that all the parcels of ?? hereafter
28 immediately following viz. the table with a ??
29 in the hall of my mansion house ?? the
30 forms thereto belonging, a settle there ?? a

31 bedstead, joined, being in the chamber
32 where **John Duble, my eldest son**, now lyeth, my
33 great chest of my said shalbe
34 ?? and remain as standers to my mansion house
35 and also a cheese press there being as implements
36 to my said house forever.

end of page 1

 The residue of all my goods
- and cattells, as well moveable as unmoveable, my debts
- and legacies being paid and funeral discharged,
- I fully, wholly and with good effect, intent and
- purpose give and bequeath to **my right well**
- **beloved wife, Alice Duble**, which Alice I constitute, ordain
- and make my whole and sole executor of this my
- present testament and last will, to see the same
- proved and funeral discharged and I devise my
- **trusty and well beloved friend and ??, John**
- ??²⁸⁴ of **Bidborough** to be supervisor and overseer
- of the same to whom I give ten shillings over and
- besides his charges and expenses above anything

284 was this the John Weeks of Bidborough appointed overseer of his will by John Duble in 1586 ?

- . . . the same to be laid out.
etc. etc.

land in Seal, Tonbridge and Leigh

- . . . I give and bequeath all that my
mansion house wherein I now dwell with all
the houses, edifices, buildings, gardens, orchards,
lands, meadows, pastures and feeding, with all
and singular th'appurtenances belonging
and appertaining.
In witness whereof I the said Ralph Duple to
this my present last will and testament have
set my hand and seal hereon the
day and year first above written in
the presence of **William Polhill**²⁸⁵, **Henry**
Collin, **Richard Clarke**²⁸⁶
Nicolas Hooper and others

285 there were Polhills in Otford, Seal and Ightham

286 Richard Clarke (#438) died 1589

John Duble of Tonbridge

When John of Tonbridge wrote his will he was John Duble, the younger, so that it is likely that his father was still alive in 1586. When he wrote his will, John had three daughters and his wife was pregnant; since he makes his father-in-law, Thomas Tindley, one of his overseers, it was this John Duble who married Anne Tyndlie in Shipbourne on 6th December 1582.

Thus John might only have been about thirty and his eldest daughter could not have been four - three living children and wife pregnant again between December 1582 and January 1587, whilst possible is unusual; could the Dubles have been a family which employed a wetnurse?. The other possibility is that Anne was his second wife with at least one, if not two, of his daughters being from an earlier marriage but the will does not read as if this was the case.

John had £140 which was to be invested by his overseers so that his wife could use the profits from it for the upbringing of their children until they were sixteen. Although each child had to wait until they were 21 or married to receive their portion, the profits from the money eventually to be paid to them was to be used directly to their use and not be paid to their mother, John's wife. The management of this money over such a long period must have involved complicated arrangements and accounting procedures for his overseers, one of

whom was his father-in-law. There is no indication of how John had managed to accumulate this sum of £140 since there is no mention in his will of a trade or status (such as yeoman or husbandman) and no items are bequeathed, everything other than the £140 being left to his wife.

Will of John Duple of Tonbridge

written 12th January 1586/7

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 The twelfth day of January in the year of our
3 Lord god one thousand, five hundred, four
4 score and six in the nine and twentieth
5 year of the reign of our Sovereign Lady
6 Elizabeth, by the grace of god, Queen of
7 England, France and Ireland, defender
8 of the faith. I, John Duple, the
9 **younger of Haseden** within the parish of
10 **Tonbridge** and diocese of Rochester in the
11 county of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick and
12 weak of body at the time of making hereof but yet
13 of perfect mind and remembrance, thanks

14 therefore be given to Almighty god, do
15 ordain and make this my present testament
16 and last will in manner and form
17 following: And **First** and principally, I
18 give and commend my soul into the hands
19 of Almighty god, my maker, and to Jesus
20 Christ, his dear son, my only lord and
21 saviour and Redeemer, desiring him,
22 through his passion and blood shedding to
23 blot out all my sins and offences. And
24 my body to the earth to be buried in the
25 churchyard of Tonbridge aforesaid

- my daughters, **Alice, Elizabeth and Ann**, to
- every of them forty pounds good and lawful
- money to be paid to them, and every of them, at their
- and every of their ages of one and twenty years
- or at the day of their several marriages which
- shall first happen by mine overseers
- hereafter named, their executors or assigns.
- **Item:** I will and give to that child which my
- wife now goeth withall, if it be a woman child,
- the sum of twenty pounds lawful money to

- be paid to her at her age of 21 years or at
- the day of her marriage which shall happen first,
- to be paid like wise by mine overseers hereafter
- named, their executors or assigns.
- Provided always that, if it be a son which my
- wife goeth withall, then I will that he shall
- have fifty pounds lawful money to be paid
- in like manner then I will my said daughters
- shall have but only thirty pounds of their
- portions afore mentioned to them given.

if decease, each to be the others heir

- **Item:** I will that my wife and executor
- hereafter named shall, within one whole
- year next after my decease pay and
- deliver into the hands of my overseers
- hereafter named, their executors or
- assigns, all the said sum and sums
- before by me given to my foresaid

- children which is seven score pounds²⁸⁷
- and I will that my said overseers or
- any of them, their executors or assigns,
- shall faithfully (as my trust is in them)
- put out to the best profit and make
- goodly use they can all the said sum of
- seven score provided, and the profit, benefit and
- commodity, thereof coming and arising, to pay over
- yearly unto my wife and executors for and
- towards the bringing up of my said children
- until they shall attain to their age and ages of
- sixteen years. And after their several ages of
- sixteen years, I will that the said profit
- shalbe employed to the use of my said children
- until the time and times in which they shall or
- receive their portions for that they may
- have the stock with the commodity thereof from their
- said age and I will that, as any of my said
- children come to the said age of sixteen years
- Anne, my said wife shall not receive any benefit

287 £40 for each of his three daughters plus £20 for his posthumous daughter or £30 for each of his daughters and £50 for his posthumous son

- of her or his said part after the said age. And I will
- that if all my said children decease before their
- several marriages and ages aforesaid, then
- I will that one half of the said
- hundred and forty pounds shall stay and
- remain to my said overseers and the other half
- shall equally be shifted amongst **the daughters**
- of **Thomas Tyndley, my said father-in-law,**
- their executors or assigns.

- The residue of all my goods and chattels,
- as well moveable as unmoveable, my debts being
- paid and funeral discharged²⁸⁸, I wholly,
- fully and with good effect, intent and purpose give
- and bequeath to **Anne, my wellbeloved wife** which
- Anne I make and ordain my whole and sole executor
- of this my will, willing her (as I put confidence
- in her) to bring up my children honestly, godly
- and upright. And I ordain, constitute and
- make **my father-in-law** the said **Thomas**

288 "discharged" in copy but no "d" in original

- Tyndley²⁸⁹ and my kinsman John Weeks of Bidborough
- to be overseers of this my will desiring them, as
- I put confidence . .
- will and devise faithfully executed,
- according to the tenor hereof, to whom I
- give for and towards their pains in
- and about the same to be taken, ten shillings
- a piece, over and besides all their charge and
- expenses to be laid out in and about the
- same. In witness whereof I, the said John Duble, to this my
- present will and testament have set my hand and Seal herein the
- day and year first above written in the presence of the said Thomas
- Tyndley,
- John Weeks and of John Budgin, William Fisher and Nicolas
- (Hooper)

289 John Duble married Anne Tyndlie on 6th December 1582 in Shipbourne

E

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| The Edmonds of Brasted | page e.3 |
| Will of William Eliard of Bidborough | page e.10 |

Emery see [Clarkes of Seal](#)

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Euerard wills of Seal | page e.15 |
| Will of Raynold Euerard (Everherd) | page e.15 |

The wills of Mathew and Peter Everest are given in:

Section 2 of Sevenoaks up to 1650

Transcripts of twelve other **Everest wills** for the Tonbridge/Sevenoaks area are given here:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| The Everest Wills of the Tonbridge/Sevenoaks Area | page e.17 |
| Thomas Everest, butcher, of Tonbridge | page e.19 |
| Other Everests in Tonbridge | page e.22 |
| William of Hever and Edward of Chiddingstone | page e.23 |
| Bennet Everest, widow, of Chiddingstone | page e.27 |
| John Everest of Brasted | page e.27 |
| Mathew of Sevenoaks, John of Tonbridge and Peter of Chiddingstone | page e.28 |
| The Everests of Leigh | page e.30 |
| Susan Everest, spinster of Chiddingstone | page e.33 |
| Elizabeth Thompson, als. Everest of Chiddingstone | page e.34 |
| | |
| The Everests of Seal | page e.89 |
| Henry Everest | page e.89 |
| Oliver Everest's Family | page e.90 |
| Thomas & Dorothy Everest of Shipbourne | page e.90 |

*The **Edmonds** of Brasted*

Two wills have survived for Edmonds als. Edwards:

| | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|-------------|------------------|----------|
| Thomas Edmonds | 25 Mar 1611/2 | 27 Jul 1618 | CKS: Prs/w/5/136 | page e.4 |
| Jone Edmonds | 13 Jun 1631 | 2 Dec 1631 | CKS: Prs/w/5/146 | page e.7 |

Not only was Thomas one of the relatively few labourers to have written a will but he also had it indented with two copies being produced, one for his wife and one for his daughter, Joane. He owned a "[messuage or tenement](#)" which he left to his wife and, on her death, to his son. But his son was to pay £5 to Joane within one year of entering into his inheritance with payment being made in the south porch of Brasted church. Thomas considered himself one of the "[elect children of \(god's\) heavenly kingdom](#)"

Jone, the testator of the second will, was Thomas's daughter; by the time she wrote her will her brother had died and she made his wife her executrix.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | x1547 | Thomas - Elizabeth | x1548 ²⁹² |
| <i>will:</i> | 25 Mar 1612 | | |
| <i>proved:</i> | 27 Jul 1618 | | |
| | | | |
| ----- | | | |
| x1549 | | x1550 | x1551 |
| Joane/Jone | | Thomas - Elizabeth | |
| <i>will:</i> 13 Jun 1631 | | | |
| | | ----- | |
| | x1552 | | x1553 |
| | Elizabeth | | Ann |

Will of Thomas Edmonds of Brasted

written 25th March 1612

transcript from original

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The
- 2 five and twentieth day of March in the year of our Lord God 1611
- 3 I, Thomas Edmonds als. Edwards of Brasted in the county of Kent,
labourer,

4 being of perfect memory do make and ordain this to be²⁹⁰ my last will
5 and testament concerning all my moveable goods, tenements and lands
6 in such manner and form as followeth or following. **First:** I bequeath
7 my soul unto Almighty god being fully persuaded by his great
8 mercy through the death of his son Christ Jesus, my saviour, to be
9 one of the number of his elect children of his heavenly kingdom;
10 my body I yield unto the earth at the discretion of **Elizabeth, my wife,**
11 whom I make and ordain to be my whole executrix. And unto whom
12 I give and bequeath all my goods and moveables to pay my debts
13 and to perform my funeral. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto Elizabeth,
14 my wife, all that my messuage or tenement wherein I now dwell
15 with the orchard and garden with th'appurtenances thereunto belonging
16 To have and to hold to her and her assigns during the term of her
17 natural life. And after the decease of my said wife, I give and
18 bequeath my said messuage or tenement, orchard and garden with
19 th'appurtenances, unto **Thomas, my son;** to have and to hold to him and
20 his heirs upon condition that he, or his heirs, shall pay to my
21 **daughter Joane** or her assigns, the sum of five pounds of good
22 and lawful money of England in one whole payment at
23 or in the South porch of the Church of Brasted aforesaid, within

290 "bee" throughout

24 the space of one year next after the decease of my said wife.
25 And if it happen that the said sum of five pounds be not
26 fully paid within the space of one year as aforesaid, then my
27 will and meaning is that at any time after the end of the
28 said year my said daughter Joane, or her assigns, shall enter into
29 and upon the premises and every part and parcel thereof, and
30 the same and the issues and profits thereof, to have, hold, enjoy
31 take, receive and generate to her and her assigns until she
32 be of the said sum of five pounds, and every part and parcel
33 thereof, fully satisfied and paid in one entire payment as
34 aforesaid. And from and after such time she be fully paid,
35 then my will and meaning is that my said son Thomas shall
36 have and hold the said messuage or tenement, orchard and
37 garden with th'appurtenances, to him and his heirs forever and not
38 besides nor otherwise. In witness whereof I have caused this
39 my will to be indented and written in two parts to both which
40 parts I have set my mark and seal the day and year
41 above written. And I do appoint one part thereof to remain
42 with my said wife and the other with such of my friends as my
43 said daughter shall appoint.

The mark of Thomas Edmonds

Sealed and Signed
in the presence of

Tho. Jones

Hugh Roberts²⁹¹

Will of Jone Edmonds of Brasted

written 13th June 1631

transcript from original

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The thirteenth day of June in the sixth year of
the reign of our
2 sovereign Lord Charles, by the grace of God, king of England, Scotland,
France and Ireland, defender
3 of the faith, etc. 1631. I, Jone Edmonds als Edwards²⁹² of the parish of
Brasted in the county of Kent, being ??

²⁹¹ name followed by a small decoration or "mark"; perhaps Hugh Roberts was the scriptor.

²⁹² "als Edwards" was inserted throughout the will after it had been written

4 in memory but weak in body, make this my last will and testament in
manner and form following:
5 **First** and principally yielding my soul to Almighty god, my maker, with
assured hope of salvation
6 though his mercy in the merit and mediation of his dear son Jesus Christ,
my saviour, and my body to
7 the earth to be buried in decent manner in the churchyard of Brasted
aforesaid. **Item:** I will and bequeath
8 unto **Elizabeth Edmonds als Edwards, the eldest daughter of Thomas**
Edmonds als Edwards, my brother, one stammell? petticoat
9 with a ?? coloured waistcoat and one green say apron. **Item:** I will and
bequeath unto **Ann**
10 **youngest daughter** of the aforesaid Thomas Edmonds als Edwards, one
medley petticoat with ?? waistcoat. All the
11 residue of my goods, ?? , ?? , money or whatsoever, I will and bequeath
unto **my sister Elizabeth Edmonds**
12 **als Edwards, widow** of my brother Thomas Edmonds, als Edwards whom I
make my full and sole executor to take in and to pay
13 all my legacies. In witness whereof I have to this my last will and
testament set my hand and seal
14 yeven the day and year first above.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of

the mark **W** of **William Blackman**

the mark of **Jone Edmonds**

William Green

William Masters

the mark ***** **Katherine Blackman**

Martin Blackman

This will was written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills from 1574 to 1618.

1 In the name of god Amen. the four
2 tenth day of May in the year of our Lord god one thousand, six hundred
3 and two and in the four and fortieth year of the Reign of our Sovereign
4 Lady Elizabeth by the Grace of God Queen of England, France
5 and Ireland, defender of the faith. I, William Eliard of **Bitburrough**,
6 in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, having been a long time sickly and thereby
7 put in mind of my last end, Notwithstanding of good mind and
remembrance,
8 thanks therefore be given to Almighty god, do make and ordain
9 this my present testament and last will in manner and form following:
10 And **first** and principally I give, Commend and bequeath my soul into
11 the hands of Almighty God trusting, by an assured faith in the merit
12 of my Saviour, Jesus Christ, that the same shalbe presented without spot
before
13 the throne of his Majesty. And my body to the earth from whence it came,
14 to be buried where it shall please God, in sure and certain hope of

15 joyful resurrection. **Item:** I give and bequeath to the poor of the same
16 parish where I shall happen to be buried²⁹³ three shillings and four
17 pence, to be distributed at the discretion of my executor hereafter
18 named. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **two of my godchildren, Nicholas**
19 **Swayland and George Eliard**, to either of them one sheep.
20 The residue of all my goods and Cattells²⁹⁴, debts, leases,
21 and chattels, I wholly and fully give and bequeath unto **John Eliard, my**
22 **son** which John, my son, I make and ordain my whole and sole executor
23 of this my will to see my debts paid and legacies performed. And
24 I ordain and appoint my very good friend and neighbour, **John Jeffrey**
25 of **Townebridge**²⁹⁵, **yeoman**, to be overseer of this my will to whom I give,
26 as a token of my good will, five Shillings lawful money over and above
27 all his charges to be laid out and spent about this my will.

28 This is the last will of me the said William Eliard, made and declared
29 the day and year first above written, Concerning the order and

293 implied he moved about between parishes

294 "Chattels" (which occurs on the next line) crossed out here and replaced with "Cattells"

295 as spelt here but "Tonbridge" in line 52

30 disposition of all my lands and tenements situated, lying and being within
the
31 parish of **Withiham?**²⁹⁶ in the County of Sussex or elsewhere. **Item:**
32 I will, give and bequeath unto the said John Eliard and to **Robert Eliard,**
33 **my sons,** equally between them, all and every my lands, ²⁹⁷,
34 messuages, pastures, meadows, feeding, woods and underwoods
whatsoever, withall
35 and singular the Appurtenances Commonly Called by the name of
36 **Holindens,** or by whatsoever other name or names it be Called Containing
37 in the whole, by estimation, thirty acres, whether more or less, together
38 situated, lying and being in Withiham aforesaid and now in the occupancy
39 of the said Robert Eliard, my son, or his assigns, To Have and
40 to hold the same, withall and singular thappurtenances, unto them, the said
41 said John Eliard and Robert Eliard, their heirs and assigns,
42 equally between them forever Notwithstanding I will that they, the
43 said John and Robert, my sons, their heirs, executors,
44 Administrators or Assigns, shall each of them pay, or cause to be paid,
45 out of the said part of the premises to them willed, the sum
46 of Ten pounds, a piece, of lawful money unto **Thomas Eliard, my**

296 there is a Witherhurst near Burwash in East Sussex

297 "tenements" crossed out

47 **son, their brother**, his executor or assigns, in the manner following:
48 That is to say, the said Robert, my son, his heirs, executor or assigns,
49 shall pay out of his part of the premises, to the said Thomas, his brother
50 his Executors or Assigns, Ten pounds of lawful money within one whole year
51 next after my decease, At or in the Mansion house wherein the said
52 John Jeffrey now dwelleth Called **Hemmingtows in Tonbridge**
53 in the county of Kent, which ten pounds shalbe in full payment and
satisfaction
54 of ten pounds I promised him to his Marriage. And that the said
55 John Eliard, my son, his heirs, Executors or Assigns, shall pay out of
56 his part of the premises to him willed, to the said Thomas, his
57 brother, his Executors or Assigns, ten pounds of like lawful English
58 money within two whole years next after my decease at, or in, the place
aforesaid
59 without fraud or cozen. And my full meaning farther is, and be it provided,
60 by this my will, that if default shalbe made in either of the said payments
61 of ten pounds Contrary to the true meaning of this my will, that
62 then, and at any time after, it shall be lawful unto the said
63 Thomas, my son, his heirs, Executors or Assigns, to enter in and upon all and
64 every my said Lands and Tenements, withall and singular thappurtenances,
65 and the same, and every of the same, to have, hold, occupy and enjoy until
66 the said sum and several sums of ten pounds, and every parcel thereof,
67 shalbe fully paid according to the Tenor of this my will, provided fur

68 thermore that, if my said Lands and Tenements shalbe debited ??
69 my said two sons, John and Robert or their²⁹⁸ heirs before
70 payment be made of the sum, or several sums, of Ten pounds beforesaid
71 That the said Thomas, my son, his heirs, Executors or Assigns,
72 shall not enter upon his part that shall pay him, or them, according to
73 the true meaning of this my will (anything herein before mentioned
74 to the Contrary hereof in any wise notwithstanding). In witness
75 whereof I, the said William Eliard, to this my present last
76 will and testament have set my hand and seal even²⁹⁹ the day
77 and year first above written. Read, sealed published and declared
78 in the presence of **John Jeffrey, Thomas Bowle** and of me,
79 **Nicholas³⁰⁰ Hooper, writer hereof, signame?** William Eliard
N. El³⁰¹

Sign. **Thomas Bowles³⁰²**

298 "Assigns" crossed out

299 is this "yeven" (given) as in most of the other Nicolas Hooper wills? But why no "y"?

300 "Nicholas" with an "h" which is most unusual but the writing looks similar to other wills and the initials "N.H" are included at the end of the will

301 could be W. El

302 name written by writer of will, i.e. Nicholas Hooper

Euerard wills of Seale

Four wills have survived for Euerards from Seale:

| | | |
|---|------------|--------------------|
| Thomas Euerard | dated 1458 | CKS: Drb/Pwr 2.114 |
| John Euerard | dated 1463 | CKS: Drb/Pwr 2.259 |
| Neither of these have been investigated | | |

| | | |
|---|------------|--------------------|
| John Euerard | dated 1492 | CKS: Drb/Pwr 5.193 |
| written in Latin; difficult to read | | |
| witnesses include: John Yvott of Ightham | | |

Will of Raynold Euerard (Everherd)

written 10th November 1509

transcript from original; CKS: Drb/Pw 1

- 1 In the name Amen. The 10th day of November in the year of our lord 1509, I, Raynold Everherd of **Chart in the parish of Seale**
- 2 being, thanks be given, of good and perfect remembrance, make my testament and last will in manner and form following: **First**

3 I bequeath my soul to Almighty god and the blessed Lady Saint Mary, Saint
Peter and all holy ?? of heaven, my body
4 to be buried in the churchyard of **Saint Peter in Seal** aforesaid. **Item:** I
bequeath to the (high altar?) for tythes negligently for
5 gotten 4d. **Item:** I bequeath to **Richard Butley?**, **my servant**, a calf. **Item:** I
bequeath to ?, **my wife**, the tenement and chart
6 ??? in the garden ?? And also ???
7 **John Everherd, my son**, and ?, my wife to pay all my debts and if my debts
cannot be paid of my ??
8 then I will that my tenement and chart aforesaid with my garden ?? to be
sold to pay my debts withall ??
9 ?? if it be not sold but remain to the (heirs?) of John Everherd, my son, and ?,
my wife, (whom I ordain?)
10 to be my executors

names of witnesses: not readable.

The Everest Wills of the Tonbridge/Sevenoaks Area

Including Elizabeth Thompson, alias Everest, 14 of the surviving wills for the Sevenoaks/Tonbridge area have been investigated:

| | | will | proved | | |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Thomas Everest | Tonbridge | 22 Sep 1598 | | CKS: 18 ³⁰⁵ ; 19I.52 | page e.35 |
| John Everest | Tonbridge | 6 Mar 1604/5 | 1608 | CKS: 21 | page e.43 |
| William Everest | Hever | 6 Nov 1611 | 16 May 1617 | PCC: Weldon 50; | |
| | | | Prob 11/129; | Prob 10/341 | page e.45 |
| Bennet Everest | Chiddingstone | 20 Apr 1613 | 11 Oct 1614 | CKS: Prs/w/5/129 | page e.52 |
| Edward Everest | Chiddingstone | 5 May 1615 | 7 Jun 1615 | CKS: Prs/w/5/130 | page e.55 |
| Mathew Everest | Sevenoaks | ³⁰⁶ | 8 Apr 1616 | CKS: Prs/w/5/132 | |
| John Everest | Brasted | 25 Jun 1617 | 13 Jun 1618 | CKS: Prs/w/5/135 | page e.61 |
| John Everest | Leigh | 24 Jun 1618 | 1626 | CKS: 26; 21.194 | page e.63 |
| John Everest | Tonbridge | 10 Jun 1622 | Oct 1622 | PCC: Savile 113; | |
| | | | | Prob 10/394 | page e.67 |
| Peter Everest | Chiddingstone | 18 May 1627 | 21 Feb 1627/8 | CKS: Prs/w/5/140 | page e.70 |

³⁰⁵ Drb/Pw reference followed by Drb/Pwr

³⁰⁶ Mathew was buried 11th January 1615/6 but his will does not appear to be dated

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| Elizabeth Thompson ³⁰⁷ | Chiddingstone | 2 Mar 1634 | 29 Apr 1634 | CKS: Prs/w/16/160 | page e.75 |
| Susan Everest | Chiddingstone | 10 Dec 1640 | | PCC: Evelyn 6; Prob11/185 | page e.78 |
| William Everest | Leigh | 24 Mar 1641 | | CKS: 31; 22.418 | page e.84 |
| Peter Everest | Sevenoaks | 2 Oct 1644 | 4 Feb 1647/8 ³⁰⁸ | PCC: Essex 32; Prob 11/203 | |

The wills of Thomas Everest, butcher, William Everest of Hever and John Everest of Leigh were written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1574 and 1618. Peter Ellfick, one of the witnesses to this will of John Everest of Leigh also witnessed the 1614 will of John Miller, the elder, of Wrotham, also written by Nicholas Hooper. Perhaps Ellfick was Nicholas Hooper's clerk.

Although Nicholas Hooper was the curate (or minister) of Shipbourne, on 3rd September 1610 he baptised Ann, daughter of Thomas Everest in Tonbridge church.

³⁰⁷ als. Everest

³⁰⁸ Peter Everest of Weald was buried on 17th January 1647/8

The wills of Peter Everest of Chiddingstone and William Everest of Leigh were written by Thomas Leddall who also wrote many wills in the same area.

Three other Everest wills, none of which was written by a Hooper, have not been investigated:

| | |
|--|---|
| Simon Everest of Chiddingstone: a nuncupative will proved mid-1604; | PCC: Harte 60 |
| Thomas Everest of Chiddingstone; written 28 Jan 1617/8; proved 1618; | PCC: Meade 45; Prob 11/131 |
| witnesses: William Birsty; Fortunatus Woodgate | |
| John Everest of Leigh proved 1646/7 | CKS: Drb/Pw 32 ³⁰⁹ ; Drb/Pwr 23.63 |

The will of Elizabeth Everest of Penshurst, widow (PCC: Fines 183) was written 13th August 1642 but not proved, by her sons Edward and Thomas, until 1647. It was written by George Hooper, Nicholas's grandson - see [More Families & Transcripts](#) for details.

Thomas Everest, butcher, of Tonbridge

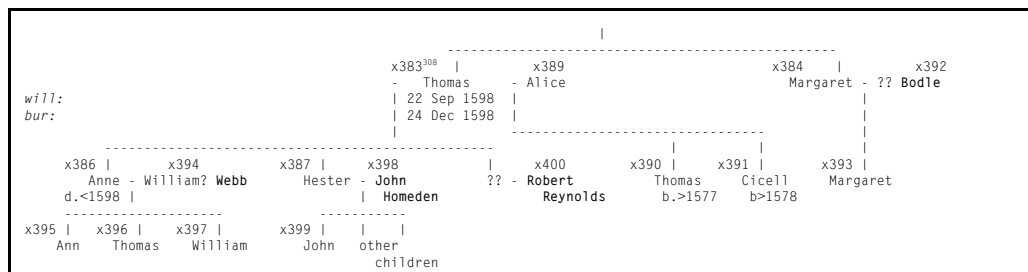
Thomas, who was buried in Tonbridge on 24th December 1598, lived in a mansion house in Tonbridge in which, after his death his wife Alice and son Thomas were

orchards and appurtenances thereto belonging, with the two parcels of land lately by me purchased". In addition he owned a shop in the shambles of Sevenoaks which he also left to his son Thomas who was not twenty-one when his father wrote his will. Even so, he was appointed joint executor with Alice, the testator's wife.

Thomas's daughter Anne had married William Webb and had three children before 1598 but she died before her father. Thomas had a son-in-law Robert Reynolds who owed him forty pounds, £10 of which was to be "freely forgiven" him. £20 was to be paid to Robert's children "at such time, and in such order, as he hath bound himself to do in a bond of £40 bearing the date of this my will.

The arrangements for the other £10 were more complicated: Robert Reynolds was to keep this sum "in his hands until it shall please god my daughter Hester, now wife of John Homeden, shall be a widow. And then, or within one month after, I will that mine executors, . . shall receive . . the same and then pay (it to) Hester, my daughter. And if she happen not to be a widow before her son John . . come to the age of 26 years, then I will that the said £10 shall be received within one month next after the said age of the said John" from Robert Reynolds by his executors and equally divided between Hester's son John and any other living children which she had.

Thomas had another daughter, Cicell (Cicely) who was underage and a son Thomas, also underage. It thus seems likely that Thomas married twice with Anne, Hester and Robert Reynolds wife being daughters of the first marriage and Cicely and Thomas children of his wife Alice.



There was a Thomas Everest, the elder, butcher, in Tonbridge in 1633: he was the "very good friend" of George Putland who appointed him one of the overseers to his will. Thomas, the son of Thomas and Alice (x390), would have been in his fifties in 1633 and so could have been Thomas, the elder, by that time.

Other Everests in Tonbridge

It is not known how the John Everest whose will was written in 1605 was related to the above Everests.

In the 1630s there were two brothers, Robert and Thomas Everest in Tonbridge; Robert had a number of children.

| | | | | | |
|------|-------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| bur: | x622 | Robert | | | x631 Thomas |
| | | | | | 22 Sep 1635 |
| | | | | | |
| | x624 | x625 | x626 | x627 | x628 |
| | Ann | Elizabeth | Francis (son) | Thomas* | Thomas |
| bap: | 15 Nov 1629 | 6 Feb 1630/1 | 25 Nov 1632 | 22 Sep 1635 | 17 Nov 1638 |

C "Thomas, son of Robert Everest" was baptised the same day as "Thomas Everest, brother of the said Robert" was buried

William, son of Thomas Everest, junior, was baptised on 12th July 1635; was this the son or grandson of Robert's brother - or no close relation at all?

There was also "Edward, son of Walter Everest" baptised on 3rd February 1631/2.

Thomas Everest, father of Susan, the testator of 1640, could have been either the son of Thomas the butcher or Robert's brother. If, however, the butcher's son was Elizabeth Thompson's husband (see page e.34), he was not Susan's father. See page e.33 for Susan's family.

William of Hever and Edward of Chiddingstone

The will of William of Hever was written on 6th November 1611 but, since it was not proved until May 1617, William's brother Edward, whose will was written on 5th May 1615 and proved a month later, may have died before him. William left Edward's children thirteen shillings and fourpence to be equally divided between them. Edward appointed his kinsman "William Everest of Penshurst" to be one of his supervisors and, since he also describes his brother Walter as his kinsman, this gives added weight to the premise that Edward died before William.

they cannot agree of themselves) by my trusty friends Anthony Combridge and Robert Stretfield."

Perhaps Alice died before he did and, at that stage, he took out this section. There is nothing, however, on the original to show that the will was changed after it was originally signed.

Edward Everest

In 1615, Edward Everest, a wealthy yeoman, left £120 to his eldest son, Edward, £40 to his youngest son, Thomas, and £50 to each of his two daughters. Until Edward was eighteen, his mother (Elizabeth) was to "provide for him and to see him brought up in all godly and honest sort befitting his degree". Then, for the three years until Edward was twenty-one, Elizabeth, who was the executrix of her husband's will, was to keep the £120 paying Edward £6 13s 4d a year - an interest rate of 5.56%.

In the case of their son Thomas, she was to pay him £3 a year for the six years from the time he was fifteen until he was twenty-one. Although this was an

interest rate of 7.5%. The daughters were to receive their legacies when they were twenty-one or when they married, whichever happened first.

Within six weeks after Edward's decease and before she was admitted as executrix, Elizabeth was to enter into bonds to Edward's overseers "in the sum of four hundred pounds with condition thereupon endorsed for the true payment of my children's portions at their several ages". These portions, including the yearly interest payments of the sons' portions, totalled £298.

The youngest son, Thomas, received a much smaller legacy than his elder brother but he was to inherit his father's house and land on the death of his mother. Perhaps the elder son had already shown interest in a different career and the extra money might enable him to establish himself.

Bennet Everest, widow, of Chiddingstone

Bennet Everest, whose will was written on 20th April 1613, was the widow of Robert Everest and she wanted to be buried in Chiddingstone churchyard "by or near the grave and place where (he) was buried in comely and decent manner". She did not appear to have any children, all her legacies being to nieces and nephews on her side of the family with her brother, Henry Moody, appointed executor. It is not known how she and her husband were related to the other Everests.

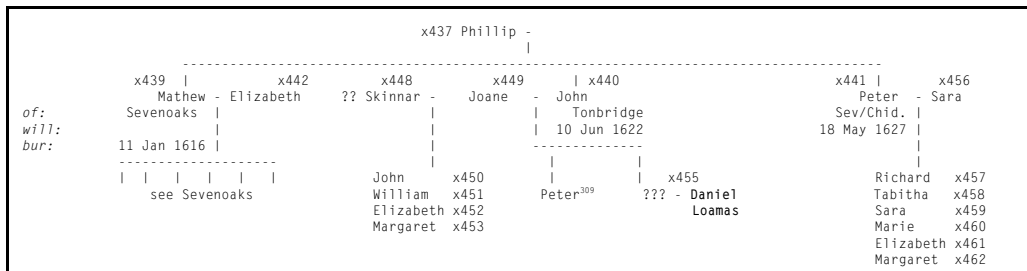
John Everest of Brasted

The nuncupative will of John Everest of Brasted is very short; all that is known of him is that he had a wife Alice and a son-in-law, Thomas Quinnell. The will might have been written by Nicholas Hooper but, since these words would have been said to the scriptor by the witnesses to the spoken will, his name does not appear as a witness.

Mathew of Sevenoaks, John of Tonbridge and Peter of Chiddingstone

Peter of Chiddingstone (will 1627) was left land in Chiddingstone by his father, Phillip. Mathew (will 1616) had two brothers, John of Tonbridge and Peter of Sevenoaks. Mathew's brother Peter could have been living in Sevenoaks in 1616 moving to Chiddingstone when he inherited his father's land. Thus all three would have been the sons of Phillip. The Peter who wrote his will in 1644, like Mathew a husbandman of Sevenoaks and with his elder children born in the 1610s, could have been Mathew's son, being too young to have been his brother.

Mathew, a husbandman, was a churchwarden of Sevenoaks in 1604. His will is short - see [Section 2 of Sevenoaks up to 1650](#) for details of his will and family.



was to have the profits and benefits from all his "messuages and buildings" keeping them "well repaired and not felling or spoiling my woods and bringing up my children" until she died unless she remarried. In that case his children were to have the use and profit of them paying Sara forty shillings a year out of each of the three messuages and tenements for the rest of her life.

*The **Everests** of Leigh*

John Everest

The will of John Everest, the elder, yeoman, of Leigh was written on 24th June 1618 but probate was not granted until 1626. No burial was recorded in the parish register for John. At some time between writing the will and dying, he added a legacy of twelve pence to each of his three children not originally mentioned in the will. Was this added as a means of ensuring that these children could not contest the will on the grounds that they had just been forgotten? John is described as "the elder" but does not seem to have had a son John who could have been "the younger". He did, however, have a grandson called John but it unlikely that he was more than about five when John the elder wrote his will in 1618.

William Everest

William Everest of Leigh, the testator of the will written in 1641, could have been John's son. The request that his wife, Joane, "shall have her dwelling and being in my dwelling house during the space of one whole year next after my decease with the use of such household stuff as she shall think fitting" and the bequest to her of £12 to be paid within one year of his death provided that she gives his executor "a sufficient release of all and every the right tithe, claim or demand which she shall challenge or claim out of all my said messuage, tenement and lands" seems strange.

But here the parish registers clarify the position. William had children by his first wife who were already adult, his daughter Jane having married in 1640. But William married Joan Hampton on 4th March 1641 and on 18th April 1641 "William Everest, lately married" was buried having written his will on 24th March.

```

x379 John, the elder - Johane x419
will: 24 Jun 1618 |
proved: 1626 |
-----
x420 | x421 | x433 x422 | x423 |
Edward - ?? - William - Joane Hampton Thomas Elizabeth
mar: / 4 Mar 1641
will: | 24 Mar 1641
bur: 1 Sep 1638 | 16 Apr 1641
-----
x426 | x434 x429 | x435 x430 | x431 | x432 |
John - Margaret Jane - John Budgen Amy Christian Robert
mar:
bur: 11 Feb 1647 22 Oct 1646110 2 Jul 1640 (dau.)

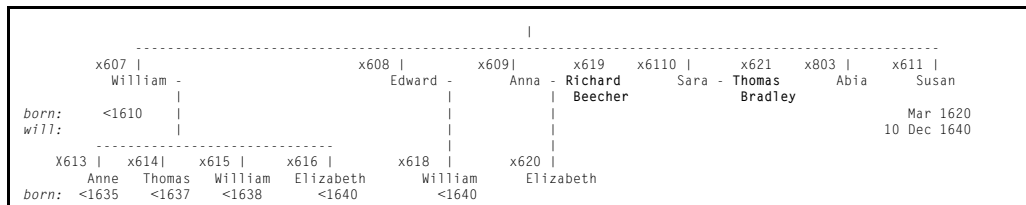
```

An Edward Everest and his wife Anne had two daughters, Ellenor and Elizabeth baptised on 10th January 1641 and in October 1644; Anne, wife of Edward Everest was buried on 21st February 1649. Unless Anne was a second wife, these are unlikely to be the children of John the elder's son since William, taken to be John's son, had adult children by 1640

310 no evidence to link Margaret "wife of John" and the burial of John with William's son

Susan Everest, spinster, of Chiddingstone

Susan Everest who wrote her will in 1640, mentions brothers William and Edward, married sisters Anna and Sara and an unmarried sister Abia whom she makes her executor. She also mentions a brother-in-law, Manasses Jessop - see [Elizabeth Everest in More Families & Transcripts](#). It is not known how this family fits in with the other Chiddingstone Everests but see the comment on page e.23 regarding Susan's father.



Susan's father, Thomas Everest (x605) married the daughter of **Anthony Combridge** (p661³¹³) whose will written 1st May 1623 has survived - see [Combridge in More Families & Transcripts](#)

313 "p" indicates a reference in the Penshurst database

Elizabeth Thompson, als. Everest of Chiddingstone

It is not known to which Everest Elizabeth Thompson, alias Everest, had been married; was Thompson her maiden name or, after the death of her first husband (an Everest, since her sons were John and Edward Everest) had she married a Thompson? Elizabeth, in her will, is described as of Hales in Chiddingstone and this leads to a slight clue as to whom might have been her husband. In 1598, Thomas Everest the butcher held the lease of Hall Hale from George Rivers and he left this to his son Thomas who, at that time, was underage but old enough to be appointed joint executor. If he married Elizabeth at the beginning of the seventeenth century, his son John could have been old enough to have the children mentioned by Elizabeth in 1634.

Elizabeth's sons were John of Cowden, a parish adjacent to Chiddingstone, and Edward of Hales in Chiddingstone. Edward Everest of Hale witnessed the will of Richard Beecher of Chiddingstone written in April 1640. This was probably Elizabeth's son Edward whom she made her executor.

Elizabeth had a daughter Jane Allen with a daughter Elizabeth. Jane's husband may have been the Samson Allen who witnessed her will. Elizabeth also left small legacies to two nieces and a nephew with the surname Brett.

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

1 **In the name of god Amen**³¹¹. the Two and twentieth
2 day of September in the fortieth year of the Reign of our Sovereign
3 Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of god Queen of England, France
4 and Ireland, defender of the faith. And in the year of our Lord
5 god, One thousand, five hundredth, four score and eighteen.
6 I, Thomas Everest, of Tonbridge in the county of Kent,
7 **Butcher**, being at the time of making hereof very, extremely pained
8 with many griefs and Inconveniencies by the which (as also by daily
9 examples) I am put in mind of my last end and of the sudden
10 change of this mortal life. Therefore I do ordain and make this my
11 present Testament and last will in manner and form following, that is
12 to say: **First** and principally I give, commend and bequeath

311 decorated "I" and also additional decorations over this phrase

13 my soul into the hands of Almighty god, my maker and to Jesus Christ,
14 his dear son, my only Lord and Saviour, by whose merit, precious³¹²
15 death and bloodshedding I trust only to be saved and my body to the earth
16 in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life. **Item:** I give
17 and bequeath to Six score of the poorest inhabitants or others within the
18 Town and parish of Tonbridge³¹³ aforesaid, to every one of them
19 four pence a piece. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Cicell Everest,**
20 **my daughter,** Three score pounds of lawful money to be paid to her
21 at her age of Twenty years or at the day of her marriage³¹⁴ which shall
22 first happen. And if it happen the said Cissell to decease before the time
23 aforesaid, I will the said Three score pounds shalbe paid equally amongst
24 all her brothers and sisters then living, to be paid at the time that she
should
25 have attained her said age. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Anne,**

312 spelt "pretious"; "shedding" on the next line, has only one "d", neither of which spellings are characteristic of Nicholas Hooper

313 with a population of 1300-1400 at the end of the sixteenth century, 120 poor people would be about 8% of the total population; four pence to each of them would have totalled £2.

314 spelt "marriadge" here and in lines 74 and 99 but not in line 82

26 **Thomas and William Webb**³¹⁵, children of Anne, my daughter, deceased,
20s a piece
27 to be paid to them and every of them at their said ages of twenty
28 years. And if any of them decease before the said time, the overliver
29 to have the portion of him or them so deceased, equally between them.
30 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Margaret Bodle, my sister's daughter,**
31 forty shillings lawful money. **Item:** I give unto **Joyce Brimger,**
32 now my servant, Ten shillings lawful money. And to **George**
33 **Tapfield,** now my servant, five shillings lawful money and to

And to my old servant **Agnes, now wife of Thomas Law,** twenty shillings
34 **Agnes Oakot,** now also my servant, 3s 4d ³¹⁶ **Item:** whereas
35 **Robert Reynolds, my son-in-law,** oweth me forty pounds, my
36 will is that the said Robert, his executors or Administrators, shall keep
37 ten pounds of the sum involved in his hands until it shall please
38 god **my daughter Hester, now wife of John Homeden,** shalbe a widow.
39 And then, or within one month after, I will that mine executors, or one

315 the will of William Webb, usher of the free school of Tonbridge has survived; it was written 18th February 1596/7 (also by Nicolas Hooper) and proved in 1597, that is before Thomas Everest wrote his will. William Webb had children Anne, Thomas and William and, at the time of his death, his wife was Margaret. Thus this William could have been Thomas Everest's son-in-law, in which case by the time of their grandfather's death, both the mother and father of Anne, Thomas and William had died. See *webton.will* for details of William Webb's will.

316 above line inserted here

40 of them, hereafter named, their or one of their executors or Assigns, shall
41 Receive and take up the same and then pay the same to her, the said
42 Hester, my daughter. And if she happen not to be a widow before **her son**
43 **John** which she now hath come or should come to the age of 26 years, then
44 I
45 will that the said £10 shalbe received within one month next after the said
46 age of the said John of the said Robert, my son-in-law, his executors or
47 Administrators or assigns, by my said
48 Executors or one of them, their of either of their executors or Administrators
49 or
50 Assigns, and by him, them or some of them, paid over unto the said John,
51 the
52 son of the said Hester and to the brothers and sisters of the said John
53 equally between them or to so many of them equally between them as
54 shalbe
55 then living. And ten pounds parcel also of the said £40, I freely
56 forgive the said Robert. And the other £20 residue, also of the said £40,
57 I will he shall pay unto his children at such time, and in such order, as
58 he hath bound himself to do in a bond of £40 bearing the date of this my
59 will. **The Residue** of all my goods and cattells, debts
60 Leases and Chattels, I wholly, fully and with good effect, Intent and
61 purpose, give and bequeath to **Alice, my well beloved wife**, and to
62 **Thomas Everest, my natural son**, which Alice and Thomas I

make my joint executors of this my last will and testament, to see this my will proved and my legacies paid and performed (Saving my will is that my son Thomas shall have solely to himself my lease which I hold of the **Right Worshipful George Rivers, Esquire**, called the **Hall Hale**). And I desire my good neighbours and well beloved friends and kinfolk, **John Jeffrey, Thomas Dyre, Robert Reynolds** and **Walter Myles** to be supervisors and overseers of this my will whom I earnestly desire to be helpers, aiders and abettors and counsellors with my said executors, as well in the probation of this my will as also in the seeing the same performed according to the true meaning and Right Interpretation thereof to whom I give, over and besides their chardges³¹⁷ and expenses therein to be laid out, to every of them ten shillings in token of my goodwill. Notwith" "standing³¹⁸ my will and mind is that if my said wife happen to marry again before my son Thomas come to the age of 21 years, then I will that she, with a sufficient surety with her, shall enter bond of £600

317 "d" in original

318 a sign similar to " used where, in modern text, a hyphen would be used

74 before her such marriage³¹⁹, to mine overseers, or some or one of them, well
and
75 truly to pay, or cause to be paid to my said son Thomas, at his said
76 age of 21 years, the one half of all such money in mine inventory
77 to be taken after my decease of my moveable goods and
78 Leases (except before excepted) shall amount unto by Indifferent
valuation³²⁰.
79 And if my said wife shall refuse so to do, then I will my said overseers,
80 or three, two or one of them, shall have full power and authority to take the
81 said one half of goods or value into his or their hands, presently before her
82 such marriage to the use of my said Son, to be paid him at his said
83 age of 21 years. And if my said son Thomas be deceased before then
85 the said one half or value to be paid to all my children then living
86 equally between them at such time as my said son Thomas should have
87 attained his said age of 21 years.

This is the last

88 will of me, the said Thomas Everest, the father, made and declared
89 the day and year first above written concerning the order and disposition of
all

319 "marriage"

320 this implies that Thomas valued his moveable goods, etc. at £1200

90 my land and Tenements and hereditaments whatsoever. **Item:** I will, and
91 my mind is, that my said wife and my said son Thomas shall cohabit
92 and inhabit together within my mansion house wherein I now dwell in
93 Tonbridge and use all the houses, barns, gardens, orchards and
appurtenances
94 thereto belonging, with the two parcels of land lately by me purchased of
Thomas
95 **Pratt**, jointly together during all the term of the natural life of the said
96 Alice, my wife, if she keep herself so long a widow, keeping the reparations
97 and paying the Lord rent and all other charges³²¹ about the same and out
98 the same equally between them during the time aforesaid. And after the
99 decease or next marriage of the said Alice, my wife, I will and bequeath all
and
100 every my said land, messuages, houses and premises, with the said two
parcels
101 purchased of the said Thomas Pratt, withall and singular
102 thappurtenances unto the said Thomas Everest, my son, To have and to
hold
103 the same withall and singular thappurtenances unto the said Thomas
Everest, my

321 "chardges"; "marriage" on line 99 and "messuadge" on line 100

104 and his heirs and assigns forever. Also I give to the said
105 Thomas, my son and his heirs forever, my shop in the **Shambles of**
106 **Sevenoaks**. In witness whereof I, the said Thomas Everest, the
107 father, to this my present last will and testament have set my hand and
108 Seal yeven³²² the day and year first above written in the presence of me
109 **Nicolas Hooper** and
John Jeffery sign. ³²³ **Thos.**
Walter Miles
John Dakes Everest
John ???³²⁴

322 given

323 mark

324 all these could be signatures

1 In the name of god Amen. The sixth day of March and in the second
2 year of the reign of our most gracious sovereign Lord James by
3 the grace of god King of England, Scotland, France of Ireland,
4 defender of the faith, etc. and of Scotland the eight and thirtieth
5 I, John Everest of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **husbandman**,
6 being sick in body and full of infirmities and thereby put in mind
7 of my last end, yet of perfect remembrance, thanks I give to the
8 Almighty God, do make and ordain this my last will and testament
9 in manner and form following: viz: **First:** I bequeath my soul unto
10 the Almighty God hoping to be saved by the only merits and passion of
11 Jesus Christ, my only saviour and redeemer, and my body to be buried in
12 christian burial where it shall please Almighty God. **Item:** I give
13 to Elizabeth ?? , my sister, one pair of sheets. **Item:** I give
14 to ?? ?? , my sister, 20s to be paid quarterly within one
15 half year after my decease. **Item:** I give to **Edward Sone**,
16 **the son of Edward Sone**, and unto **George Sone, his brother**,
17 one ship chest and one little chest and all the linen therein. And
18 the rest of my moveable goods and chattels I give to **Robert Polhill**

19 whom I make my sole executor. Also I ordain **Henry Webb** and **John**
20 **Everest of Tonbridge** to be my overseers anything herein contained
21 to the contrary notwithstanding. In witness whereof this is my present
22 testament and last will I, the said John Everest, have hereunto
23 set my hand and seal yeven the day and year first above written
24 in the presence of John Everest and **Mathew Everest**, scriptor³²⁵

325 the bottom of the will is damaged and there is no probate copy but this word looks very like "scriptor"; Mathew could have been x439, Mathew of Sevenoaks

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

- 1 In³²⁶ the name of god Amen. The sixth day of November in the year
of our lord god
2 One thousand, six hundredth and eleven, And in the ninth year of the
Reign of our Sovereign
3 Lord James, by the grace of God, king of England, France and Ireland,
defender of the
4 faith, etc. And of Scotland the five and fortieth. **I, William Everest**, of
Hever
5 in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being³²⁷ sick in body but of perfect mind
and remembrance, thanks therefore

326 decorated "I"

327 "beeing", "bee", etc. throughout including "shalbee" and "beefore"

6 be to Almighty God, do ordain and make this my present last will and
7 testament in manner
8 and form following³²⁸: And **First**: and principally I give, commend and
9 bequeath my Soul into the
10 hands of Almighty God who gave it, trusting by the merits and passion of
11 his dear and only son,
12 my Saviour and redeemer Jesus Christ, that the same shalbe presented
13 pure and without spot
14 before the Throne of his majesty. And my body to the earth to be buried in
15 the churchyard of
Chiddingstone in the county aforesaid in sure and certain hope of a joyful
resurrection. **Item**:
I will there shalbe bestowed among the poor resorting to my burial at
Chiddingstone aforesaid
twenty shillings and among the poor of the parish of Hever aforesaid within
six days the next
after, another twenty shillings at the discretion of mine executor hereafter
named. **Item**: I
give and bequeath to **my loving brother Walter Everest** 20s of lawful
money. **Item**: I give

328 "folowing"

- 16 to the **children of Edward Everest, my brother**, thirteen shillings and
fourpence to be equally divided between them.
- 17 **Item:** I give to **the children of Robert Stretfield, my son-in-law**, thirteen
shillings and four
- 18 pence

from probate copy

- to be distributed equally amongst them. **Item:**
- I give and bequeath to **the children of Thomas Everest, my son**, the like
sum of thirteen
- shillings and four pence to be distributed equally between them. **Item:** I
give and
- bequeath unto the **children of Richard Alcock, my son-in-law**, twenty
shillings
- to be distributed equally between them. **Item:** I give and bequeath to every
of my
- **godchildren** 12d a piece. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Thomas Lavender,**
my servant,
- five shillings. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **William Everest, my son**, the
sum of ten

- pounds of lawful money to be paid to him within one year next after my decease.
- The residue of all my goods, cattells, debts, credits and chattels, bonds, bills and
- all other my moveable goods whatsoever, I wholly, fully and with good effect, intent
- and purpose I give and bequeath to my loving son Thomas Everest which Thomas,
- my son, I make and ordain my whole and sole executor of this my will to pay
- my debts and legacies, to prove this my will and to see my body honestly and decently buried.

- This is the last will of me the said William Everest made and declared the day and
- year first above written concerning the order and disposition of all my little
- tenement wherein one **Richard Tye** now dwelleth, situated in Chiddingstone aforesaid.
- **Item:** I give and bequeath to the said Thomas Everest, my son, all my said tenement
- with the barn, garden and orchard and six acres of land whether more or less together

- situated, lying and being in Chiddingstone aforesaid which I late purchased of

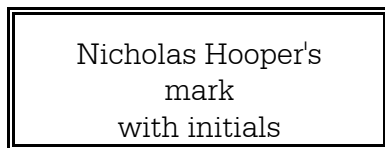
from original

- **James Everest, my brother.** To have and to hold the same withall and singular th'appurtenances to the said **Thomas**
- **Everest, my son,** his heirs and assigns for ever.³²⁹
- And I make **my loving friends Anthony Combridge** and
- **Robert Stretfield**³³⁰, I make my overseers of this my will, heartily requiring them to take some
- pains to see this my will performed according to the true meaning thereof. To whom I give as a token of
- my good will 6s 8d a piece. **In witness** whereof I, the said William Everest, to this my present

³²⁹ a large section here was crossed out; since the will was not proved until 1617, William could have modified it some time after it was originally written, perhaps when his wife died. This section is given below after the end of the will,

³³⁰ was this his son-in-law or another Robert Stretfield

- last will and testament have set my hand and seal yeven the day and year first above written.



Read, sealed and acknowledged
the last will of the said William
Everest in the presence of
Robert Stretfield³³¹
Anthony Combridge and ³³²
Nicholas Hooper, sen. writer
the mark of Anthony Combridge

³³¹ looks like a signature

³³² "William" written at an angle here, probably by William Everest himself

Section Crossed Out:

- **Item:** whereas I have heretofore given my tenement
- called **Lorkynes** and ?? lands and hereditaments by feofance to **Anthony Combridge and my brother Edward Everest** to certain uses as by a willing indenture thereof at large appeareth, By virtue whereof **Alice, my wellbeloved wife**, is to hold all the said my tenement and lands during her natural life, And whereas I have
- not given any thing to her, the said Alice, by this my will. And whereas I have given all my goods unbequeathed
- by this my will to my said son Thomas and made him my sole executor, **Now** I do desire my said wife
- and the said Thomas, my son, that they agree well together and that my said wife shall help my said son
- in occupying of the said land and tenement during her natural life. And that the said Thomas, my son,
- shall not suffer my wife to lack any of my moveables whatsoever to him willed and given as aforesaid which may do
- her good and which she shall reasonably request. And for the apportioning those from either to other, I desire

- again that they shalbe ruled and guided therein (if they cannot agree of themselves) by my trusty friends
- Anthony Combridge and Robert Stretfield, my loving ??

Will of **Bennet Everest** of Chiddingstone

written 20th April 1613; proved 11th October 1614

transcript from original

1 In the name of god Amen. The 20th day of April 1613. And in the years of
the reign
2 of our sovereign lord James, by the grace of God, king of England, France
and Ireland
3 the eleventh and of Scotland the six and forty, defender of the faith, etc.
4 I, Bennet Everest of the parish of Chiddingstone in the county of Kent,
widow,
5 being in good and perfect memory (the lord be therefore praised) bringing
to mind
6 that nothing is more ordained than death and ?? ?? than the hour
7 thereof, do therefore make and declare this my last will in form following³³³.

333 "folowing" which is the form used by Nicholas Hooper but the writing is not his

8 **First:** I commend my soul unto god, the father, who created me and to
Jesus Christ who
9 has redeemed me and to the holy spirit who has ?? me, being one
10 only true god in whom and through whom, and by no other means, I have
and
11 hope to have free remission and forgiveness of all my sins and everlasting
12 life. My body I commend unto the earth from whence it came to be
13 buried in the parish churchyard of Chiddingstone aforesaid by or near
14 the grave and place where **Robert Everest, my late husband**, was buried in
15 comely and decent manner at the discreton of my executor hereafter
named.
16 And for the disposing of such goods ?? ??
17 in this life, I will and bequeath them in form following: **First:** I
18 give unto **Sibbell Lyged, one of the daughters of my brother Henry Moody**,
19 three pounds. Also I give unto **Margaret Brett, my said brother, his grand**
20 **child**, forty shillings. Also I give unto **Marie Wells, one of the daughters**
21 **of my late sister Margaret Piggott**, five pounds and one joined chest
22 and my lesser table with three joined stools and my russet gown and my
23 best red petticoat and my brass pot. Also I give unto **Elizabeth**
24 **Crippage, one other of my said sister's daughters**, my best gown saving one
25 and one flock bed and one great iron bottle and one brass chafer.
26 Also I give unto **Robert Barr, her son**, the four pounds which she
27 oweth me. Also I give unto **John Barr, William Barr, Elizabeth**

Barr and Alice Barr, children ?? of the said Elizabeth, ten shillings
a piece. Also I give unto **Clemence Piggott, one other of my said sister's**
daughters, three pounds and my old brass bottle and my great broad
brass chafer. Also I give unto **Elizabeth Everest** one of my
sister Clark's daughters five pounds and one joined chest and my
best new gown and my large table with four joined stools and one
iron mawndie. Also I give unto the said Marie Wells, Elizabeth
Crippage and the said Elizabeth Everest, equally to be divided
amongst them, three feather bolsters and all my pewter. And for
the better performance of this my last will according to my true meaning
herein expressed, I nominate and appoint my trusty and wellbeloved
brother, Henry Moody of Boughbee in the parish aforesaid, my sole and
only executor. And I do pronounce, declare and appoint this and none
other for my last will and for confirmation thereof I have put to my
hand and seal in the presence of those whose names are under
written the day and year above written.

?? subscribed, pronounced and

Brett³³⁴

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The fifth day of May in the thirteenth year of the
2 reign
3 of our sovereign lord James, by the grace of God of England, France and
4 Ireland, king, defender of the faith, etc. and of Scotland the 48th, Anno
dm 1615. I, Edward Everest, of the parish of Chiddingstone in the county
of Kent,
5 **yeoman**, being sick and weak in body but of sound and perfect
remembrance,
6 thanks be unto Almighty God, do make and declare this my last will and
7 testament in manner and form following: **First:** I give, bequeath and
commend
8 my soul into the hands of Almighty, my maker, and to Jesus Christ, his
9 son, my only saviour and redeemer, by whose precious death and
bloodshedding³³⁵
10 I only trust to be saved being laid hold upon me with a lively faith and

335 "blodshedding"

11 my body to the earth from whence it came. And as concerning the
12 disposing
13 of such worldly goods as God hath lent me and made me steward of here in
14 this world **First:** I give and bequeath unto the poor people that resort unto
15 my
16 burial to be distributed at my burial the sum of twenty shillings at
17 the discretion of my executrix hereafter named and the churchwardens of
18 Chiddingstone for the time being. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Edward**
19 **Everest, my eldest son,** the sum of one hundred and twenty pounds of good
20 and
21 lawful money of England to be due and payable unto him, the said
22 Edward, my son,
23 at his age of eighteen years notwithstanding my will and meaning is the
24 money
25 before given shall remain in my executrix her hands until my said son
26 shall accomplish his full age of 21 years, my executrix paying therefore
27 unto my said son
28 Edward from his age of 18 years until his age of 21 years the sum of £6 13s
29 4d
30 every year during the said three years and until he shall accomplish his age
31 of 18
32 years my executrix to provide for him and to see him brought up in all godly
33 and honest

25 sort befitting his degree. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my two**
26 **daughters, Elizabeth**
27 **Everest and Sara Everest**, to each of them fifty pounds a piece to be paid
28 unto them at their several ages of one and twenty years or the days of
29 their marriages which shall first happen. And if any of them happen to die
30 before they shall accomplish their several ages of 21 years or their days of
31 marriage, that then the survivor or overliuer of them to have the whole sum
32 of one hundred pounds to be paid as aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath
33 unto **my son Thomas Everest** the sum of forty pounds of good and lawful
34 money of England to be paid unto him at the age of fifteen years
35 notwithstanding
36 ing my will and meaning is that the said sum of forty pounds before given
37 to Thomas, my son, shall remain in my executrix her hands until my said
38 son Thomas shall
39 accomplish his full age of 21 years, my executrix paying therefore three
pounds
for every year from 15³³⁶ til his age of 21. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto
Thomas Everest, the son of Walter Everest, the sum of ten shillings
to be paid unto him at the day of my burial. The residue of all my goods,

40 cattells, chattels, moveables and debts whatsoever after my debts and
legacies are paid, I do wholly and with good
41 intent and purpose give and bequeath them unto **Elizabeth, my**
wellbeloved
42 **wife** whom I do ordain and make my whole and sole executrix of this my
43 last will and testament whom I do appoint to see my debts and legacies
paid
44 and this my will performed and my body decently buried.
45 This is the last will and testament of me, the said Edward Everest, made
46 and declared the day and year above said concerning the disposing of all
47 my lands. **First:** my will and meaning is and I do with good intent and
purpose
48 give and bequeath unto Elizabeth, my wellbeloved wife, for term of her
natural life,
49 my house and all my lands whatsoever, keeping my said housing and
buildings
50 in good reparations and also preserving my woods and doing no waste
therein. And
51 after the decease of Elizabeth my wife, then I give and bequeath all my
said
52 house and lands whatsoever unto Thomas Everest, my youngest son, and
to
53 the heirs of his body lawfully begotten and for lack of heirs of his body

54 lawfully begotten, then I give and bequeath my said house and lands
aforesaid
55 to Edward, my son, and to his heirs for ever. **Lastly** I give unto **Walter**
56 **Everest, my kinsman**, the sum of 10s to be paid him within one month
57 after my decease. Furthermore my will and meaning that Elizabeth, my
wife, and
58 executrix, shall have the bringing up of all my children until they shall
59 accomplish their several ages of 21 years or receive their portions.
Provided always and
60 my will and meaning is that Elizabeth, my wife, and executrix, shall,
61 within six weeks after my decease and before she be admitted executrix
will
62 enter into bonds to my overseers hereafter named in the sum of four
hundred pounds
63 with condition thereupon endorsed for the true payment of my children's
64 portions at their several ages and according to the true intent and meaning
65 of this my will and also for the performance of this my will according to the
true
66 intent and meaning thereof. And I earnestly entreat and desire **my**
wellbeloved
67 **friends and kinsmen, William Kirsty and Henry Streatfield**

68 of Chiddingstone and **William Everest of Penshurst**³³⁷ to be supervisors and
69 overseers of this my will. And I do by this will renounce all
70 former wills and pronounce this as my last will. In witness whereof to this
71 my will containing two sides of paper and part of a third to the first
72 two have set my hand and to the last have set my hand and seal.
73 dated the the day and year first above written.

Edward Everest³³⁸

Signed, Sealed and acknowledged
to be his last will in the presence of

William Kirsty³³⁹

Henry Streatfield

William Everest

337 although here William is "of Penshurst", William of Hever had brothers Walter and Edward so that it is likely that the William of Hever was also this William

338 Edward signed his own name

339 this name is embellished; Kirstye was probably the scribe

1 The will of John Everest of Brasted in the county
2 of Kent, **husbandman**, made the 25th of June 1617.
3 **First:** my will is that **Alice Everest, my wife,**
4 shall have all such moveable goods as she³⁴⁰ had
5 at the time of her marriage with me. And moreover
6 my mind is that my executor hereafter named
7 shall pay unto my said wife twelve pounds
8 upon demand. The rest of my goods and chattels
9 whatsoever, I will and bequeath unto **Thomas**
10 **Quinnell, my son-in-law**
11 whom I make my executor.

340 "shee"

To this will nuncupative
were witnesses

Richard Chapman

his D mark

William Bowman

his M³⁴¹ mark

341 an inverted "W"

1 In the name of god Amen. The four and twenty day of June in year of our
lord
2 god one thousand, six hundred and eighteen. And in the year of the reign
of our sovereign Lord James, by
3 the grace of God, king of England, France and Ireland, the sixteenth and of
Scotland the one
4 and fifty. I, **John Everest, the elder, of Lighe next Tonbridge, in the County
of Kent, yeoman,**
5 being at the time of the making hereof in good and perfect health as well of
body as of mind, thanks be
6 given to God, notwithstanding aged and knowing the brittleness and
uncertainty of my life, therefore
7 I do ordain and make this my present last will and testament in manner
and form following: And **first:** I bequeath my
8 soul to Almighty God, trusting that by the merit, previous death and blood
shedding of his
9 dear and only son, Jesus Christ, my only saviour and redeemer, the same
shalbe presented pure

10 before the throne of his majesty. And my body to the earth whence it came
11 to be buried in the churchyard of Lighe aforesaid. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Johane, my
wellbeloved wife,**
12 that Bedstead and featherbed whereon I used to lie, a feather bolster, two
feather pillows, one
13 Blanket, one coverlet and three pairs of sheets, all of the best, one iron pot
and a little chafer.
14³⁴² **Item:** I will and bequeath to **William and Thomas, my sons, and Elizabeth
??, my daughter,** twelve pence a piece.
15 **The Residue** of all my goods and cattells³⁴³ whatsover, I give and bequeath
to **Edward**
16 **Everest, my son,** which Edward Everest, my son, I make and ordain my
whole
17 and sole executor of this my will, to see my debts paid, my will performed
and my body
18 honestly and decently buried.

342 this line inserted - see memorandum at end of will

343 spelt as in original

And my desire and will is that my son permits my wife to have her dwelling free one year after my decease where I now dwell.

^ ^ ³⁴⁴

In witness whereof to this my last will and

testament

19 I, the said John Everest set my hand and seal yeven³⁴⁵ the day and year
20 first above written.

The mark of ³⁴⁶ John Everest

Read, sealed and declared
as the last will of the above
named John Everest in
the presence of

John Charte, clerk
Peter Ellfick and
Nicolas Hooper, sen.

344 inserted here, to go after "buried" on this line

345 "given"

346 an inverted "V"

Me. the testator came to me . . . his will
and testament and willed me to insert a legacy to his
sons, William and Thomas, and to his daughter, Elizabeth,
of 12d a piece as above said and his wife's dwelling
and one coverlet with ?? a linen wheel and chest which she ??
. will
and testament for his last will and testament, to stand in manner and form
as abovesaid.³⁴⁷

³⁴⁷ name of witness unreadable (squashed at the bottom of the page)

- 1 In the name of god Amen. I, John Everest of Tonbridge being sick
2 In body but In perfect memory, make my last will and testament in
3 in manner and form following³⁴⁸ being the 10th of June 1622
4 **Item:** first I bequeath my soul to god, my saviour and my body to christian
burial.
5 **Item:** I give to the poor of Tonbridge 13s 4d to be paid at my burial.
6 **Item:** I give to **Daniel Loamas, my son-in-law**, £20 of lawful money to be
paid to
7 him at Easter next coming by my executrix whom I will hereafter name.
8 **Item:** I give to **Elizabeth Loamas**³⁴⁹ £20 to be paid at the said time by my
executrix.
9 **Item:** I give to **William, son of William Loamas**, £10 of lawful money.
10 **Item:** I give to **John Loamas** one flockbed with the furniture thereof now in
the

348 "folowing"

349 presumably John's daughter, Daniel's wife

- 11 house called **Manseares and Leamanes** in the possession of William Loamas.
- 12 **Item:** I give to William Loamas all such goods and household stuff as he is
13 now possessed of in the said house and the property of one ?? there.
- 14 **Item:** I give to **Peter Everest, my brother**, £5 to be paid to him at Easter next.
- 15 **Item:** I give to **Margery Everest, my kinswoman**, £10 to be paid at the said time.
- 16 **Item:** I give to **George Carnabey, the son of John Carnabey, 50s.** **Item:** I give to **John**
17 **Skinnar, William Skinnar, Elizabeth Skinnar and Margaret Skinnar**, each of them
18 £5 a piece they being children³⁵⁰ to my wedded wife.
- 19 **Item:** I give and forgive to John Loamas 50s which he oweth me.
- 20 My will is if William Loamas happen to die before he shall come to 20 years, Elizabeth, his to be his heir³⁵¹

350 "my" before children crossed out

351 presumably this William was the William, son of William Loamas, mentioned on line 9. No relationship was included in the phrase at the end of this line but, if William was under twenty, it is most unlikely he had a daughter; perhaps Elizabeth was his sister.

21 ?? The rest of my goods and cattell I give to **Joane, my wife**,
22 whom I make and ordain my whole executrix and I desire my good friends
23 **Richard Goodhew and Mathew Parker** to be overseers of this my will and
testament
24 provided always, and my will is, that whereas I have given certain legacies
25 to William Loamas the younger and to George Carnabey, I will Richard
Goodhew
26 to keep the same in his hands until they shall come to their ages of
27 20 years, the said Richard keeping the same out of the money he oweth
me,
28 paying them at their said ages 12d in the pound for profit³⁵². My will
29 is Richard Goodhew to put in bonds for performance of the same
30 to my overseers or overseer.

31 In witness whereof I have set my hand and seal the day and
32 year above said.
33 sealed and delivered. **Item:** my will is if George Carnabey do die, **Mary
Carnabey** to be his heir

34 in the presence of
John Carnabey his mark

352 interest at the rate of 5%

mark of **M** Richard
Moaram
Mathew Parker³⁵³

mark of Everest

Will of Peter Everest of Chiddingstone

written 18th May 1627; proved 21st February 1627/8

transcript from original

- 1 In³⁵⁴ the name of god Amen. The eighteenth day of May Ao dm 1627
2 in the third year of the reign of our sovereign Lord king Charles, etc. I. Peter
3 Everest of Chiddingstone in the county of Kent, **yeoman**, being sound and in
good health of body

353 this name is in the same writing as the will and Mathew Parker is the only person not making his mark; perhaps he wrote the will

354 decorated "I"

4 and mind and of perfect memory, thanks be to Almighty God, yet knowing
how uncertain
5 the hour of death and my time in this transitory world, do ordain and make
this my last
6 will and testament in manner and form following: **First:** and principally I
bequeath my
7 soul to Almighty God, my maker and creator, and to Jesus Christ, my only
saviour and redeemer,
8 by whose death, passion and bloodshedding I hope and fully trust to attain
to the joyful resurrection
9 of eternal life, comitting my body to the earth and to be buried in the
churchyard of Chiddingstone
10 or else where, etc. **Item:** I give to the poor of the said parish twenty shillings
11 to be distributed to them on the day of my burial by mine executors
12 hereafter named. The residue of all my moveable goods, chattels, cattell
13 and household stuff whatsoever, my debts and funeral discharged and paid,
14 I give and bequeath unto **Sara, my wife, and Richard, my son,** whom
15 I do make my sole executors of this my present will and
16 testament. And I do make **my loving cousins, Richard Stretfield**
17 **of Penshurst and George Urewrie, the son of William Urewrie**
18 **of Fletching in the county of Sussex, yeoman,** Supervisors hereof to
19 whom I give five shillings a piece of lawful money over and

20 above their pains and charges³⁵⁵ taken there abouts.

21 This is the last will and testament of me, Peter Everest, made and declared
the day
22 and year first above written, touching the disposing of all my messuages,
tenements, lands and
23 hereditaments lying and being in the parishes of **Hever** and Chiddingstone
aforesaid. **Item:** I
24 will and devise that Sara, my wife, have the profit and benefit of all my said
tenements
25 and lands during the term of her natural life for long as she keeps her self
widow
26 and remain unmarried, keeping my said messuages and buildings well
repaired and not
27 felling or spoiling my woods and bringing up my children. **Item:** I give and
bequeath
28 unto Richard Everest, my son, all that message, tenement and land with
th'appurtenances lying
29 in Chiddingstone which did come and descend unto me by **Phillip Everest,**
my father, late of

355 "chardges", a form often used by John Hooper; this will also contains "bee" and "mee"

30 Chiddingstone, deceased, to have, hold and enjoy to the said Richard, my
son, his heirs and
31 assigns for ever. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Tabitha and Sara Everest,**
my daughters,
32 all that messuage or tenement called **Blackmores** with the lands and
appurtenances thereunto belong
33 ing lying in Hever and Chiddingstone, to have and to hold to the said
Tabitha and Sara,
34 their heirs and assigns for ever. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Marie,**
Elizabeth
35 and **Margaret Everest, my daughters,** all that messuage and tenement
wherein I now dwell with
36 the lands and appurtenances thereunto belonging lying in Chiddingstone, to
have and to hold to the said
37 Marie, Elizabeth and Margaret, their heirs and assigns for ever. **Provided**
that if
38 it shall happen that Sara, my wife, do marry, then I will and devise that my
said son and daughters
39 shall enter and have the use and profit of all my said messuages, tenements
and lands with th'appurtenances
40 before bequeathed to them. And shall pay unto Sara, my wife, the sum of six
pounds yearly in

41 manner and form following, that is to say, forty shillings of lawful english
money out of each
42 and every of the said three messuages and tenements yearly and in every
year during
43 the term of her natural life. In witness whereof to this my present testament
and last will
44 containing two sheets of paper, I have set my hand and seal yeven the day
and year first
45 above written. Peter
Read, Sealed and acknowledged Everest
in the presence of
Thomas Leddall
Edward Allen

1 In the name of god Amen. The second of March in the year of our lord god
2 1633 and of the reign of our sovereign lord Charles, by the grace of God,
3 King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc.
the 9th
4 I, Elizabeth Thompson, alias Everest, of Hales in the parish of
Chiddingstone
5 in the county of Kent, **widow**, sick in body but of good and perfect mind
6 and memory, praised be god, make and ordain this my present testament
7 containing herein my last will in manner and form following:
8 **First:** I commend my soul to god that made, redeemed, sanctified it, my
body
9 to be buried in the churchyard of Chiddingstone and for those goods and
chattels
10 I have at the present, my funeral expenses performed, I will that they be
11 distributed in manner following, to wit, **Imprimis:** I bequeath to **my two**
sons,
12 **John Everest** of the parish of Cowden and **Edward Everest** of Hales, two
chests

of linen, the one a plain chest at my beds ?? in the new loft, the other
a joined chest in the ?? loft, the linen equally to be divided, the chests to
be both my son Edward's. **Item:** I give to **my daughter, Jane Allen**, a joined
chest in the new loft with whatsoever linen is therein; and to **her daughter,**
Elizabeth Allen, one of the two young heifers. **Item:** I give to **John**
Everest, his three children, John, Elizabeth and Mary, twelve pence a piece
to be paid half a year after my decease. **Item:** I give to **John Brett**,
my nephew of Northfech, twelve pence to be paid half a year after my
decease. **Item:** I release unto **Elizabeth Brett, my niece**, twenty shillings
she was endebted unto me. **Item:** I remit unto **Margaret Brett** the ten
shillings she owed unto me. **Item:** I give to the poor of the parish of
Chiddingstone ten shillings to be distributed on the day of my burial at the
church among them by the minister and church wardens. And all other my
goods and chattels (an old brass pot and six pewter dishes excepted which
I give to my daughter Jane Allen) I give unto my son Edward Everest
and of this my last will and testament I constitute and appoint my two
sons, John and Edward Everest, executors, beseeching them in the court?
of Jesus
Christ to mutual love, peace and unity and I do hereby ?? all other
testaments
and wills by me in any wise before this time made, named, willed and

32 bequeathed. In presence of

the mark of
Elizabeth Thompson

Witness ?? this

John Hollamby

The mark of

Samson Allan

1 In the name of god Amen. This tenth
2 day of December Anno dm one thousand, six hundred and forty, I, Susan
Everest,
3 spinster, being sick in body but of a sound and perfect remembrance,
thanks be given
4 unto Almighty God, do hereby make and declare this to be my last will
and testament.
5 **First:** I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my creator,
hoping
6 assuredly, through the death of his dear son, my redeemer, to have pardon
7 and forgiveness of all my sins. Secondly I commit my body to the earth to
be
8 decently buried at the discretion of mine executor and overseer hereafter
named.
9 And as touching the disposition of that poor means and estate which it
hath
10 pleased god to ?? me, I give, dispose and bequeath the same in such
manner

and form as hereafter is expressed and set down. **Imprimis:** I give and bequeath unto **my loving brother William Everest** of Chiddingstone in the county of Kent the sum of ten pounds to be paid to him or his assigns by mine executor hereafter named within one year after my decease. **Item:** I give unto **his four children, namely Anne, Thomas, William and Elizabeth**, the sum of five pounds a piece to be paid unto them as followeth, that is to say, to his said two daughters, Anne and Elizabeth, at their several ages of one and twenty years or days of marriage which shall first happen. And to his said two sons, namely Thomas and William, at their several ages of one and twenty years, the said sum of five pounds a piece. **Item:** my will further is if either of his said daughters shall die before they receive their said legacies, then the daughter living shall have her said sister's part. And if either of his said sons shall so die, the son living shall have his said

page 2:

brother's part. And if ant three of them shall die, then my will is that the survivor of them shall have all that the time above limited. **Item:** I give unto **my loving brother Edward Everest** the sum of ten pounds to be paid unto

27 him within one year after my decease. And also I give unto **his son William**
28 **Everest** the sum of five pounds and to the child that my said brother
Edward's wife
29 now goeth withall the sum of five pounds to be paid unto them all at their
several
30 ages of one and twenty years but if it be a daughter, at her day of marriage
31 which shall first happen. If it happen that either of them shall die then the
32 part of that so dying shall solely remain and be to the survivor of them.
And
33 my desire further is that my said brother Edward shall have and keep in his
34 hands the ten pounds do given to his said children and shall dispose of the
35 sum for their best use and benefit and shalbe paid into his hands by mine
36 executor hereafter named within one year next after my decease. **Item:** I
give
37 and bequeath unto **my loving sister Sara** (now the wife of **Thomas Bradley**)
38 the sum of ten pounds to be paid unto the said Thomas within one year
next
39 after my decease. **Item:** if it shall hereafter happen that there shalbe any
children
40 lawfully begotten between the said Thomas and my said sister Sara, then
my
41 will is and I do hereby bequeath the sum of five pounds to be paid unto it
when

42 it shall accomplish the age of one and twenty years or day of marriage if it
43 shalbe a daughter. And also I give unto it one chest of linen which I desire
44 shall remain for their said children's use in the house of my said brother
Thomas
45 Bradley or where my said sister Bradley shall appoint that their said
children
46 may safely have it with the other portion of five pounds. **Item:** I give and
bequeath
47 unto **Elizabeth, the daughter of Richard Beecher of Croydon** in Surrey
which he
48 had by **my sister Anna**, the sum of ten pounds to be paid unto her at her
age
49 of one and twenty years. But my will is that it be paid under this proviso
50 and condition, viz: that whereas I am to receive a legacy of ten pounds
given
51 unto me by **my grandfather Anthony Combridge** and payable by his
executor,
52 **Andrew Combridge** in March next year if it shall please god I shall so long
live
53 as to receive the said money, then I will it to be paid to the said Elizabeth
54 as aforesaid. But if I shall happen to die before it be payable, then my will
55 is (in regard that after my decease it is to be divided between all my said

56 brothers and sisters), that they, my said brothers and sisters shall each of
57 them out
58 of their above mentioned several legacies pay unto the said Elizabeth
equally
59 between them the sum of ten pounds at her said age of one and twenty
years.
60 **Item:** I give unto **my loving brother-in-law Manassesn Jessop of Penshurst**
in
61 Kent the sum of twenty shillings to be paid unto him within one year adter
my
62 decease. Also I give to the poor of the parish of Chiddingstone in Kent the
sum of twenty shillings to be paid to the churchwardens and overseers of
that
63 parish for their use within one month after my burial. And lastly all the rest
of
64 my goods, money, debts and credits whatsoever and wheresoever, not
hereby by me already
65 bequeathed, I give and bequeath the same unto **my loving sister Abia**
Everest whom
66 I make the sole executrix of this my last will and testament. And I desire
my
67 loving brother Edward Everest to be the supervisor hereof and to aid and

68 assist my said executrix in the honest and just execution of my said will
being in
69 nine sheets of paper at the beginning whereof I have set mine hand and
seal
70 and have published them all and the matter therein contained to be my
last will
71 and testament. Susan Everest, her mark. In the presence of Edward
Everest,
72 Thomas Bradley, **Stephen Streatfield**

1 In the name of god Amen. The twenty fourth day of March Ao dm 1640 in
the
2 sixteenth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord king Charles, etc. I,
William
3 Everest of Lighe next Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **husbandman**, being
at this present
4 time not well in body but of good and perfect remembrance, praised be
God, do make and
5 declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following:
First: I bequeath
6 my soul to Almighty God and to Jesus Christ, my only saviour, by whose
death and
7 passion I fully trust to have all my sins freely forgiven and to attain to the
joyful
8 resurrection of life eternal, comitting my body to the earth to be³⁵⁶ buried in
decent

356 "bee" and "mee" most of the time

9 sort at the discretion of my executor hereafter named. **Item:** my will and
meaning is
10 that **Joane, my wife**, shall have her dwelling and being in my dwelling
house during the
11 space of one whole year next after my decease with the use of such
household stuff
12 as she shall think fitting. **Item:** I give unto the said Joane, my wife, the
sum of
13 twelve pounds of good and lawful money of England to be paid unto her
within one
14 year next after my decease by my executor. Provided that the said Joane,
my
15 wife, upon the receipt of the said money shall make unto my said executor
a sufficient release
16 of all and every the right tithe, claim or demand which she shall challenge
or claim out of all
17 my said messuage, tenement and lands as well as for the discharge of the
said money.
18 **Item:** I give unto my said wife one joined chest. **Item:** I give unto **Jane, my**
19 **daughter, the now wife of John Budgen**, ten shillings to be paid by my
executor.
20 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Amy Everest, my daughter**, ten pounds of
lawful

21 money of England to be paid unto her two years next after my
22 decease by mine executor. **Item:** I give unto **Christian Everest, my**
23 **daughter,**
24 ten pounds of like lawful money to be paid her within three yeras next
25 after my decease by mine executor. The residue of all my moveable goods,
26 chattels, cattel and household stuff whatsoever, I give and bequeath unto
27 **John, my son,**
(my debts, legacies and funeral discharged) whom I do make the full and
sole executor
of this my last will and testament.

28 This is the last will and testament of me the said William Everest made
and
29 declared the day and year aforesaid concerning the disposition of all my
30 messuage, tenement and lands, situated lying and being in the parish of
Lighe
31 aforesaid. **Item:** I give, devise and will unto the said John, my son, his heirs
32 and assigns for ever, all the aforesaid messuage, tenement and land with
all and
33 singular th'appurtenances. Provided always that John, my son, his heirs or
34 assigns shall well and truly yield and pay unto **Robert, my son,** after
35 he shall accomplish his age of one and twenty years, for and during the
term

36 of his natural life, out of the said tenement and lands, one annuity or yearly
37 rent of fifty shillings of good and lawful money of England at the feasts of
the birth
38 of our lord God and the nativity of St. John the Baptist by equal portions.
And if it shall
39 happen the said annuity or yearly rent of fifty shillings to be behind unpaid
after either of the
40 said feasts by the space of fourteen days being lawfully demanded
41 that then, and so often and at any time after, it shall and may be lawful
unto and
42 for the said Robert, my son, or his assigns, to enter in and upon my said
messuage,
43 tenement and lands, or any part thereof, to distrain and the distress or
44 distresses there so taken and found lawfully from there to load, drive, bear
45 and carry away and the same to withhold ?? ?? ?? until the
46 said annuity or yearly rent or sum of fifty shillings be fully satisfied
47 and paid with all arrearages of the same, if any be. In witness whereof to
this
48 my present testament and last will containing one sheet of paper and this
49 part shett, I the said William Everest have set my hand and seal the day
50 and year aforesaid.

William Everest

his ³⁵⁷ mark

Read, sealed and declared to be
the last will of the said William Everest
in the presence of
Edward Everest³⁵⁸
Thomas Leddall

357 a vertical cross

358 possibly William's brother, Edward

The Everests of Seal

There were a few Everests in Seal but their connection with others elsewhere is not known.

Henry Everest

Henry Everest had two children baptised in Seal:

| | |
|---------|-----------------------|
| William | on 10th December 1593 |
| Mildred | on 26th June 1603 |

In 1600, **John Terry of Ightham** was brought before the October Court in Ightham for receiving a stranger, namely a **Henry Everest**, into his cottage without sureties and was to be fined 10s if Everest was not removed or sureties found. Was this the same Henry Everest whose two children were baptised in Seal seven years before and three years after he had took refuge with Terry?³⁵⁹

359 CRI 1938, p.18

Oliver Everest's Family

| Num | Name | Born | Married | Spouse | M | C | Died |
|---------|-------------------------------------|------------|---------|--------|---|---|-------------------|
| #2544 | <u>EVEREST, Oliver</u> ----- | <1584 | | | 1 | 1 | Sep 1622 about 40 |
| #2545 | <u>his wife, Agnes</u> ----- | | | | 1 | 1 | Nov 1623 about 40 |
| I #2546 | <u>Everest, Anna</u> | 7 Jul 1605 | | | 0 | 0 | 13 May 1611 age 5 |

Thomas & Dorothy Everest of Shipbourne

On 12th May 1590, **Dorothy Everest** (\$2309¹) was appointed administrator of the estate of her husband **Thomas Everest** (\$2308). It is not known how this Thomas was related to the other Everests.

¹ \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

F

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Nuncupative Will of Thomas Fenn, the elder, of Wrotham | page f.3 |
| Nuncupative Will of William Fenn, the elder, of Wrotham | page f.3 |
| Will of Henry Fenner, tanner, of East Peckham (extract) | page f.5 |
| The Fletchers of Kemsing | page f.6 |
| Will of John Fletcher of Kemsing | page f.7 |
| John Frauncis of Gravesend, shoemaker | page f.9 |
| Will of John Frauncis | page f.11 |
| The Frenches of Seal | page f.16 |
| The Frenches before 1560 | page f.18 |
| William Frenche of Godden | page f.25 |
| The Descendants of William Frenche of Godden | page f.28 |
| John Frenche of Godden | page f.29 |
| Thomas Frenche, son of William of Godden | page f.31 |
| Lawrence Frenche, son of William of Godden | page f.31 |
| William, Son of Lawrence | page f.33 |
| A Later William Frenche of Godden | page f.34 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Children "of Robert Frenche" | page f.36 |
| John Frenche, weaver, and his Descendants | page f.37 |
| Jeremy Frenche | page f.40 |
| Peter Frenche | page f.41 |
| Robert Frenche and his Large Family | page f.44 |
| Thomas Frenche, died 1617 | page f.46 |
| Pynden Frenche | page f.55 |
| Assessments for a Subsidy, 1628 | page f.74 |

Will of Cicely Fuller of Shorne page f.75

Family of William Fuller see [Hills of Kemsing and Seal](#)

Will of Richard Fynne of Seal page f.77

1 **Memorandum** That Thomas Fenn ye
2 elder of Wrotham in the county of Kent, **husband**
3 **man**, did by his will nuncupative
4 the 6th day of March 1625, give and be=
5 queath all his goods, cattle and
6 chattels whatsoever to **Jonne, his**
7 **wife**, in the presence of **John Bald=**
8 **en** and others and did make her his
9 whole and sole executrix.

1 William Fenn, the elder of Wrotham
2 in the county of Kent, **husbandman**,
3 being sick and weak in body

4 did make his will, nuncupative, of
5 all his goods and cattle in manner
6 and form following in the presence
7 of whose names are un=
8 der written. He being³⁶⁰ in debt
9 above £10 did give all his goods,
10 cattle and chattels to **Elizabeth, his**
11 **wife**, to pay his debts and to re=
12 lieve and maintain herself being
13 an old woman and to help her chil=
14 dren at her own discretion. In
15 witness whereof we have here=
16 unto set our hands

John Balden³⁶¹

Nicholas Fenn

360 "hee beeing"

361 was this the same John Balden who witnessed the will of Thomas Fenn in 1626?

I commit my soul to the mercy of my heavenly father, in my saviour's promise . .
my body to be buried at the discretion of my executrix

Witnesses: Thomas Barton, Thomas Coxe

The *Fletchers* of Kemsing

George Fletcher of Kemsing had six children baptised in Kemsing between 1612 and 1622. George died when his youngest son, John, was only two months old.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|-------------|--|-------------|--|-------------|--|-------------|--|----------------------------|--|-------------|--|
| bur: | | k522 ³⁶² George - | | 2 Sep 1622 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | ----- | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| k524 | | k530 | | k525 | | k526 | | k527 | | k528 | | k529 | | | |
| Elizabeth ³⁶³ | | - Thomas Hilgrave | | Johanna | | Alexander | | George | | Joan | | John | | - Catherine | |
| bap: 17 Feb 1612 | | | | 6 Jan 1615 | | 28 Sep 1617 | | 23 Jul 1619 | | 24 Dec 1620 | | 8 Jul 1622 | | | |
| will: | | | | | | | | | | | | 29 Nov 1646 ³⁶⁴ | | | |
| | | ----- | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| k531 | | k532 | | k533 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Thomas | | Stephen | | John | | | | | | | | | | | |
| bap: 3 Mar 1633 | | 3 Jul 1636 | | 30 Sep 1638 | | | | | | | | | | | |

The will of John Fletcher of Kemsing (CKS: Drb/Pw 32; Drb/Pwr 23.54) proved on 29th November 1646 has survived. John left twenty pence to each of his “[three kinsmen](#)” Edward, Alexander and James Fletcher. John was married but did not have any children since he left his house and land, after his wife’s death, to “[Mary](#)”

-
- 362 k indicates a reference in the Kemsing database
 - 363 married on 12th September 1630 when Elizabeth was eighteen
 - 364 date proved; will not dated

Fletcher, the daughter of Edward Fletcher". George, above, had a son Alexander but neither an Edward nor a James were recorded. The testator could still have been George's youngest son, since he describes the three men as kinsmen not brothers. Aged twenty-four, he could have been married but not for long enough to have had any children

Will of John Fletcher of Kemsing

proved on 29th November 1646

transcript from original

The last will and testament of John Fletcher

1 I, John Fletcher, in the parish of Kemsing in the county of Kent
2 do give and bequeath to **my wife Catherine Fletcher** the house
3 called **Boricrust** and the land belonging to it for her life time and
4 after her decease to **Mary Fletcher, the daughter of Edward Fletcher**
5 and if it please god to take her away without heirs, it is to be divided
6 between **Edward Fletcher, her brother**, and to **John Jackson, son of**
7 **Nicholas Jackson** of the parish of **Hadlow** of the same county. And likewise
8 I give and bequeath to my three kinsmen, **Edward Fletcher and Alexander**
9 **Fletcher and James Fletcher**, twenty pence a piece. In witness hereof

10 I put my seal

John Fletcher

his **X** mark

witnesses { Richard Douglas
{ John Partridge
{ Humphrey Hayle
{ his **H** mark

John Frauncis of Gravesend, shoemaker

The will of John Frauncis, shoemaker, is interesting and unusual. John had two young sons when he died and, since his grandmother was still alive, he was probably in his thirties and seems to have built up a reasonable business. He leaves each of his sons £4 in money, a "great white candlestick"³⁶⁵ and various other household items but each of his sons is to be the responsibility of one of his "gossips", that is familiar acquaintance, with each friend to receiving the £4 for that child.

This £8 was not, however, immediately available; it had been lent to William Bradbent and was due to be repaid £5 at the Christmas following the writing of the will and £3 the following Christmas. The details of the loan were given in an obligation which John's wife, Margerie, was to deliver to the "gossips", John Pomme and William Warton, curate at Gravesend, before he was carried out of his house to be buried. Pomme and Warton, on receipt of the payments were each to take half for the use and profit of the boy for which they were responsible, keeping the money in their custody until the boy was thirteen, unless there was "great need by sickness or other ways". At the age of thirteen, the "gossip" was to see his

365 possibly low grade brass

charge "put further to some occupation to some honest man", that is into service or apprenticeship.

Margerie, John's wife and presumably the mother of his two sons, was to have the custody of the household items left to the boys providing that she remained a widow. If she remarried she was to deliver them to John Pomme and William Warton "a fortnight or one week at the least before the day of her marriage". If she died or was otherwise not able to look after the two boys, Pomme and Warton were to take them into their custody and bring them up "in fear of god".

At the end of the will is a list of the debts of John Frauncis; these total 17s 8d with exactly half being owed to three tanners.

One of the items of furniture left to John's eldest son was a counter table. Early accounting used a board or cloth with lines dividing it into rows and columns with counters used to carry out the calculations. The board or cloth could be laid on a table and special tables came to be made with the lines marked on the table top and the table perhaps incorporating boxed storage spaces and becoming more like a chest.

The younger son was left a "lesser chest of a yard long"; if a chest thirty-six inches long was a lesser one, how big was the great chest left to the eldest son?

1 In the name of god Amen. The 15th day of September, An. d. 1570,
2 I, John Frauncis, of the parish of Gravesend in the county of Kent,
3 **shoemaker**, being sick in body and perfect of Remembrance, thanks
4 be to god, do ordain and make this my last will and testament in manner
5 and form following³⁶⁶, that is to say, **First**: I commend my
6 soul to almighty god, my saviour and Redeemer, Jesus Christ,
7 by whose death and passion I have a sure faith and trust
8 to be saved and my body to be buried where it shall please god.
9 **Item**: I give to **Galathsell Frauncis, my son**, the sum of £4
10 in money, also a brass pot, the great chest, the counter table and the form
11 a great white candlestick, a platter of pewter, a pewter dish
12 and a soser³⁶⁷.
13 **Item**: I give to **William Frauncis, my son**, the sum of £4 in
14 money, also a lesser chest of a yard long, a new kettle, a spit,

366 "folowing" in original; also "beeing" in line 18

367 definitely looks like "soser"

15 a great cobiron³⁶⁸, a dripping pan, a great white candlestick,
16 a platter of pewter, a pewter dish and a soser. All the eight
17 pounds in money, **William Bradbent of Gravesend**, aforesaid, oweth me
18 as doth and may appear in an obligation being dated the 13th day of
19 March in the twelfth year of the reign of our sovereign Lady, Elizabeth,
20 our Queen³⁶⁹, to be paid at 2 several times (that is to say)
21 at Christmas next after the date hereof the sum of £5 and at
22 Christmas in an twelvemonth beyond then next after, the sum of £3.
23 Whereof I will that **my gossip, John Pomme, of Milton-next Gravesend**,
shall receive my
24 son Galathsell, his £4. Also I will that **my gossip, William Warton,**
25 **curate at Gravesend**, shall receive my son William his £4 at the
26 receipt of both the payments to divide it in equal portions
27 immediately for the use and profit of my 2 sons and to keep the same
28 money in their custody unless my sons, or one of them, have great
29 need by sickness or other ways and in such need to bestow on them,
30 or one of them, as occasion shall serve until they come to the age of
31 13 years and then my 2 gossips to see them put further to some
32 occupation to some honest man and to give their possession of money,

368 an iron supporting a spit

369 1570

33 so much as is remaining with either of them, to those masters
34 for their use and profit, as well for them as they can make the
35 bargain. And, if it happen if one of them die before the said time, I will
36 that the other shalbe his heir and then he that hath his money
37 that is dead shall deliver it unto him that keepeth his money
38 that is alive, within five weeks next after his decease, for the use
39 and profit of him that is living. And, if both of them happen to die
40 before they shall come out of their service or prenticeship, then I will
41 that £6 thereof, if so much remain, to **Margerie, my wife**, to be paid
42 unto her as soon as conveniently may be and 40s thereof, if so much
43 remain, to the poor of the parish of Gravesend to be distributed
44 in 6 years, yearly at Christmas 6s 8d, by John Pomme and
45 William Warton or one of them if the other fail. And, if both fail,
46 by the collectors of the poor then there being.

47 **Item:** I will that Margerie, my wife, shall have all the household stuff
48 in her custody that I have given to my 2 sons, keeping herself
49 widow but, when so ever she shall chance to marry again, then
50 I will that she shall deliver all the said stuff or goods to John
51 Pomme and William Warton according to the children's portions . .

- a fortnight or one week at the least before the day of her marriage.

- **Item:** I give to **my grandmother, Mrs. Swainland³⁷⁰**, 10s in gold.
- All the rest of my goods unbequeathed, my debts paid, my
- legacies and funeral discharged, I give them wholly to Margerie,
- my wife whom I make my whole executrix of this my last
- will and testament.
- **Item:** I will that Margerie, my wife, shall deliver to John
- Pomme and William Warton the obligation before I be carried
- out of my house to be buried and, if she chance to
- decease or not be able after any time to keep my 2 sons,
- then I will that John Pomme and William Warton shall
- take them into their custody, at their discretion, to be
- brought up in fear of god.

John Frauncis

John Swainland³⁷¹, his mark

Also I make my overseers hereof

Richard William, John Pomme and William Warton
and witness of the same.

370 if John was in his early thirties, his grandmother would have been at least in her seventies

371 his grandfather? uncle?

Debts that I do owe at the making hereof:

| | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|-------|
| Imprimis: | I owe to the tanner of Shorne | 4s |
| Item: | I owe to the tanner of Dartford | 4s |
| Item: | I owe to fydge | 2s |
| Item: | I owe to Walche, the tanner | 10d |
| Item: | I owe to William, my man | 22d |
| Item: | I owe to John Benet, his wife | 3s 8d |
| Item: | I owe to my grandmother | 16d |

The Frenches of Seal

The Frenches were a large clan (group of families) for whom seven wills have survived plus that of Pynden Frenche of Wrotham who was born in Seal and had his children there; four of these date from before the start of parish records, the first from 1476. Pynden's will was written in 1638 by George Hooper, one of the Hooper family who wrote a large number of wills from the 1570s onwards.

Pynden Frenche, although “of Wrotham” when he wrote his will was part of the Seal clan.

Excluding children born to Frenche daughters who married into other families, the Frenches account for about 6% of the total baptisms recorded in Seal between 1562 and 1655. Two sets of twins were recorded, one set, born in 1626, the great-grandchildren of William (#324) and the other in 1651, the grandchildren of James (#1590). Nineteen sets were recorded for the whole population in this period, so that two sets is what would be expected for this group of families.

The Frenches do not seem to have spread to Kemsing in any serious way. Just three baptisms were recorded: a son and daughter of William Frenche which can

be fitted into the family of #1041 - see page f.35 - and Peter, son of Peter, who could have been a son of #483 - see page f.39.

The eight wills which have been transcribed are:

| | # ³⁷⁷ | date: will | proved | CKS: Drb/Pw; Pwr | |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| Robert Frenche | | 16 Apr 1476 | | CKS: -; 4.231 | page f.17 |
| John Frenche | #4220 | 16 Jul 1513 | Dec 1516 | CKS: -; 7.76 | page f.21 |
| William Frenche | #4222 | 20 Apr 1519 | May 1519 | CKS: -; 7.163 | page f.23 |
| Richard Frenche | #4227 | 27 Mar 1535 | | CKS: -; 9.212 | page f.24 |
| William Frenche | #324 | 28 Apr 1563 ³⁷⁸ | 9 Jun 1563 | CKS: -; 13.79 | page f.26 |
| John Frenche | #596 | 21 Apr 1578 | Jul 1578 | CKS: 12; 16.10 | page f.42 |
| Thomas Frenche | #1634 | 24 Nov 1617 | | CKS: 24; - | page f.47 |
| Pynden Frenche | #1870 | 28 Feb 1637/8 ³⁷⁹ | 10 Apr 1638 | PCC: Lee 48; Prob 11/176 | page f.59 |

One more Frenche will has survived but has not been transcribed

William Frenche of Underiver 1629 PCC: Ridley 98

Robert Frenche, of the parish of Seal in Kent, was "[compos mente and sane memorie](#)" when his will was written, in dog Latin, in 1476. His wife, Johane, and son William were to be his executors.

³⁷⁷ # indicates a reference in the Seal database

³⁷⁸ William was buried on 1st May 1563

³⁷⁹ buried, in Seal, 10th March 1637/8

In the second half of the sixteenth century there appear to be three branches of the Frenche clan in Seal headed by:

- William Frenche of Godden who died in 1563
- John Frenche, weaver, whose will was written in 1578
- the man who married Alice Blatcher who was the grandmother of Thomas and Pynden Frenche whose wills of 1617 and 1638 have survived; her husband was probably the same generation as William and John.

Although all more or less of the same generation, there are no obvious connections between the groups but William is possibly the son of Richard, the 1535 testator. Richard also had a son John who could have been the weaver. Could he have had another son who married Alice Blatcher?

The Frenches of Seal before 1560

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Frenches mentioned early in the sixteenth century include: | |
| William Frenche | witnessed will of Thomas Clarke 1513 |
| William Frenche, the younger | feoffee to Reynold Carter 1526 |
| Richard Frenche | witnessed will of William Olyver 1526 |

see:
Clarke
Carter
Olyver

The wills of John (dated 1513, proved 1516), William and Richard give little information about their families. John in his will of 1513 seems to imply that his wife was pregnant.

William left an annuity of £3 6s 8d for six years to “[Edward, the son of John Frenche](#)” and he had a brother John who lived in part of his house. Thus, unless there had been two brothers called John in his family (not impossible since there are a number of occasions of two children in a family with the same name) the testators of 1513 and 1519 were not brothers.

This William, who died in 1519, had a son Richard. Was this the Richard Frenche of Godden whose will of 1535 mentions children without specifying any names? The William who died in 1563 was of "Goodwyn" which was is probably a form of Godden; he could have been the son of Richard. William mentions a brother John who could possibly be the John whose will of 1578 has survived.

The Early Frenches

[illegible]

375 William's children are known from his will; #88 was described as "of Godden" in the parish records with others being identified by their names and dates of marriage being similar to that of John.

376 taken as the John Frenche of Godden who had children baptised in the 1560s and probably married soon after his father died

377 Johane married **James Olyver** (#301) on 21st November 1569 - see *olyver.fam*

William, does not mention any land in his will and the bequests to his children were relatively small:

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| John, Richard and Thomas | a lamb each |
| Margaret | a lamb and a little pan |
| Lawrence | a teg and a lamb |
| Johane | a lamb and the little cauldron |
| Mary | the bigger cauldron |

His wife, Margery, was to be his executrix; William's brother John lived in part of William's house for which, it appears from the will, he paid 6s 8d per year; this rent Margery was to receive for the rest of her life.

Will of John Frenche 1513

written 16th July 1513; proved 16th December 1516

transcript from probate copy

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The 16th day
- 2 of July the year of our lord 1513, I, John

3 Frenche of Seal make my testament in this
4 wise: **First:** I bequeath my soul to god, my
5 body to be buried in the churchyard of Seal.
6 Also I bequeath to the high altar, for my tithes, 12d.
7 Also I will within short space after the proving of this my last
8 will 20d to be bestowed for the good of my soul. Also
9 I will that mine executors, **Sir Reynold Peadan**³⁷⁸ and **Thomas**
10 **Barton**³⁷⁹ of Seal, see that my goods be ordered and my will
11 fulfilled. Also I will that, if the sum of my debts will not
12 suffice? to pay my debts, then I will that a portion? of my
13 land shall be sold, by the advice of my executors, to the
14 payment of my debts. Also I will that mine executors shall
15 have for their labours 3s 4d a piece. The residue of my goods
16 and my lands, I will that **my wife** shall have term of her
17 life and, after her decease, I will my child of her body
18 lawfully begotten³⁸⁰ shall have all my said lands except the
19 piece of land sold by the advice of my executors as I

378 a curate of Seal?

379 there were Bartons in Seal in the latter half of the sixteenth century

380 does this mean his wife was pregnant?

20 above do rehearse and if my need do require. Furthermore, I will
21 that, after the decease of my wife and her child, that **Richard,**
22 **my brother,** paying unto each of my sisters 5 marks a year, shall
23 have all my lands that my executors shall have unsold.

no witnesses given

Will of William Frenche 1519

written 20th April 1519; proved 16th May 1519

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The 20th day of April in the
2 year of our lord 1519. I, William Frenche, of
3 Seal make my testament in this wise. **First:** I
4 bequeath my soul to god and my body to be buried in
5 the churchyard of Seal. **Item:** I bequeath to the
6 high altar there 12d. **Item:** I bequeath to **Mar**
7 **garet, my wife,** all my lands and tenements during
8 her life. And after the decease of the said Margaret,
9 I will that **Richard, my son,** have all my foresaid lands
10 and tenements paying to **Edward, the son of John Frenche,**
11 £3 6s 8d in the span of six years after the

12 decease of the said Margaret, my wife, out of the
13 foresaid lands. Also I will that Margaret, my
14 wife have my moveable goods. The residue of all
15 my goods unbequeathed, I give to Margaret, my
16 wife and to Richard, my son, whom I make and ordain
17 mine executors. These witnesses: **Christopher Sharpesharow,**
18 **curate, William Denman, Gilbert Biggins**³⁸¹.

Will of Richard Frenche of Godden 1535

written 27th March 1535
transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The 27th day of March
2 1535, I, Richard Frenche of **Godden** in
3 the parish of Seal, whole in mind, make my
4 will in this wise: **First:** I give my soul
5 to god, my body to be buried in the churchyard
6 of Seal. **Item:** to the high altar 6d.
7 **Item:** I give to **Mary, my wife**, all my moveables

³⁸¹ the will of Gilbert Byggyne of Seal, written 1541, has survived

8 toward the bringing up of my children
9 whom I make mine executrix and **William Denman**
10 supervisor hereof.

11 And concerning all my land and tenements, first
12 I will that Mary, my wife, have all the (use?)
13 of my lands and tenements during her life, paying
14 my debts and bequests. And after her decease to
15 remain to my heirs. witness **Thomas**
16 **Frenche, William Frenche, Thomas Jeffery**
17 written by **Sir Hugh Green?**, curate of Seal.

***William Frenche** of Godden*

William Frenche of Godden (#324) whose will dated 28th April 1563 has survived is taken as the son of Richard, the testator of 1535. James Porter, in his will written on 24th April 1563, only four days prior to William's, mentions three crofts called **Nagpletts in Godden** in the occupancy of William Frenche - see **Porter**.

William's will is very short and this is given before details of his descendants.

1 In the name of god Amen. In the year of our lord
2 god 1563³⁸², the 28 day of April, I,
3 William Frenche of Goodwyn in the parish
4 of Seal within the county of Kent, **yeoman**,
5 do make my last will and testament in
6 manner and form following: **First:** I
7 bequeath my soul to Almighty God, my
8 redeemer and saviour and my body to be
9 buried in the churchyard of Seal afore
10 said. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **John**,
11 **Richard, Thomas and Margaret, my sons**
12 and **daughter**, to each of them a lamb
13 and to **Lawrence** a teg and a lamb
14 and to **Johane, my daughter**, a lamb.
15 **Item:** I give to Johane, my daughter, the little
16 cauldron and to **Mary** the bigger
17 and to Margaret the little pan. I give

18 and bequeath to **Margery, my wife**, all my
19 part of the division of the house that
20 **my brother John Frenche** dwelleth in
21 that is 6s 8d by year to my part. To
22 have and receive the said 6s 8d
23 during her natural life. All the
24 rest of my goods and moveables, my debts
25 paid, I give unto Margery, my wife,
26 whom I make my sole executrix. In
27 witness that this is my last will
28 and testament I have set my mark? and
29 seal, the day and year above written.
30 These being witness **Gilbert Jenyns**,
31 **clerk**³⁸³, **Thomas Olyver of Kettles**³⁸⁴, **Thomas**
32 **Olyver of Fawke** and **William Pitchfed**³⁸⁵.

383 Gilbert Jenyns was vicar of Seal from 1561 until 1603; he witnessed (and probably wrote) the wills of a number of his parishioners - see [Jenyns](#)

384 most likely to have been Thomas Olyver, the elder, of Kettles, (#265). It is not, however, possible to identify Thomas Olyver of Fawke since Thomas Olyver of Fawke (#233) died in 1562 and the next known Thomas of Fawke was probably his grandson (#267) who was too young in 1563 to have witnessed a will

385 There was a William Pitchford (#122) in Seal having children in the 1560s and 1570s

The Descendants of William Frenche of Godden

William mentions four sons in his will and three of these could be the men whose families which can be constructed from the parish records:

- John Frenche of Godden whose children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were recorded. Agnes Haggas, servant of John Frenche of Godden, was buried on 26th February 1571
- Thomas Frenche who married in 1566
- Lawrence Frenche whose descendants can be traced down to the 1650s.

In all three cases, the parish records of Seal no doubt allow further generations to be traced but this study has not proceeded further than 1650.

There are various problems in deciding which children belong to a particular father especially those "of Robert Frenche" and "of William Frenche". They have been allocated, very much guesswork, to produce the fewest obvious anomalies.

John Frenche of Godden

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|--|-----------------------|--|-------------|--|-------------------------|--|-------------|--|
| bur: | | | | | | | | | |
| #88 John - Mary #89 | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 May 1581 | | | | | | | | | |
| #205 | | #402 | | #470 | | #555 | | #784 | |
| Elizabeth | | Dorothy | | Ann | | Richard | | Katherine | |
| bap: 2 Jun 1566 | | 2 Oct 1567 | | 20 Nov 1569 | | 11 Feb 1572 | | 22 Dec 1574 | |
| bur: | | | | 4 Feb 1592 | | | | 16 Jun 1577 | |
| | | | | aged 22 | | | | 30 Apr 1638 | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | |
| #2559 | | #2560 | | #2558 | | #2095 | | #2561 | |
| Ann | | Thomas ³⁸⁷ | | Clemence | | Margaret ³⁸⁸ | | Christopher | |
| bap: 25 Sep 1614 | | 25 Feb 1616 | | | | 29 Mar 1618 | | 6 Jun 1624 | |
| bur: | | | | | | | | 6 Jun 1624 | |
| | | | | | | | | 9 Apr 1638 | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | |
| #2625 | | #2626 | | #2627 | | #2628 | | | |
| Elizabeth | | Jane | | Robert | | John | | | |
| bap: 2 Jan 1642 | | 7 May 1650 | | 26 Mar 1652 | | 25 Oct 1654 | | | |

There was a William Frenche of Godden who married in April 1582 and was therefore most probably born just before the surviving records of baptisms in Seal.

³⁸⁶ "son of John Frenche of Seal" baptised in Sevenoaks

³⁸⁷ expected to be in the **Knole MS of 1648** but is not included

³⁸⁸ married **John Rogers** (#2537) on 1st November 1642 when she was twenty-four; she was John's second wife and no children were recorded in Seal

³⁸⁹ "son" when baptised, "da" when buried, assuming baptism and burial were of the same person

He could have been John's eldest son and this suggestion is strengthened in that his son Robert is not referred to as "of Godden". There was also his son Richard but since nothing more is recorded about him, it is likely that he died young. See page f.33 for William's family.

In her will of August 1638, Margerie Theobald (or Tebold) left the residue of her goods, etc. to her "[sister Clemence Frenche of Seal, widow, relict of Robert Frenche, late of Seal, yeoman](#)". This points to Margerie's brother-in-law being the Robert Frenche who was buried on 30 April 1638 with the burial of "[Francis, daughter of Richard and Clemence Frenche](#)" having occurred only three weeks earlier.

Clemence Tebold (#1760), daughter of John Tebold (#1750) was baptised on 9th April 1592 and would thus have been the right age for having children between 1614 and the early 1630s but fifteen years younger than Robert, the son of John Frenche of Godden. Clemence had four daughters alive when Margerie made her will. These factors, together with the impossibility of one woman having all the children of Robert (these are listed on page f.36), have produced the relationships given above (for #847) and on page f.39 (for #1636, the grandson of John, the weaver).

Thomas Frenche, son of William of Godden

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|------------|-------------|--------------------------|----|--------|------|-------|-----|-----------|----|-----|------|
| | | #282 | Thomas - Sylvester Gunne | | #283 | | | | | | | |
| mar: | | 20 Oct 1566 | | | | | | | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | #401 | | #425 | | #649 | | #4214 | | #1130 | | | |
| | Susan | | Lawrence | | Thomas | | Susan | | Elizabeth | | | |
| bap: | 14 | Sep | 1567 | 14 | Nov | 1568 | 11 | Jan | 1573 | 29 | Oct | 1586 |
| bur: | 2 | Oct | 1567 | | | | 21 | Jun | 1571 | | | |
| | at 2 weeks | | | | | | | | | | | |

There is a long gap between the Susan born in 1573 (she was baptised in Sevenoaks) and Elizabeth; perhaps Sylvester died and Thomas married again or Elizabeth's father could have been another Thomas.

Lawrence Frenche, son of William of Godden

Lawrence married Agnes Whyte on 7th November 1574. Lawrence is an uncommon name so that the children of "Lawrence Frenche" born in the 150s and 1580s can be taken as this Lawrence's but there are the same problems with the

children "of William Frenche", one of the Williams being Lawrence's son, as there are with those of Robert.

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|-------------|---|---------------------|---|----------------|--|-----------------------|---|---------------------|--|
| #373 Lawrence - Agnes Whyte #374 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| #815 | | #890 | | #1130 | | #2531 | | #1300 | | #2605 | |
| William | - | Edward | | Elizabeth | - | William Thomas | | Lawrence | - | Joan | |
| bap: 6 Nov 1575 | | 26 Oct 1578 | | 15 Oct 1581 | | | | 20 May 1585 | | | |
| will: | | | | 25 Aug 1630 | | | | | | | |
| bur: | | | | 19 Oct 1630 | | 3 Feb 1622 | | 26 Jun 1635 | | | |
| see page f.33 | | | | children | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | | | |
| #2606 | | #2607 | | #2634 | | #2608 | | #2609 | | #2632 | |
| Elizabeth ³⁹⁰ | | Lawrence | - | Elizabeth | | Thomas | | Robert ³⁹¹ | - | Mizael Ashdown | |
| 8 Mar 1618 | | 24 Sep 1620 | | | | 9 Mar 1623 | | 18 Jun 1626 | | Susanna | |
| | | | | 3 children in 1650s | | | | | | Joan ³⁹² | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | | | |
| #2610 | | #2611 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 18 Jun 1626 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | | | |
| #2630 | | #2631 | | | | | | | | | |
| Robert | | John | | | | | | | | | |
| 31 Dec 1647 | | 3 Apr 1650 | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | | | |
| bap: | | | | | | | | | | | |

-
- 390** married **Richard High** (#2657) on 1st November when she was eighteen; no children were recorded in Seal
- 391** Robert and Susanna were twins; Robert married **Mizael Ashdown** (#2632) on 11th April 1647 when he was only twenty; he was listed in the Knole MS of 1648 for Godden and Fawke
- 392** at her burial she was recorded as the daughter of Lawrence and Joan; this is the only record of the name of Lawrence's wife; since there was eleven years between the burial of the daughter and the baptism of the twins, she could have been Lawrence's second wife and not the mother of the other children

An Elizabeth Frenche married William Thomas (#2531) on 23rd October 1609 and they had four children; the will of Elizabeth Thomas, widow, (1630) has survived (see **Thomas**). William Thomas's wife was probably this Elizabeth (who would have been twenty-eight when she married) since Edward and Lawrence Frenche, the elder, were two of the witnesses of the will. Edward would have been her brother with Lawrence either her father (who would have been in his seventies) or her brother.

William, Son of Lawrence

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------|---|-------------|--|--------------------------|--|-------------|-------------|
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | #815 - William - | | | |
| ----- | | | | | | | |
| #2600 | | #2612 | | #2601 | | #2594 | |
| Lawrence | - | Elizabeth | | William | | Ann | |
| bap: 15 Oct 1607 | | | | 16 Mar 1610 | | 17 Dec 1620 | |
| ----- | | | | | | | |
| #2613 | | #2614 | | #2615 | | #2616 | |
| William | | Richard | | Elizabeth ³⁹³ | | Elizabeth | |
| bap: 22 May 1636 | | 15 Oct 1637 | | 31 Mar 1639 | | 11 Oct 1640 | |
| bur: | | | | | | 4 Aug 1642 | |
| | | | | | | 5 May 1644 | |
| | | | | | | | 19 Mar 1649 |

393

assuming both #2615 and #2616 were #2600's daughters, #2615 probably died before #2616 was born particularly since the space between the two births was short which happened more often when the first infant did not survive

It is suggested that this William, whose father and brother were called Lawrence, was the father of Lawrence and William. The other William having children slightly later (#1263, see page f.35) was rather young to have children as early as this.

Ann, shown above as William's daughter by a second marriage, is one of eight children of William Frenche born between 1615 and 1627. Ann and Robert, baptised 26 August 1621 cannot both be the children of the same mother and assuming Ann to belong to a different family makes the intervals between the other children the most reasonable.

William's son Lawrence could be the Lawrence Frenche who had the "[tenure or occupation](#)" of the meadow field at Godden Green owned by Andrew Porter of Hall in 1646. This field was "[bounden upon the lands of Mr. Oliver west and north, and to the lane south and east](#)"

A Later William Frenche of Godden

There was also a William Frenche of Godden who married on 26th April 1582 and was therefore probably born in the late 1550s. As suggested above, he could have

been an elder son of John Frenche of Godden (#88), grandson of William, the testator of 1563.

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| #1041 William - Eileen Matram #1042 | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | | | |
| #1184 | #1263 | #3824 | #3825 | #1824 | | | |
| Alice | William - | John | Clemence ³⁹⁴ | Robert | | | |
| bap: 24 Feb 1583 | 24 May 1584 | 20 Aug 1589 | 10 Nov 1597 | 14 Jul 1594 | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | | | |
| #2591 | #2592 | #2593 | #2595 | #2629 | #2596 | #2597 | #2598 |
| Elizabeth | John | Dorothy - | Robert ³⁹⁵ - | Frances | Elizabeth | Anna | Marie |
| bap: 14 May 1615 | 29 Sep 1617 | 8 Aug 1619 | 26 Aug 1621 | | 17 Nov 1623 | 9 Oct 1625 | 12 Aug 1627 |
| bur: | | | | | 1 Jul 1643 | | |
| | | | | | aged 19 | | |
| ----- | | | | | | | |
| | | #2620 | #2461 | #2633 | | | |
| | | Rebecca ³⁹⁶ | William | Jeremiah | | | |
| bap: | | 28 Nov 1642 | 16 Nov 1645 | 12 Mar 1648 | | | |

394 John and Clemence, children "of William Frenche" were baptised in Kemsing; they would "fit in" with this family

395 listed in the Knole Ms of 1648 for Godden and Fawke

396 "base daughter of Dorothy Frenche"; born when her mother was twenty-two

Children "of Robert Frenche"

The following children "of Robert Frenche" were baptised between 1614 and 1636. They have been allocated between two Roberts. #847 and #1636. #847 had four daughters alive in August 1638 when his wife's sister wrote her will. Francis died in April 1638 and therefore he was the father of the other four girls .

#1636, born in 1592, was fifteen years younger than #847 and it would be reasonable for him to have his first child in 1622.

| # | baptised | * | father | * | father | * |
|------------------|-------------|----|--------|----|--------|----|
| 2559 Ann | 25 Sep 1614 | | #847 | | | |
| 2560 Thomas | 25 Feb 1616 | 17 | #847 | 17 | | |
| 2095 Margaret | 29 Mar 1618 | 25 | #847 | 25 | | |
| 2561 Christopher | 5 Apr 1621 | 37 | #847 | 37 | | |
| 2562 John | 5 May 1622 | 13 | | | #1636 | |
| 2563 Francis | 6 Jun 1624 | 25 | #847 | 38 | | |
| 2569 Jeremy | 27 Jun 1624 | 12 | | | #1636 | 25 |
| 2564 Henry | 3 Jul 1627 | 37 | | | #1636 | 37 |
| 2570 Marie | 5 Aug 1627 | 1 | #847 | 38 | | |

| | | | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|----|-------|----|
| 2565 William | 28 Mar 1629 ³⁹⁷ | 19 | #1636 | 20 |
| 2566 Elisabeth | 27 Feb 1631 | 23 | #1636 | 23 |
| 2567 Elisabeth | 24 Mar 1633 | 25 | #847 | |

* months between baptisms of all children; children of #847; children of #1636

John Frenche, weaver and his Descendants

John Frenche, of Seal, weaver, mentions sons John and William, who were to eventually share all his lands, etc., and Jeremy and Peter who were each to have £3 6s 8d at the age of twenty-five. Jeremy was nearly fifteen and Peter nearly eight when their father died with John and William having been born before 1560 when records began. John was probably the John who had children in the 1580s (#1253) but William has not been identified. John also mentions a daughter, Elizabeth, who has not been otherwise identified; she was to receive 40s.

John's wife, Alice, was to have the profit of all his lands and tenements for six years after his death and the profit of half of them for the rest of her life. Alice was

³⁹⁷ died at a few days old

also to have the "use and occupation" of her husband's four looms "and all that belongs to them" for six years after his death. Then William was to have them paying each of his brothers 3s 4d..

On 15th September 1578, only five months after John wrote his will, Alice Frenche, widow, married **Thomas Homewood** (#996); no children were recorded for this marriage but Alice was probably in her late forties when John Frenche died, their older children having been born in the mid-1550s. Andrew Homewood, who could have been Thomas Homewood's son by a first marriage, was a tailor. Was Thomas attracted to Alice because of her inheritance of not only profit from land but also the use of the looms? He himself could have been a weaver.

Thomas, her second husband, was buried on 1st March 1587 but it is unlikely that Alice was the Alice Homewood buried on the 24th February 1621 since, by then, she would have been in her eighties (see **Homewood**). If this was John and William's mother, they had a long wait for their inheritance since there is no mention of Alice forfeiting the land, etc., if she remarried.

The Family of John Frenche, weaver

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <div> <div>#596 John - Alice #997</div> <div>21 Apr 1578 </div> </div> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| will: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div> <div>#1243 </div> <div>- John³⁹⁸</div> </div> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div> <div>#21</div> <div>- Elizabeth Carter</div> </div> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div> <div>#4216 </div> <div>Elizabeth</div> </div> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div> <div>#4217 </div> <div>William</div> </div> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div> <div>#90 </div> <div>Jeremy</div> </div> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div> <div>#483 </div> <div>Peter</div> </div> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div> <div>#10 Nov 1561</div> <div>6 Jun 1563 </div> <div>16 May 1570 </div> <div>see page f.40</div> <div>see page f.41</div> </div> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| bap: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| bur: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div> <div>#663 </div> <div>Dorothy</div> </div> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div> <div>#1253 </div> <div>John</div> </div> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div> <div>#1204</div> <div>Elizabeth³⁹⁹</div> </div> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div> <div>#1578 </div> <div>Dorothy</div> </div> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div> <div>#1636 </div> <div>Robert</div> </div> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div> <div>#1825 </div> <div>Elizabeth</div> </div> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div> <div>#1882 </div> <div>William</div> </div> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div> <div>#2571 </div> <div>John</div> </div> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div> <div>#2572 </div> <div>Jerimie⁴⁰⁰</div> </div> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div> <div>#2573 </div> <div>Thomas</div> </div> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div> <div>16 Jan 1584</div> <div>6 Jul 1589</div> <div>6 Feb 1592</div> <div>14 Jul 1594</div> <div>16 Mar 1597</div> <div>11 Apr 1600</div> <div>31 Jul 1603</div> <div>24 Dec 1608</div> </div> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| bap: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| bur: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div> <div>#2574 </div> <div>Mary</div> </div> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div> <div>#2575 </div> <div>Jone</div> </div> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div> <div>#2576 </div> <div>Jeremy</div> </div> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div> <div>#2577 </div> <div>William</div> </div> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div> <div>#2562 </div> <div>John</div> </div> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div> <div>#2569 </div> <div>Jeremy</div> </div> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div> <div>#2564 </div> <div>Henry</div> </div> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div> <div>#2565 </div> <div>William</div> </div> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div> <div>#2566 </div> <div>Marie</div> </div> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div> <div>29 Nov 1618</div> <div>31 Dec 1620</div> <div>23 Mar 1623</div> <div>11 Feb 1627</div> <div>5 May 1622</div> <div>27 Jun 1624</div> <div>2 Jul 1627</div> <div>4 Jul 1643</div> <div>28 Mar 1629</div> <div>27 Feb 1631</div> </div> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| bap: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| bur: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <div> <div>7 Oct 1638</div> <div>aged 20</div> <div>aged 16</div> </div> | | | | | | | | | | | |

398 John Frenche married Elizabeth Carter on 7th August 1587 (see **Carter**) but, since John, son of John, was baptised in 1584 and Dorothy who was buried in 1572 was "daughter of John Frenche, junior" it has been assumed that #1243 had first married in about 1570 implying he was born 1550 or earlier.

399 John married Elizabeth Gardener on 29th January 1618 when they were both thirty-four; Elizabeth would have been forty-three when William was born. Mary, who was born ten months after the marriage, was recorded as the daughter of John and Elizabeth (see **Gardener**).

400 daughter

Jeremy Frenche

“Jeremy”, the name of John and Alice’s third son was very unusual but two of his brother John’s grandsons were given the same name and it was even used, in a feminine form (Jeremie) for one of John’s daughters. Jeremy himself seems to have had only two daughters. The youngest, Margaret, married Thomas Chilmed on 29th August 1621 when she was twenty-six; no children recorded in Seal.

| | | | | |
|------|-------------|--------|------------|------------------------|
| | #90 | Jeremy | - | |
| bap: | 6 Jun 1563 | | | |
| | | | | |
| | ----- | | | |
| | #1624 | | #1844 | |
| | Elizabeth | | Margaret | - Thomas Chilmed #2075 |
| bap: | 29 Aug 1591 | | 3 Aug 1595 | |

Peter Frenche

John and Alice's fourth son also had a relatively unusual name - "Peter". He married twice, first when he was twenty-six and then at forty-eight. He had a total of five children, the eldest, also called Peter, was baptised in Kemsing. His youngest son was also called Peter but there was a gap of twenty years between the births of the two boys so that the eldest had probably left home before the birth of the youngest.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|---|-------------|--|------------|--|-------------|--|
| #1707 | | #483 | | #2605 | | | | | |
| Johane Carryer | - | Peter | - | Mary Helden | | | | | |
| bap: | | 16 May 1570 | | | | | | | |
| mar: | 28 Nov 1596 | | | 26 Apr 1618 | | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | |
| #3819 | | #2578 | | #2579 | | #3820 | | #2580 | |
| Peter | | Thomas | | Mildred | | Henry | | Peter | |
| bap: | 4 Jan 1601 | 5 Feb 1609 | | 5 Sep 1619 | | 9 Feb 1623 | | 20 Sep 1629 | |

A Peter Frenche was listed in the Knole manuscript of 1648; he was possibly one of #483's sons. A Peter Frenche had two children baptised, one in 1652 and the other in 1654.

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 This is the last will of me, John Frenche
3 of Seal in the county of Kent, **weaver**, as hereafter
4 followeth, the one and twentieth⁴⁰² day of April. **Item:** I give
5 to **Alice, my wife**, all the profit of my land and tenements
6 lying and being in Seal for six years paying to
7 **Elizabeth, my daughter**, forty shillings good and lawful
8 money of England within the said six year keeping
9 the reparations of my houses. And I give to Alice,
10 my wife, half the profits of all my lands and tenements
11 during her natural life. And I give to **John Frenche** and
12 **William Frenche, my two sons**, the profits of all the
13 other half, paying to **Jeremy Frenche, my son**, three
14 pounds six shillings eight pence at the age of five and
15 twenty years. And to **Peter Frenche, my son**, three

401 no year given but, since probate was obtained in July 1578, it was probably written in that year; no burial recorded

402 written xxi in original; the year is not readable from the original

16 pounds six shillings eight pence at the age of five and
17 twenty years. And if either of them do decease, the other
18 to be his heir. I give to John Frenche and William Frenche,
19 my two sons, all my land and tenements lying
20 and being in Seal after my wife's decease to them and
21 to their heirs forever. I give to William Frenche, my
22 son, four looms and all that belongs to them at the
23 six years end paying to John Frenche and Jeremy
24 Frenche and Peter Frenche, my three sons, three
25 shillings and four pence a piece. And I will that Alice,
26 my wife, shall have the use and occupation of my looms
27 for six years leaving them as good as they be now
28 at the making of my will. All the rest of my goods
29 and moveables, I give to Alice, my wife, whom I make
30 my sole executrix, paying my debts and legacies.

Witness: John Olyver, John Walker, John Gardiner.

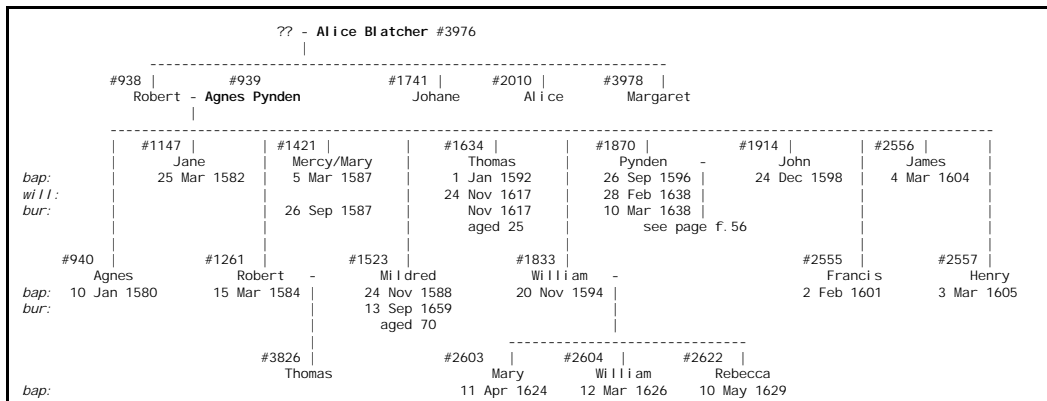
Robert Frenche and his Large Family

Robert Blatcher (#333) who wrote his will in 1563 had a sister, Alice, who married a Frenche (first name not known) and had four children all of whom were born before the parish records started (see **Blatcher**). Alice's son Robert could have been the Robert who married Agnes Pynden on 24th November 1578 and had twelve children.

William Pynden's daughter, Agnes, was baptised on 1st June 1564 so that, if she was Robert's wife, she was only fourteen when she married. Robert's wife was a very successful mother with only one of her twelve recorded children dying as an infant and, with that number born between 1580 and 1605, little time to have had any unrecorded children dying very young. All her sons were alive in 1617 since Thomas mentions each of his seven brothers in his will.

When Agnes's son Pynden Frenche (given her surname as his first name) wrote his will in 1638 he mentioned his late deceased grandmother Gillian Pynden. Gillian had a son, older than Agnes, baptised in 1561. If she had married, at twenty, in 1560, she would have been ninety-eight in 1638 so that it is most likely that she had died a number of years before Pynden Frenche wrote his will. Agnes's father, William, was murdered in Seal in 1590 and his will, in which he called his wife Juliana, has survived - see **Pynden**.

The Family of Robert and Agnes



Jane, the second daughter of Robert and Agnes, like her mother, married young being just under seventeen on 29th January 1599 when she married **John Godden of Ryarsh** (#1719). They had two children baptised in Seal - see **Godden** Mildred, their fourth daughter, married Andrew Porter (#827) sometime before 1611 and lived to be seventy - see **Godden and Porter in Families & Transcripts..**

Agnes, their eldest daughter, married Robert Ashdown (#2222) on 18th April 1602 in Shipbourne - see **Ashdown in More Families & Transcripts.**

On 4th May 1618, Agnes was appointed administrator of the estate of her husband, Robert Frenche who had presumably died in 1618 without writing a will (Duncan, A.C. Vol.20, p.11).

Thomas Frenche, died 1617

The Thomas whose will of 1617 has survived was Robert's sixth child and second son. He was only twenty-five yet his will, in which he classified himself as a yeoman, shows him owning land which was apparently capable of producing £25 a year clear profit. He mentions land "[sometimes purchased of John Goodhews](#)". Where did this wealth come from? He could hardly have had time to "make his fortune" but as the second son in a large family, how could he have inherited it at this early age? Did he benefit from a wealthy godfather or a relation on his mother's side?

His land was at Bitchet Green and Rooks Hill in the south east of the parish with Rooks Hill about three-quarters of a mile south west of the centre of Bitchet Green. This land and all the residue of his goods (after his legacies and debts had been paid and his body decently buried) he gave to his father whom he made his executor.

But the real work for an executor did not start until Robert and Agnes had died. After the decease of father Robert and mother Agnes, Robert the brother was to inherit all the lands and tenements but the six younger brothers were each to be paid "[fifty pounds good and lawful money of England](#)" by Robert or his son Thomas. The payment to the first brother was to be made within two years of the

decease of the parents, the next within four years and so on, every two years, to the other brothers. This was thus a twelve year commitment that Robert would inherit at some time in the future. Since Agnes was only fifty-three in 1617, this could have been some years later.

Thomas also divided his land into three portions with each of his six younger brothers being awarded a half of one portion should Robert default in the payment of any of the fifty pounds. Thomas lived in Bitchet House and it was here "[at the house, close or gate](#)" that £50 was to be paid to each of his brothers .

Thomas could not write but he put his mark on each of the four pages, the will being written by John Olyver, probably #1200 - see [Olyver](#).

Will of Thomas Frenche

written 24th November 1617

transcript from original

- 1 In the name of god Amen. The 24th day of November in the
- 2 year of our Lord God 1617 and in the 15th year of the reign
- 3 of our sovereign Lord King James of England, France and
- 4 Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. and of Scotland the fifty one.
- 5 I, Thomas Frenche of the parish of Seal in the county of

Kent, **yeoman**, being sick of body but of good and perfect remembrance (thanks be given unto Almighty God therefore) do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following:

First: I commend my soul to Almighty God, my creator hoping verily to be saved by his only merits, death and passion of his son Jesus Christ, my redeemer, and by body to be buried in the manner of Christians. **Imprimis:** I do give unto the poor that do resort unto my burial 20s. **Item:** I give unto **brother Francis Frenche** all my live? cattell. **Item:** I give unto **my loving father Robert Frenche** all the residue of my goods ?? to see my will performed and my legacies and debts paid and my body decently buried whom I make my full and sole executor.

Item: I give and bequeath unto **Misaell Ashdowne**⁴⁰³ the sum of five pounds of good and lawful money of England to be paid her at the age of 21 years by mine executor afore named.

Item: I give unto **Elizabeth Porter, daughter of Andrew Porter**⁴⁰⁴, the sum of 22s to be paid also by mine executor at the age of 21 years.

403 a Robert Frenche married a Mizaell Ashdown in 1647 (see page f.32) but that was thirty years after Thomas wrote his will. Was he hoping to have married this Misaell if he had not died?

404 Elizabeth was his niece, daughter of his sister Mildred

24 And as concerning the disposition of my lands and tenements
25 this is also the last will and testament of me, the said Thomas Frenche,
26 made and declared the day and year above written. **Item:** I will and
27 bequeath all my lands and tenements situated at **Bitchet Green** and **Rooks**
Hill⁴⁰⁵ in the
28 parish of Seal aforesaid during their natural lives of
29 my father, Robert Frenche, and **Agnes, my mother,**

page 2:

30 **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **my six brothers** vide licet:
31 to **my brother William** fifty pounds and unto **Pynden**
32 **Frenche** fifty pounds. To **John Frenche** fifty pounds,
33 to **Francis Frenche** fifty pounds, to **James Frenche**
34 fifty pounds. To **Henry Frenche** fifty pounds good and
35 lawful money of England to be paid unto them by **my brother**
36 **Robert Frenche and his son Thomas Frenche, my godchild,**
37 their executors, administrators or assigns, the first payment
38 to be paid within two years after the decease of my father
39 Robert Frenche and my mother Agnes Frenche at the house,
40 close or gate of me, the said Thomas Frenche, situated at
41 **Bitchet Green** in the parish aforesaid. **Item:** I will other fifty

42 pounds to be paid unto Pynden Frenche four years after
43 the decease of my father and mother in the place aforesaid.
44 **Item:** I will other fifty pounds to be paid unto my brother
45 John Frenche six years after the decease of my father
46 and mother in the place aforesaid. **Item:** I will other fifty
47 pounds to be paid unto my brother Francis Frenche eight
48 years after the decease of my father and mother in the place
49 aforesaid. **Item:** I will also unto my brother James Frenche fifty
50 pounds to be paid 10 years after the decease of my father
51 and mother in the place aforesaid. **Item:** I will unto Henry Frenche
52 fifty pounds to be paid to him twelve years after the decease
53 of my father and mother. **Item:** I will and devise unto my brother
54 Robert Frenche, after the decease of my father and mother, all my
55 lands and tenements situated at Bitchet Green and Rooks Hill
56 and all the lands belonging unto **Bitchet House** withall and singular
57 th'appurtenances during his natural life.

page 3:

58 And after the decease of my brother Robert Frenche,
59 I will and bequeath all my lands and tenements unto Thomas
60 Frenche, son of my brother Robert, my godchild, to him and
61 his heirs forever. Provided always that, if the said Robert,
62 my brother, or Thomas, his son, their executors, admini

63 strators or assigns, do make default of payment of fifty pounds
64 at the time due unto William Frenche as is before specified
65 contrary to the true meaning of this my last will and
66 testament, that it shalbe lawful to the said William Frenche
67 to enter upon **Culblowe**⁴⁰⁶ on moiety of all the same Culblowe
68 to him and his heirs forever. And also if the said Robert
69 my brother, and Thomas, his son, their heirs, executors admini
70 strators or assigns do make default of payment of fifty
71 pounds to Pynden Frenche before bequeathed at the time and place
aforesaid,
72 contrary to the true meaning of this my will, then I will
73 and devise the other moiety of the said Culblowe with th'appur
74 tenances, to the said Pynden, his heirs and assigns forever. Provided
75 always that if the said Robert, my brother, or Thomas, his
76 son, their heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, do make
77 default of payment of fifty pounds to John Frenche
78 before bequeathed at the time and place aforesaid, contrary
79 to the true meaning of this my will, then I will and devise to
80 the said John Frenche to enter upon the said lands, that is to
81 say **Hilles, Huttoles and Chattill Hills and Little Rookes,**

406 Coldblow?

82 sometimes purchased of **John Goodhews**⁴⁰⁷ and to take the one moiety
83 to the said John Frenche and his heirs forever. And also
84 if the said Robert and Thomas, his son, their heirs, execu
85 tors, administrators or assigns, do make default of payment
86 of fifty pounds to Francis Frenche before bequeathed at the
87 time and place aforesaid, contrary to the true meaning of this
88 my will, then I will and devise the other moiety of Hilles,
89 Huttoles an Chattill Hills and Little Rookes to the said Francis
90 and his heirs forever.

page 4:

91 Provided always that if the said Robert, my brother, and Thomas
92 his son, their heirs, executors, administrators or assigns,
93 do make default of payment of fifty pounds to James Frenche
94 before bequeathed at the time and place aforesaid, contrary to
95 the true meaning of this my will, then I will and devise to
96 the said James Frenche to enter upon my said lands and
97 meadows, that is to say, **Ashfield and Ashfield mead**, to take the one
98 moiety to the said James Frenche and his heirs forever.
99 And also if the said Robert and Thomas, his son, their

407 John Goodhews of Bitchet was buried on 5th October 1606 but Thomas presumably bought this land much more recently than 1606 when he would have been only fourteen

100 heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, do make
101 default of payment of fifty pounds to Henry
102 Frenche before bequeathed at the time and place aforesaid,
103 contrary to the true meaning of this my will
104 Then I will and devise the other moiety of the said Ashfield
105 and Ashfield mead to Henry Frenche and his heirs forever.
106 Provided always that my will and meaning ⁴⁰⁸ Agnes
107 ?? shall have either of them
108 five pounds to be paid unto them within one whole
109 year after the decease of my father Robert Frenche
110 and Agnes Frenche, my mother, to be paid by my brother
111 Robert Frenche and Thomas, his son, their heirs, executors,
112 administrators or assigns. This is the last will and testament
113 of me the said Thomas Frenche contained in four leaves
114 and to every leaf have set to my mark and to this last leaf
115 have set to my seal the day and year above written.

408 the original will is creased here so that part of this line and the next are unreadable; from the few words which can be deciphered it looks as if Thomas was leaving £5 to each of his sisters although only the name Agnes can be seen; the others were Jane and Mildred (see page f.45). ("either" was often used to mean "each" so that Thomas could have given all three names)

In witness whereof to this
my last will and testament
John Olyver, scriptor,
sign.

John X Christopher? Thomas Frenche

Pynden Frenche

Pynden was the eighth child and fourth son of Robert and Agnes. Baptised in 1596, he was only forty-three when he died. The eldest child recorded in the parish register is Judith, baptised, in Seal on in June 1620 but he had a son Thomas to whom he left just one shilling "[being the whole portion which I give unto him](#)". Thomas must have been older than Judith but he could have been only twenty at the most; obviously he had fallen out with his father. Pynden had five more sons baptised in Seal, three of whom were buried there and, since he only mentions his three daughters in his will, the other two most probably had also died.

Pynden's family is a stark contrast to that of his mother and father; whereas they had twelve children with eleven surviving to adulthood, of the ten born to Pynden and his wife Rebecca only four survived and of these the eldest was estranged from the family. Rebecca herself was buried a week after the youngest daughter was baptised. and Pynden appointed his eldest daughter, Judith, three months short of eighteen at that time, as his executrix.

At some time after his wife's death Pynden moved to Wrotham; he does not say where he wanted to be buried but his burial was recorded in Seal.

The Family of Pynden and Rebecca

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|--|-------------|--|-------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| #1870 Pynden - Rebecca #2581 | | | | | | | | | |
| bap: | 26 Sep 1596 | | | | | | | | |
| will: | 28 Feb 1638 | | | | | | | | |
| bur: | 10 Mar 1638 27 Nov 1631 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| ----- | | | | | | | | | |
| #4229 | | #2583 | | #2585 | | #2587 | | #2623 | |
| Thomas | | Robert | | Rebecca | | Isaac | | stillborn ⁴⁰⁹ | |
| bap: | | 18 Aug 1621 | | 20 Nov 1623 | | 27 Mar 1627 | | | |
| bur: | | 19 Aug 1621 | | | | | | 21 Jun 1630 | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| #2582 | | #2584 | | #2586 | | #2588 | | #2589 | |
| Judith | | Pynden | | John | | Samuel | | Elizabeth | |
| bap: | 11 Jun 1620 | 18 Aug 1622 | | 13 Mar 1625 | | 20 Aug 1629 | | 20 Nov 1631 | |
| bur: | | 15 Jan 1623 | | 18 Feb 1637 | | | | | |

From the land he owned Pynden was obviously a rich yeoman able to leave each of his three daughters, who at his death ranged from seventeen to six, a considerable amount each:

It could have been Pynden's daughter Rebecca who married William Cayson (\$1825), in Shipbourne, on 21st July 1642 when she would have been eighteen.

⁴⁰⁹ only ten months after baptism of Samuel

| | | |
|---------|---|--|
| Judith | Langley, 22 acres Linton 22 acres Heverham Stanstead | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mot⁴¹⁰, barn, other buildings, orchard, garden, arable and pasture - mot, barn, other buildings, lands arable, meadows and pasture⁴¹¹ - 2 annuities of £5 each⁴¹² - an annuity of £5 purchased by Pynden's grandmother for herself and her heirs |
| Rebecca | Rochester Brasted 5 acres | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £50 at age of twenty-one from land at Linton - 5 mots with several garden plots or backsides and the wharf and quay, crane, outhouses and storehouses, etc. - mot called Olyvers, orchard or garden plots and lands |

⁴¹⁰ messuage or tenement

⁴¹¹ to pay Rebecca, out of this land, £50 at the age of twenty-one

⁴¹² one of these annuities had originally been paid to Pynden's grandmother; it had subsequently been conveyed by deed to Pynden

| | | | |
|-----------|------|----------|--|
| Elizabeth | Seal | 42 acres | - mot, barn, stable, stall, other buildings, lands, arable, meadows, pasture and woods |
| | | | - 2 mots with garden plots, orchards or backsides |
| | Seal | ½ acre | - land lying three cornerwise ⁴¹³ |
| | Seal | | - lying to a highway leading from Lower Bitchett to Sowden and ditched on the east side which leads up to Dynes Wood |
| | Seal | 14 acres | - mot, barn, buildings, garden, orchard, arable and pasture |

These lands owned by Pynden were in a number of neighbouring parishes - Seal, Kemsing, Langley and Linton⁴¹⁴ but also in Rochester where the five messuages or tenements included a wharf, quay, crane, outhouses and storehouses.

There were also some complicated arrangements concerning sixteen acres in Kemsing (Horberry Field, Horberry Fieldham and Sharpes Grove) which were bequeathed to his brother Francis but the land had been mortgaged (possibly to Francis). There was also a two and a half acre meadow called Gallons next to the

413 a triangular piece of land? Pynden had "late entered upon" it and taken it "out of the possession of one widow Christopher" it having been "heretofore purchased . . . by William Pynden, deceased". William was Pynden's grandfather who had died in 1590. When Pynden wrote his will the land was sown with rye

414 Langley is about three miles south east of Maidstone and Linton three miles south of Maidstone

other three parcels which Pynden valued at £60 and Francis was also to have this as part of the arrangements concerning the mortgaged lands (will lines 115-136).

Will of Pynden Frenche of Wrotham

written 28th February 1637/8

transcript from probate copy

1 In the name of god Amen. The eight and
2 twentieth day of February in the thirteenth year of the reign of our
sovereign
3 Lord Charles, by the grace of God king of England, Scotland, France and
Ireland,
4 defender of the faith, etc. And in the year of our Lord Christ, according to
the
5 computation of the Church of England, one thousand six hundred thirty
and
6 seven. I, Pinden⁴¹⁵ Frenche of **Bearsted** in the parish of Wrotham in the
county of

415 spelled "Pinden" throughout the will although "Pynden" was more usual

7 Kent, **yeoman**, being at this time of sound and perfect mind and
remembrance
8 (thanks therefore be given to Almighty God) do make and ordain this my
9 testament and last will in manner and form following: **First** and principally
I yield
10 my soul to Almighty God that gave it with an assured hope of his gracious
11 acceptance thereof and of eternal salvation by and through the precious
death and
12 passion of his beloved son Jesus Christ, my saviour and redeemer. And my
body
13 to the earth in decent manner to be buried with like hope of a joyful
14 resurrection thereof unto life eternal. I will unto **Thomas, my son** (being
the
15 whole portion which I give unto him) one shilling to be paid by mine
executrix.
16 The residue and all other my goods, cattell, ready money, plate, debts,
household stuff
17 and chattels of what name, nature or kind soever, I will and give unto
Judith, my
18 **eldest daughter** whom I make and ordain the full and whole executrix of
this my
19 will to see the same proved and all my debts and legacies paid and
discharged and my

20 body to be well and decently brought to the earth and buried⁴¹⁶. This is
also the last
21 will and testament of me the said Pinden Frenche made and declared the
day and year
22 first above written touching the ordering and disposing of my lands and
tenements
23 hereafter herein mentioned. **First:** I will, devise and give unto the said
Judith, my
24 daughter, all that messuage or tenement and the barn and other buildings
and
25 the orchard, garden and all those lands arable and pasture grounds there
unto belonging
26 containing in the whole, by estimation, twenty and two acres (whether
more or less)
27 now in the tenure or occupation of **John Honey** or his assigns, situated,
lying and
28 being in the parish of **Boughton Musichilsey als. Quarries and Langley**⁴¹⁷
in the said

416 Judith was only seventeen when her father died

417 Laughingly is about three miles south east of Maidstone with Boughton Mount and Boughton Grange about a mile to the west of it

29 county of Kent. To hold to her, the said Judith, her heirs and assigns,
forever.
30 **Item:** I will, give and devise unto the said Judith, my daughter, all that one
other

page 2:

31 messuage or tenement and the barn and all other buildings thereunto
belonging and those
32 lands arable, meadows and pasture there unto likewise belonging
containing by
33 estimation, twenty and two acres, whether more or less, now in the tenure
or occupation
34 of **Martin Starthop** or his assigns, situated, lying and being in the parish of
Linton
35 in the said county of Kent. To hold to her, the said Judith, her heirs and
assigns, forever.
36 Provided always, and my will and meaning is, that the said Judith, my
daughter, shall pay
37 or cause to be paid to **Rebecca, my daughter**, out of the said messuage or
tenement before
38 by me willed and given to the said Judith, now in the occupation of the
said Martin

39 Starthop or his assigns, and the lands and premises thereunto belonging,
the sum of
40 fifty pounds of lawful money of England at the age of twenty and one years
of the
41 said Rebecca. But if the said Rebecca, my daughter, shall happen to
decease before she shall
42 have attained her full age of twenty and one years and leaving no issue of
her body,
43 that then the said fifty pounds so to her by me willed as aforesaid and to be
paid as
44 aforesaid shalbe to the use of the said Judith, my daughter (anything in
this my will contained
45 to the contrary hereof notwithstanding). And if the said sum of fifty pounds
before by me
46 willed to the said Rebecca shall not be paid to her, or the heirs of her body
(if she shall
47 have any before her said age of twenty and one years) at her age aforesaid
or time appointed
48 for payment thereof according to this my will, that then I will that it shall
and may be
49 lawful to and for the said Rebecca, my daughter, and her heirs as aforesaid,
to enter into

50 and upon the said messuage or tenement, barn and buildings, and the said
lands
51 thereunto belonging before by me willed and given to the said Judith, my
daughter, in
52 th'occupation of the said Martin Starthop or his assigns and the same and
every or, any
53 part thereof, to hold, occupy, possess and enjoy and to receive and take the
rents, issues and
54 profits thereof until she, the said Rebecca, my daughter, or the heirs of her
body (if
55 she shall have any such before her said age of twenty and one years)
shalbe thereof,
56 and of every part and parcel thereof, fully satisfied, contented and paid
according
57 to the true meaning of this my will. **Item:** I will and give unto the said
Judith, my
58 daughter, all those two annuities of five pounds per annum a piece,
issuing, going and
59 yearly to be taken out of and in all those lands of **Thomas Hills** situated at
Everham
60 in the parish of **Kemsing** in the said county of Kent (one of which annuities
61 **William Hills and Thomas Hills** granted and conveyed to **Gillian Pinden**,
my late

62 **deceased grandmother** and was by her afterwards conveyed by deed to me
and mine heirs
63 forever. And the other of the said annuities, the said Thomas Hills granted
and conveyed
64 by fue to me and mine heirs forever). To hold the said annuities unto the
said Judith, my
65 daughter, her heirs and assigns forever in as large and ample manner and
with such
66 privileges⁴¹⁸, advantages and liberties as to the Gillian, my grandmother
and to me,
67 the said Pinden Frenche, is granted for default in payment of the same and
either of them.
68 **Item:** I will and give unto the said Judith, my daughter, one other annuity
of five pounds
69 and issuing, going and yearly to be taken out of and in all those the lands
of **Thomas**
70 **Scudder, the elder of Stansted**⁴¹⁹ in the said county of Kent, situated in
Stansted

418 "priviledges"

419 about 1½ miles north of Wrotham

71 aforesaid (which said annuity so to be issuing the said Gillian, my late
deceased
72 grandmother bought and purchased to her and her heirs of the said
Thomas Scudder and
73 was afterwards by her granted and conveyed to me and mine heirs forever).
To hold
74 to her the said Judith, my daughter, her heirs and assigns forever with like
advantages
75 privileges and liberties as to the said Gillian, my grandmother, and by her
to me are granted for non
76 payment thereof. **Item:** I will, give and devise unto the said Rebecca, my
daughter, all those five
77 messuages or tenements with the several garden plots or backsides
thereunto belonging.
78 And the wharf and quay⁴²⁰ and the crane, outhouses and storehouses and
all and singular
79 appurtenances thereunto belonging in the several tenancies or
occupations of **Mr. George Robinson,**
80 gent., or his assign or assigns, **Nathaniel Frank, carpenter, Elizabeth
Phillips** and

420 "key"

81 **Stephen King, baker** or their assigns, situated, lying and being within the
parish of **Saint**
82 **Nicholas within the City of Rochester.** And also all that one other
messuage or tenement

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83 commonly called **Olyvers** with the orchard or garden plots and lands
thereunto belonging
84 containing, by estimation, twenty roods of land⁴²¹, whether more or less,
now in the tenure
85 or occupation of **Christopher Knight, gent.** or his assigns, situated, lying
and being in
86 **Brasted**⁴²² in the said county of Kent. To hold the said messuages or
tenements, a
87 wharf, quay, crane with their and every of their appurtenances unto the
said Rebecca,
88 my daughter, her heirs and assigns forever. **Item:** I give, will and devise
unto **Elizabeth,**

421 five acres (1 rood = 1/4 acre)

422 3 miles west of Sevenoaks

89 **my youngest daughter**, all that messuage or tenement, barn, stable, stall
and all
90 other buildings and all those lands, arable, meadows, pasture and woods
containing, by
91 estimation, forty and two acres whether more or less, situated, lying and
being in
92 the parish of **Seal** in the said county of Kent and now in the tenure or
occupation of
93 **Francis Hills** or his assigns. And also all those two other messuages or
tenements
94 now in the several tenures or occupations of **William Baker and Thomas
Ovenden**
95 with the several garden plots, orchards or backsides to them, and either of
them,
96 belonging. To hold the said messuages or tenements, barns, land and
premises with
97 their and every of their appurtenances unto the said Elizabeth, my
daughter, her heirs
98 and assigns forever. **Item:** I give and devise unto the said Elizabeth, my
daughter, all that
99 piece or parcel of land lying three cornerwise which I late entered upon
and took out of the

100 possession of one **widow Christopher** being now sown with rye, situated,
lying and
101 being in Seal aforesaid heretofore purchased of one **Christopher Allen** by
William
102 **Pynden**, deceased. And also one other piece or parcel of land containing,
by estimation,
103 one half acre, whether more or less, lying to a certain highway leading from
Lower
104 **Bitchett** to **Sowden** and ditched on the east side thereof which leads up to
Dynes Wood
105 situated, lying and being in Seal aforesaid. To hold all the said two parcels
of land with
106 their appurtenances unto the said Elizabeth, my daughter, her heirs and
assigns forever.
107 **Item:** I give, will and devise unto the said Elizabeth, my daughter, all that
messuage or tenement
108 wherein **Stephen Millgo** now dwelleth with the barn, buildings and the
garden,
109 orchard and all those lands arable and pasture ground thereunto
belonging, containing, by
110 estimation, fourteen acres, whether more or less, situated, lying and being
in Seal

111 aforesaid. To hold to her, the said Elizabeth, my daughter and her heirs
and assigns forever.

112 **Item:** Whereas I, the said Pinden Frenche, by mine indenture of the nature
of a mortgage

113 did heretofore bargain and sell, grant, enfeoffe and confirm unto **Francis**
Frenche, my

114 **brother,** all those three parcels of land with th'appurtenances called
Horberry Field,

115 **Horberry Fieldham and Sharpes Grove,** containing, by estimation, sixteen
acres situated,

116 lying and being in **Kemsing** in the said county of Kent, to hold to the said
Francis, my brother,

117 his heirs and assigns forever, to have been redeemable, nevertheless I, the
said Pinden

118 Frenche, mine executors, administrators or assigns had paid to the said
Francis Frenche, his

119 executors or assigns, the sum of one hundred and threescore pounds upon
a certain day

120 mentioned for the redemption thereof in the said indenture already past.
And whereas,

121 notwithstanding that the said lands so sold and forfeited are in value worth
forty

122 pounds more than the said sum of one hundred and threescore pounds.
And whereas I,
123 the said Pinden, do owe more unto the said Francis, my brother, by
speciality and otherwise,
124 the sum of one hundred and ten pounds and upwards for and in
consideration therefore
125 that the said Francis, my brother, shall and will consent to set off one
hundred pounds
126 parcel of the said sum of one hundred and ten pounds for to him by me
owing as
127 aforesaid, I do by this my will grant and release to him, the said Francis,
my brother,
128 his heirs and assigns, all the said lands called Horberry Field, Horberry
Fieldham and
129 Sharpes Grove with their appurtenances and all my right title, condition,
claim and
130 demand whatsoever of and in to the same and every part thereof. And
further I will
131 and devise unto the said Francis Frenche, my brother, for the consideration
aforesaid, all that
132 parcel of meadow commonly called **Gallons** which I value to be worth
threescore pounds

133 adjoining to the said three parcels called Horberry Field, Horberry Fieldham
and
134 Sharpes Grove or to some or one of them, containing, by estimation, two
acres and one

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135 half acre lying in Kemsing aforesaid. To hold to him the said Francis, my
brother,
136 his heirs and assigns forever. But if the said Francis, my brother, shall not
neither will
137 accept hereof, then I wholly give, will and devise the said parcel of
meadow called Gallons
138 with th'appurtenances unto the said Judith, my eldest daughter, her heirs
and assigns forever.
139 together with all my power and condition of redemption of the said parcels
of land
140 called Horberry Field, Horberry Fieldham and Sharpes Grove with their
appurtenances.
141 To be to the use of the said Judith, my daughter, her heirs and assigns
forever. In
142 witness whereof I, the said Pinden Frenche, have to this my testament and
last will,

143 contained in six sheets of paper to every one of them subscribed my hand
and
144 have hereunto annexed my seal, the day and year first before written.
Pinden
145 Frenche. Sealed, published and declared by the said Pinden Frenche to be
his testament
146 and last will the day of the date within written in the presence of **Thomas**
Flower.
147 The mark of **Bartholomew Ewill.** **George Hooper.**

Assessments for a Subsidy, 1628

In 1628, there was an Assessment for a Subsidy Granted to Charles I and the original parochial lay subsidy assessment for 1628 has survived⁴²³; this includes five Frenches for Seal:

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|------|-------|-------|-----|--------|
| James Frenche | land | £1 | goods | 4s | (£0.2) |
| John Frenche | | £2 | | 8s | (£0.4) |
| Robert Frenche | | £4 | | 12s | (£0.6) |
| William Frenche | | £2 | | 8s | (£0.4) |
| Pynden Frenche | | £3.50 | | 14s | (£0.7) |

For comparison, out of a total of twenty in Seal, four men were assessed for £5 for land and £1 for goods. These five Frenches could all have been brothers of the Thomas who wrote his will in 1617 (see page f.45) although John and William were very common names.

1 In the name of god Amen. I, Cicely Fuller of Shorne,
2 being sick in body but of perfect memory, thanks be unto
3 God, do make and ordain this my last will and testament:
4 **First:** I commend my soul unto Almighty God, my
5 maker and redeemer and my body to be buried in the
6 churchyard of Shorne aforesaid. **Item:** I give unto
7 **my nephew Nicholas Gillett** 20s to be paid unto him
8 within two months after my death. **Item:** I give unto
9 **my niece Mary Anderson** 10s to be paid within two
10 months after my death. **Item:** I give to **my nephew**
11 **John Fuller** five pounds to be paid as aforesaid. The
12 rest of my goods and chattels, my debts being paid, my
13 funeral expenses and all other necessary charges of my
14 executor being deducted, I give to be divided be equal
15 shares, amongst **my four children, Giles Fuller, Katherine**
16 **Hayle, Susan Anderson and Francis Browne** within three
17 months after my death. And if it shall chance that any
18 of my said children shall die with these three months,
19 my will is that the surviving child or children of me, the

20 said party, deceased, shall enjoy the share which was
21 to be paid to my said child. And I do make and
22 ordain my son Giles Fuller the sole executor
23 of this my last will and testament dated the seventh
24 day of April in the year of our Lord God
25 1640. the mark of Cicely Fuller. ??
26 and subscribed in the presence of **Richard Balum,**
27 **Zacharie Turker,** the mark of **Elizabeth Davis.**

No Richard Fynne was recorded in Seal but he could have died before the parish records were kept.

1 The copy of the last will and
2 testament of Richard Fynne, sometime of
3 Seal in the County of Kent and with
4 in the **diocese of Rochester**,
5 when the said Richard was appointed to
6 go to **Newhaven in Normandy** as followeth:
7 In dei. note Amen: I, Richard Fynne of the parish
8 of Seal within the county abovesaid,
9 being as well in health and body as also sound
10 of mind, in the year of our lord god 1563, the
11 14th day of August and in the fifth year of
12 reign of our sovereign lady queen Elizabeth
13 that now is, Do make this last will and
14 testament in manner and form following: **First:**
15 I give and bequeath my house, standing and
16 situated in Seal aforesaid, which I purchased

17 of one, **Hendry Moster**⁴²⁴, and the ?? thereof
18 delivered unto me by virtue of a letter of
19 attorney, made and delivered unto **Richard**
20 **Chro--chely**, sometime of **Sevenoaks**, unto
21 **John Abridge** and **Alice Abridge** and to
22 their heirs forever, the **son and daughter**
23 of one **Randoll Abridge**. **Item:** I bequeath unto
24 **John Harman**, the son of **John Harman**⁴²⁵
25 of **Seal**, a teg⁴²⁶ sheep. **Item:** I give unto
26 **John Johnson**⁴²⁷ of **Seal** a teg sheep. **Item:**
27 I give a tegge sheep unto Lawrence? **Atherfold** and
28 unto **G--st Denman**⁴²⁸ a tegge sheep and
29 unto **Catherine Baylie** a tegge sheep. **Item:**
30 The (bequeathed?) five tegge sheep and three more

424 although there were Masters in Seal no Henry was recorded but, if he moved from Seal in the early 1560s when he sold his house, he would not appear in the parish records.

425 there was a John Harman (#102) having children in Seal in the 1560s.

426 teg - a sheep in its second year or from the time it is weaned till its first shearing; a yearling sheep

427 although some Johnsons were recorded in Seal, not a **John** Johnson

428 there were both Atherfolds and Denmans in Seal

31 were, at the making of this his last will,
32 in the custody of **John Gardener**⁴²⁹ and
33 **John Ac--**⁴³⁰ of the parish of **Kemsing** with
34 in the county and Dioc. above written.
35 The rest of my goods and moveables unbequeathed,
36 I give unto the poor according to the
37 appointment of my executors and I do ordain
38 and make **Lawrence Atherfold**⁴³¹ and **John**
39 **Denman of Seal** abovesaid my executors
40 of this my last will and testament. I do
41 bequeath unto each of them 10s towards
42 their pains. witnesses of this will and

429 this was presumably an earlier John Gardener than those recorded in the parish register

430 John Akourt of Kemsing (k236) had children in the 1560s

431 (#449) had children in the 1560s and died in 1602

43 testament: Richard Tebold, gent.
44 Gilbert Genyng, clerk⁴³²
45 John Wakelyn, John Harman⁴³³

432 Richard Tebold (#352), son of John Tebold of Seal, who died in 1570; Gilbert Jenyns (#15), vicar of Seal 1561 to 1602, he probably wrote the will

433 John Wakelyn (#94) had children in 1562 to 1582; John Harman (#102) in the 1560s