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There were Gardners in Ightham and Seal but no connection with Penshurst is apparent. In Margaret's will there is nothing to say whether or not she was married or a widow but no children are mentioned.

- **First:** I do willingly and with a free heart render and give again into
- the hands of my Lord God and creator the spirit which he, of his fatherly goodness, gave me
- when, as he first fashioned me in my mother's womb, making me living and a reasonable
- creature, nothing doubting but for his mercies and the merits of my saviour and only
- redeemer, Jesus Christ, after my departure out of this vale of misery to be made partaker
- of life everlasting. And, as concerning my body, with a good will and free heart, I give it
- over commending it to the earth whereof it was at the first made, nothing doubting but,
- according to the Article of my faith at the great day of the general resurrection when

- we shall all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, I shall receive the same again by
- the mighty power of God, not a corruptible mortal, weak and vile body as it is now
- but an uncorruptible, immortal, strong and perfect body in all points like the body of my
- Lord and only saviour, Christ Jesus. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto the poor of the parish
- where I shall fortune to depart this life 20s

Witnesses: John Jessop; Jasper Jessup the younger; Robert Sapper.

John and Alice Geston of Seal

The wills of John and his widow Alice have survived:

John Geston	2 Jul 1553	CKS: Drb/Pwr 12.401; Drb/Pw 7	page g.6
Alice Geston	13 Jul 1562	CKS: 13.204; 8	page g.8

John and Alice do not appear to have had any children - at least, not any that survived. Alice Geston, widow, was buried on 5th February 1565 and, since his will was not proved until 1560, John could also have lived some time after writing his will.

Both Gilbert Jenyns, vicar of Seal, and John Hooper witnessed Alice's will which looks, from the writing, to have been written by John Hooper who wrote other wills in Seal at this time. See, in particular, the will of **John Smalham** which contains a paragraph at the end regarding probate written by Jenyns whilst the will itself is in a different hand, probably Hooper's, which is similar to that of this will.

1 In the name of god Amen I, **John**
2 **Geston of Seal** in the County of Kent
3 **husbandman**, being whole of mind and in
4 good remembrance, thanked be god, make
5 and declare this my present testament
6 and last will the second day of July
7 in the year of our lord god 1553 in
8 manner and form following: **First** I bequeath
9 my soul to Almighty god, my maker and
10 Redeemer And my body to be buried in the
11 churchyard of Seal aforesaid in the
12 county aforesaid. Also I bequeath all my
13 moveable goods to **Alice, my wife**, whom I
14 make, constitute and ordain to this my
15 testament and last will, my sole executrix
16 to dispose for my soul and all Christian
17 souls as she pleaseth.

18 This is the last will of me the said John

19 Geston made the day and year abovesaid as
20 concerning my lands and tenements
21 lying and being in the parish of Seal in
22 the county aforesaid. **First** I will and
23 bequeath to the foresaid Alice, my wife,
24 after my decease, my messuage that I
25 now dwell in Seal aforesaid, two
26 orchards and two crofts of land
27 together lying containing, by estimation,
28 five acres of land and -- appurtenances
29 to have and to hold to her
30 assigns forever. In witness to this my
31 testament and last will: **Robert Watts**
32 **Richard ? Richard Edward Frer? and Robert Croft (Scott?)**

1 In the name of god Amen, the
2 13th day of July in the year of our lord
3 god 1562, I, **Alice Geston**, of Seal
4 in the County of Kent, widow, being
5 sick and weak of body but yet good and
6 perfect of mind and memory, lauded therefore
7 be god Almighty, do ordain and make
8 this my last will and testament in manner
9 and form following¹: viz. **First** and principally
10 I give and bequeath unto Almighty
11 god, my saviour and Redeemer, Jesus Christ
12 and my body to be buried in the
13 churchyard of Seal aforesaid. **Item** to the
14 common box to the relief of the poor
15 of the parish of Seal aforesaid 6s 8d
16 **Item** I give and bequeath unto **Alice**
17 **Philipp**, my late servant, 20s. **Item**: to

1 "folowing" in original

18 **Marrion, my poor child and orphan**
19 20s. **Item:** to **Agnes Webb, widow**², 6s 8d.
20 **Item:**³ I give to **Henry Whitched, my cousin,**
21 20s. **Item:** I give and bequeath to every
22 of my **godchildren** coming and (begging?)
23 the same of mine executor, the
24 sum of 4d. The residue of all
25 my goods and chattels⁴ I give and bequeath
26 to the relief of the poor to be godly
27 distributed by the discretion of mine
28 executors and overseers. And I do
29 constitute, ordain and make my
30 wellbeloved in Christ, **Andrew**
31 **Porter**⁵ and **William Watt,** to be mine
32 executors of this my present testament

2 possibly the Agnes Webb, widow, (#651) who died in 1571

3 from here to "the sum of 4d" was inserted in the original

4 "Cattalls" in the original

5 Andrew Porter of Hall (#303); he was added and "his pains" below changed to "their pains"; initially the sentence below starting "I do desire also" continued "my wellbeloved friend Andrew Porter to be overseer . . . to be assistant . . . my said executor"

33 and last will to whom for their pains
34 taking in that behalf over and before
35 their charges and expenses therein had.
36 I give and bequeath (blank). And I do
37 desire also and heartily require my
38 said executors to make a godly distribution
39 of my said goods to the use, relief
40 and on behalf of the poor as above
41 is said. In witness whereof, I the said
42 Alice to this my present
43 testament and last will have set
44 my seal in the presence of **Gilbert**
45 **Jenyns, clerk**, vicar of Seal aforesaid,
46 **William Warren⁶, William Dalton,**
47 **Robert Crower, Anthony Weke**
48 **Richard Warren and John Hooper** with others.

6 perhaps the "old William Warren" (#1961) who died in 1593

This will was written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a large number of wills between 1578 and 1618¹. The will starts by giving the date as 2nd June 1587 but was not signed until 4th June. Presumably Nicholas Hooper took instructions for the will on 2nd June but, when he returned two days later, he found that Thomas had changed his mind about making his two nephews the executors of his will. In the final version he left £8 to be divided between them and appoints his master, John Rolfe, as his executor. He also adds the proviso that if there is not enough money to pay all his legacies, including forty shillings to John Rolfe, then his two nephews are to be the ones to go short. Thomas Gibson was buried on 5th June 1587. See [John Rolfe in Families & Transcripts](#) for the will of John Rolfe who could have been Thomas Gibson's master.

Two unusual bequests are twenty shillings to the reparations of the Tonbridge church and ten shillings to be divided equally between his fellow servants "[as well men as women, in house](#)".

1

Although Nicholas Hooper usually included decorative lettering in the wills he wrote, this one is not decorated at all. Hooper in Nicholas's signature is shortened to "Hop" with the "p" looking like the abbreviated form of "per". This is most unusual but the writing is that of Nicholas Hooper.

2 lord god 1587. And in the nine and twenty year of the reign of our
3 Sovereign, Lady Queen Elizabeth, etc.I, Thomas Gibson of
4 Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **servant** to **John Rolfe, innholder**,
5 being⁷ sore bruised and visited by the hands of god and thereby in
6 danger of death, therefore do ordain and make this my present
7 testament and last will in manner and form following⁸. And **First** and
principally
8 I give, commend and bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty
9 god, my maker, and to his only son, my redeemer, by whose merits,
10 precious death and blood shedding⁹, I trust to be saved and my
11 body to the earth from whence it came. **Item:** I will there
12 shalbe be bestowed upon the poorest people within the parish of
13 Tonbridge aforesaid, forty shillings to be paid within one
14 whole year next after my decease by my said master, John Rolfe
15 at such time within the year as he shall think best. **Item:**
16 I will and give to **Martin Rolfe, his son**, 20s. **Item:** I will
17 to **his other three children, viz: Thomas, Anne and Margery**, to

7 "being", "bee", etc. throughout which is usual with Nicholas Hooper

8 "folowing"

9 "bludshedding"

18 either of them 10s a piece. **Item:** I will to (be) employed towards
19 and upon the reparations of the Church of Tonbridge aforesaid
20 twenty shillings. **Item:** I give equally between my fellows,
21 as well men as women, in house, 10s between them equally to be divided.
22 All which sum of £6 I will shalbe paid by said master within one
23 whole year as is aforesaid at such time as he shall think best.
24 **Item:** I give to **mother Arnold** 2s which **Lether** oweth me.
25 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my goddaughter, Amy Davies**, £3
26 within two years next after my decease.¹⁰

- **Item:** I will and give to **my good neighbour** and
- **trusty friend, wife Harris**, the elder,
- as a token of my good will and in part
- of recompense and towards her
- pains 10s.
- **Item:** I will and give to **my brother John Gibson's two sons**, the

10 There are then nine lines which were crossed out: "The residue of all my goods whatsoever I will and give to **John and William Gibson, sons of my brother John**, to be paid to them out of the debts owed me ?? ?? within three years next after my decease, which two sons I make my executors. Provided always that they, or one of them, discharge and satisfy all such charges and duties whatsoever which shalbe laid out and owing or spent in this my extremity. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year first above written in the presence of **Cuthbert Allen, William Day, Martin Rolfe and of me Nicholas Hooper**, writer hereof and others". This page has Thomas Gibson's mark at the bottom. Presumably when these lines were crossed out, the next item added on the same page and a second page added.

- sum of eight pounds lawful money to be paid them equally
- between them within three whole years next after my decease.
- The residue of all my goods whatsoever I will and give to John
- Rolf, aforesaid, my loving and good master, which John Rolfe I make
- and ordain my whole and sole executor. Provided always
- that if there be not remaining in the hands of the said
- John Rolfe of the debt which he oweth me the sum of forty
- shillings over and above all the sums of money before by me
- willed and over and above all such expenses and charge as my said
- executor
- shalbe at any kind of way, then I will that my said brother's
- two sons shall want so much of the portion to them willed
- besides the said 40s for my mind is always that my said master
- shall have 40s towards a recompense of his good will. **Item:** I
- will to **Father Cripps** my old doublet and old coat and one
- old pair of hose.

- This was written, read, published and acknowledged
- by the testator the 4th of June Anno ?? and the executors . . in
- the presence of **Richard Cron?**, **George Gatfield**
- **Thomas Chambeck** and **Nicholas Hooper** with others.

The Gislings of Seal

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Di ed
#855	<u>GI SLING, Edward</u> ----- 		18 Jun 1620	Cl emence Hills see Hills of Seal	1	5	
#1886	<u>Hills, Cl emence</u> -----	23 Mar 1597			1	5	
			married at 23				
			Edward Gising was listed in the Knole MS of 1648 for Chart				
!	#2746 <u>GI SLING, William</u>	22 Feb 1624	9 Apr 1648	Alice Ireland	1	3	
			married at 24	#2751			
!	! #2752 <u>GI SLING, William</u>	27 May 1649					0 0
!	! #2753 <u>Gi sli ng, Alice</u>	6 Jul 1651					0 0
!	! #2754 <u>GI SLING, Edward</u>	25 Jan 1653					0 0
		WITTIam, Alice and Edward all recorded as children of "William and Alice"					
!	#2747 <u>Gi sli ng, Ann</u>	13 Dec 1629			0	0	18 Nov 1638 age 11
!	#2748 <u>GI SLING, Thomas</u>	14 Jul 1633			0	0	23 Nov 1638 age 5
		Ann and Thomas died wi thi n a week of each other					
!	#2749 <u>Gi sli ng, Frances</u>	8 Mar 1637			0	0	
!	#2750 <u>Gi sli ng, Susanna</u>	29 Jan 1643			0	0	

Alice Gising, widow, (#3632) married John Overy (#2903) on 23rd November 1648 a fortnight before Alice Ireland married WilliamGising.

At the March 1642 Assizes, three **bakers, William Gising** of Seal (#4357) and James Maynard and John Shippe of West Malling were indicted for selling underweight loaves on 1st March 1642. Five years later, in March 1647, a writ was issued against William Gising¹¹. Edward's son was only eighteen in 1642 and is thus unlikely to have been the baker.

11 Cockburn (Char. I); 2075, 2411

The Goddens of Seal and Ryarsh

Three families of Goddens were recorded in Seal, those of Robert (#245), John of Ryarsh (#1719) and Thomas (#3120). John from Ryarsh appears to have settled in Seal after marrying Jane from the large Frenche family of Seal just before 1600. Ryarsh is a parish about seven miles east of Seal. There are many unsolved problems regarding the Godden family and perhaps investigation of the Godden wills from Ryarsh might solve some of these.

The Ryarsh Wills

Five wills for Goddens of Ryarsh have survived and another four which mention Ryarsh: none of them have been investigated.

(abbreviations: d - dated; p - proved; w.p.b. - will proved by)

Walter Godden (Goden)	Leybourne; Addington; Offham; Ryarsh	1508d CKS: Drb/Pwr 6.202
William Godden	Trottscliffe; Ryarsh	1515d;1522p CKS: Drb/Pwr 7.251
John Godden	Ryarsh; Addington	1546p CKS: Drb/Pwr 10.192; Drb/Pw 3

John Godden (senior), yeoman	Trottiscliffe; Addington; Ryarsh	1548p	CKS: Drb/Pwr 9.49
John Godden (senior), yeoman buried Trottiscliffe	Addington; Ryarsh	1559d; 1560p	CKS: Drb/Pwr 12.395; Drb/Pw 7
Thomas Godden, yeoman	Ryarsh	1608p	CKS: Drb/Pw 21
Walter Godden w.p.b. Stephen Tomlyn	Ryarsh	1637	PCC: Goare 92
Frances Godden, widow	Ryarsh	1638p	CKS: Drb/Pwr 22.281
Edward Godden w.p.b. brother Thomas	Ryarsh	1640	PCC: Coventry 134

Robert Godden's Family

On 25th October 1563 Robert Godden married Johane Goodhews who died in 1578. Then, on 24th May 1579, he married Elizabeth Tebold who had also been married before and had had two children, the first of who died in 1576 and the second a year after she married Robert. See [Goodhew](#) and [Tebold](#) for more details.

	#246	#245	#272	#273	
	Johane Goodhews -	Robert -	Elizabeth Tebold ¹¹ -	Cirrac Ruse	
<i>bur:</i>	17 Jul 1578				
	-----			-----	
	#131	#380	#528	#14	#1171
	Susan	Margaret	Sara	Clemence	Katherine
<i>bap:</i>	18 Jul 1564	18 Feb 1567	25 Apr 1572	14 Feb 1574	
<i>bur:</i>		25 Jan 1580		21 May 1576	27 Jul 1580
	-----			-----	
	#1088	#1146	#1198	#4070	#2888
	Robert	John ¹²	Thomas	Clemence	Bennet ¹³
<i>bap:</i>	24 Aug 1580	25 Mar 1582	4 Aug 1583		

-
- 11 Elizabeth's mother Clemence mentioned her granddaughter Clemence Godden in her will of 1606 but did not include Elizabeth among the daughters to whom she made bequests. Thus Elizabeth probably died before 1606.
- 12 John was left £20 by his uncle, **Steven Tebold (#312) in 1619**; he was the only one of Elizabeth's children to be left anything by her brother. Was this because Robert and Thomas had died before 1619 or were they already established and so not in need of an inheritance?
- 13 Bennet Godden is known only from her marriage to **Richard Warren (#1311)** but she "fits in" to this family; no children were recorded in Seal. **Clemence Tebold** had many grandchildren only a few of whom were mentioned in her will so that the omission of Bennet does not preclude her from belonging to this family.

Other Seal Families

John Godden of Stone was buried in Seal on 11th June 1583; "Stone Street" is in the south east of the parish of Seal.

A John Godden was churchwarden of Seal at the end of the sixteenth century.

On 25th March 1582, John Godden of Ryarsh married Jane Frenche (#1147) when she was just under seventeen

	#1719 John - Jane Frenche #1147			
<i>bap:</i>	25 Mar 1582			

	#2492	#2322	#3131	#3125
	John	Mysaell	Margaret ¹⁴	Thomas ¹⁵
<i>bap:</i>	4 Mar 1600	12 Feb 1609		
<i>bur:</i>			15 Apr 1617	8 Jan 1632

14 recorded on burial as "daughter of John Godden"; was this #1719?

15 a Thomas Godden married **Elsabeth Hills (#3126)** on 9th October 1631; he could have been the son of John and Jane; alternatively #3120 (see page g.20) could have been their son. Or neither of them. A Thomas Godden was buried on 8th January 1632; this could not have been the Thomas married to Dorothy since their son Thomas, baptised in 1635 was the son of "Thomas and Dorothy Godden".

All the following children have been taken as being those of Thomas and Dorothy although the name of their mother was given only for Thomas in 1635. This means, however, that Thomas's father could not have been the Thomas buried in 1632. The marriage of Thomas Godden and Elizabeth Hills was in 1631 so that the children born before 1631 could not have been theirs.

#3120 Thomas - Dorothy #3121						

#3122	#3123	#3124	#3127	#3128	#3129	#3130
Jane	Ellen	Marie	infant	Mildred	Thomas	Anne
<i>bap:</i> 17 Apr 1626	4 Nov 1627	13 Aug 1630		8 Aug 1633	16 Apr 1635	20 Aug 1638
<i>bur:</i>			4 Jun 1632 ¹⁶	10 May 1634		27 Dec 1639

A Thomas Goding (Godden) was listed in the Knoke MS of 1648 for Godden and Fawke and, given the other assumptions, this would also have been #3120 in the tree above.

16 "son of Thomas Godden, stillborn"

John Godden, gentleman of Seal

The will of John Godden, gent. of Seal (**PCC: Swann 93**) has survived. It was written on 1st July 1622 but John was not buried until 27th May 1623.

John Godden, the testator, had three married sisters each with children but he gives only their married surnames none of which appear in the Seal parish register. He appointed as his executors Robert Godden of Maidstone and Thomas Everest, the elder, of Tonbridge and left money to the poor of Sevenoaks and Tonbridge as well as Seal. Thus he had connections over a wide area.

	#3134		#4436						
Robert of Maidstone -		John - Dorothy ??? -	Boules	???	-	Hollsmith	???	-	Scills/Hills
<i>will</i>		1 Jul 1622							
<i>bur:</i>		17 May 1623							
	John		children		children		children		

After various details concerning the executors, the will continues "I have given him, my brother, my gray gelding". Was Robert Godden of Maidstone John's brother?

John mentioned six children of Richard Porter: John (his godson), Richard, Elizabeth, Lawrence, James and Thamar. Thamar, James and John, children of

Richard Porter (#1155¹⁷ who married Ellen Kips in 1607) were baptised in Seal in 1610, 1618 and 1620 respectively. Lawrence, son of Richard and Hellen Porter was buried on 15th August 1637. This agreement of the names of four children would point to #1155 being the Richard Porter in John's will. However no daughter Elizabeth or son Richard were recorded. Richard could have been the eldest child with Elizabeth and Lawrence baptised elsewhere in the eight-year gap between Thamar and James.

John also had a godson John Godden, son of Robert Godden. This was likely to have been the son of Robert Godden of Maidstone rather than that of the Robert Godden of Seal (#1146) (see page 18), the only "[John, son of Robert](#)" recorded in Seal. The testator also had a goddaughter Sara, daughter of James Godden but no James Godden was recorded in Seal.

Although James Godden (\$1421¹⁸) married Dorothy Bennet (\$1420) in Shipbourne on 14th January 1627 this was too late for \$1421 to have been the father of Sara, mentioned by John Godden. James was the only Godden mentioned in the Shipbourne parish register but there were other Bennets..

17 # indicates a reference in the Seal database

18 \$ indicates a reference in the Shipbourne database

1 In the name of god Amen. I, John Godden of Seal in the
2 County of Kent, **gent.** being sick in body but of perfect memory, laud and
praise be
3 unto Almighty god, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in
4 manner and form following: **First:** I bequeath my soul to Almighty god, my
maker and unto
5 Jesus Christ, my redeemer and my body to be buried in the churchyard of
Seal aforesaid
6 or at the discretion of my executors and overseers. **First:** I will and
bequeath to **my wife,**
7 **Dorothy,** forty pounds and to **my godson, John Godden, son of Robert**
Godden, fifty pounds
8 to be paid them within six months after my death. To **my godson, Thomas**
Barton,

19 this date is given, as a heading to the probate copy, as the date was written; at the end the date of 4th May is given. Since John was not buried until 27th May, did he add the bequest to his brother and the last sentence (which is not readable) at this later date?

9 **son of Walter Barton**²⁰, one annuity of one pound, thirteen shillings and
four pence
10 and, if I do sell it, then thirty pounds to be paid to him within six months.
Also to my
11 sister **Boules** children five pounds, to my sister **Scills**²¹ children five pounds,
to my
12 sister **Hollsmith** children five pounds, to **my godson John Porter, son of**
Richard
13 **Porter**²², five pounds, to his other five children, **Richard, Lawrence, James,**
Elizabeth and
14 **Thamar** five pounds to be divided betwixt them but if any of these six die to
be divided
15 among the living. To **my goddaughter Ratclife, daughter to John Ratclife,**
five pounds, to my
16 **cousin, Elizabeth Ratclife,** twenty shillings if she be living. To **Parnell**
Overy, daughter of Richard

20 No Walter Barton was recorded in Seal but, in 1626, Anthony Barton of East Peckham appointed his brother Walter to be one of his executors. Since Thomas was a popular name in the Barton family, Walter could easily have had a son Thomas.

21 or Hills

22 Richard Porter (#1155) - see Porter in Families & Transcripts

17 **Overy**, ten pounds. To **Parnell Whitehead**²³, daughter to **Thomas**
18 **Whitehead**, ten pounds. To my
19 **goddaughter Sara Godden**, daughter of **James Godden**, five pounds. These
legacies to be paid within
20 a year. To the **minister of Seal**, for a sermon at my burial, forty shillings, to
the poor of Seal forty
21 shillings, to the poor of **Sevenoaks** twenty shillings. To the poor of
Tonbridge twenty shillings.
22 To be paid within ten days after my burial to my whole executors **Robert**
Godden of Maidstone
23 ten pounds, **Thomas Everest of Tonbridge, the elder**, ten pounds. To
Thomas Beckett and
24 **Thomas Rolleson**, my two fellows, my overseers, five pounds a piece. If any
of my two executors
25 do refuse to that which I have written as **Robert Godden of Maidstone**,
Thomas Everest of
Tonbridge the elder, then the other to give him a hundred pounds and to be
quit of it and have

26 no more to do in the matter more²⁴. I have given him, my brother, my gray
gelding. **Item:** the
27 ?? and wolling? be divided. By me, John Godden, the fourth of May.
Thomas Pesalleson.

24 this seems to imply that if one of them was not prepared to take on the work, the one who did do it was to pay the one who refused £100? If so, did the one who did the work expect to make more than £200 for doing it. Or did John mean that the one who did the work was to be given £100 by the one who had opted out?

I bequeath my soul unto Almighty god, my only saviour and redeemer and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Hadlow.

I bequeath to **Thomas Godfrey, my son**, my greatest chest . . . and my greatest spit.

Land lying in the parish of **Horstell Gaynes** in the county of Sussex (Horsted Keynes?)

- . . **F**irst and principally, and above all earthly things, I
- commend my soul into the hands of Almighty god, my creator,
- assuredly believing to have full and free remission of all my sins
- and iniquities by and through the merits, death and passion of my only
- saviour
- and redeemer, Jesus Christ. And by and through him so be made partaker
- of
- eternal happiness appointed for the elect in the kingdom of heaven. And
- my body I commit to the earth from whence it came in hope of a blessed
- resurrection at the latter day . . .
- sealed in the presence of **William Wonild, minister of Wilmington,**
the mark of **Martin Best MB²⁵**

John Goffe of Ightham

"The twins of Goffe" were buried together on 28th March 1587 followed three days later by "the wife of Goffe". This is a sad introduction to John Goffe who appeared a number of times in the Court Records.

At the Court held on 4th October 1586 **John Goffe** was found to "have come within the precincts of this View of Frank-pledge" by permission of **Robert Gardiner** but without having "found two good and sufficient sureties" for his good behaviour. Wherefore "it was ordered that he should produce sureties by the next Court or depart", subject to a fine of 6s 8d each. (CRI 1938, p.14)

John Goffe's wife would have already been pregnant when the Court was held so that, if Goffe was allowed to stay, the parish could be faced with the prospect of a poor woman and her child to support as well as Goffe himself. However, it appears that they remained in Ightham. Less than a month after the burial of John's wife and twin babies, on 27th April 1587, "**William Weston, gentleman, became surety for John Goffe, a stranger come within this View of Frank-pledge, that he will be of good behaviour towards our Lady the Queen and all her people and he [Weston] will answer to the View of Frank-pledge for the fines and ameracements imposed on the said John.**" (CRI 1938, p.14-15)

It does not look as if Goffe responded to the help offered by Weston although it is not clear what really happened later in the year when the Court held on 2nd October 1587 heard that "**Walter Gardiner** took certain cattle for distress and **John Goffe**, by force and arms made a riotous assault on the said Walter, he being in the peace of God and our Lady the Queen, and rescued the said cattle and snatched them from the custody of the said Walter, against the peace of our Lady the Queen. Fined for the rescue, 3s 4d." (CRI 1938, p.31)

The View dealt separately with the assault: "**Walter Gardiner and John Goffe** fought together and drew blood. Walter was fined 20d and John 3s 4d because the latter made the attack and gave first occasion for the fray." (CRI 1938, p.3)

It would appear that Gardiner took the cattle "for distress", that is because Goffe could not pay his debts, and that Goffe's rescuing of them led to their fighting. Nothing more was recorded of Goffe in Ightham.

John Goffe in Seal

In Seal, on 14th April 1587, a **John Goffe** (#1244) married **Julian Reden** (#1245). If this was the above John Goffe, he married only two weeks after the burial of his wife and twins. He and his new wife then returned to Ightham under the protection of William Weston.

- For as much as it is an unchangeable decree that
- everyone must die and after come to judgement, it behoveth every christian
- to live prepared having their account ready against the uncertain day
- when the messenger or Sommer? shall warn us to appear to give up the
- same. And this judgement must every one come under whether they have
- kept
- the law or not which, not being performed, is death forevermore. Therefor
- I, Dame Elizabeth Golding, widow, late wife of **Sir Thomas Golding**²⁶,
- knight, deceased, looking upon the law as in a glass, do in the same
- behold myself, a loathsome spectacle of all abomination, subject to death
- and condemnation for that god is a righteous judge and will judge
- everyone
- according to that they have done. But I know, as thou art a just judge
- so thou art a merciful father. And in thine incomprehensible wisdom hast

26 his will does not seem to have survived

- found a way both to satisfy thy judgement and yet to show for this thy mercy
-

witness: Roger Twysden who may have written the will; he wrote his own will in 1603 which shows many similarities regarding the beliefs given here

The Goodhews of Seal

The Goodhews were basically a Seal family; four wills have survived:

John Goodhew	#328 ²⁷	30 Oct 1542	probate	9 Apr 1543	Drb/Pwr 10.14	page g.36
Julian Goodhew	#4079	20 Oct 1545			Drb/Pwr 10.144	page g.40
John Goodhew	#4080	28 Apr 1563	buried	2 May 1563	Drb/Pwr 13.73	page g.42
George Goodhew	#4082	5 Feb 1556	probate	23 Sep 1556	Drb/Pwr 12.52; Drb/Pw 5	page g.52

One of the witnesses to the 1563 will was John Hooper who wrote a number of wills between 1558 and 1569 being the first of the will-writing Hoopers who continued until at least 1650

The Goodhew Testators

The John who died in 1542 emphasised the change in Henry VIII's position in the church as the result of the Reformation: "[our sovereign lord, Henry the eighth, by](#)

27

indicates a reference in the Seal database, \$ in the Shipbourne database

the grace of god, king of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the faith and, in the earth, supreme head here next immediately under god of the church of England and Ireland".

Julian was #328's widow and the testators, George and John, were two of their sons. George, although married, does not appear to have had any children (or at least not any alive in 1556). John and Johane had five children, all underage when their father died in 1563 with the sons, at least, under fourteen. But their daughters could have been:

- the Elizabeth who married Lawrence Porter in 1570 and had nine children
- the Johane who married Robert Hubble in Seal on 1st June 1577; their daughter, Mildred, was baptised in Shipbourne
- the Mildred who married Timothy Swan in 1579 in Shipbourne where six children of Timothy and Mildred Swan were recorded

(see [Porter and Swan](#)).

John, the testator of 1563, had a brother Richard and a son Richard. There was a Richard Goodhews who had a son, Richard (#4086), baptised in Ightham on 20th April 1591. Richard Goodhews, borsholder, was mentioned in the Court Records between 1586 and 1618 and also a Dorothy Goodhews who could have been his wife. This Richard could have been John's brother. There were other Richards in Seal which are described later.

Johane was, however, given the power to sell for the most profit and advantage the land in Farningham and Eynsford left to Richard (only part of his inheritance) should it "be thought requisite or convenient to" Johane and John's overseers at any time before he was twenty-one provided that money so obtained was used solely for Richard's benefit - perhaps for his education or an apprenticeship.

Will of John Goodhew of Seal

dated 30th October 1542; probate 9th April 1543
transcript from probate copy; original not survived

1 In the name of god Amen. The 30th day of the month
2 of October in the year of our lord god 1542. And in the 34th
3 year of the reign of our sovereign lord, Henry th'eight, by the
4 grace of god, king of England, France and Ireland, Defender
5 of the faith and in th'earth supreme head here next
6 immediately under god of the church of England and Ireland.
7 **I, John Goodhew**, of the parish of Seal, sick in body and
8 whole in mind, thanks be to god, make my testament and
9 last will in manner and form following: **First:** I bequeath
10 my soul to Almighty god and my body to be buried in the
11 churchyard of Seal aforesaid. **Item:** I bequeath to
12 the high altar of Seal, for my tithes negligently

13 forgotten, 12d. Also I will at the day of my burial
14 6s 8d to be distributed to five priests and clerk
15 for to sing masses. And the residue to be given to poor
16 people. Also at my month's mind, I will 6s 8d to
17 be distributed in like manner as it is aforesaid at
18 the day of my burying. **Item:** I bequeath to **John**
19 **Goodhews**²⁸, **my son**, a bed with that belonging thereto immediate
20 ly after my decease and the cupboard that standeth in
21 the hall of the house that I dwell in after the decease of
22 **Julian, my wife.** **Item:** I bequeath to **Richard Goodhew,**
23 **my son**, two young kine to be delivered to him by mine
24 executor at the feast of Saint Michael th'archangel
25 next coming after my decease and my best brass pot
26 after the decease of Julian, my wife. **Item:** I bequeath to
27 **George Goodhew, my son**, two young kine to be delivered to
28 him by mine executor at the feast of Saint Michael
29 th'archangel next coming after my decease and my best
30 cauldron after the decease of Julian, my wife. **Item:** I
31 bequeath to Julian, my wife, a young bay mare and all
32 my household stuff that is unbequeathed. **Item:** I bequeath
33 to **Johane Grammell, my daughter**, a two bullock

28 could be the John Goodhews who died in 1563 (#328)

34 to be delivered to her immediately after my decease. The
35 residue of all my goods moveable and corn, cattle, waynes,
36 carte and perlme?, my debts paid and my will fulfilled,
37 I bequeath to Julian, my wife, and John Goodhew, my son
38 whom I make and ordain to be mine executors and **John**
39 **Tebold**²⁹ and he to have for his pains 12d.

40 This is the last will of me, **John Goodhew**, the day and year
41 abovesaid. **First:** I will Julian, my wife, to have
42 and enjoy my house and all my land lying and being within
43 the parish of **Seal** aforesaid as long as she is sole and
44 my widow. And if she happen to marry, then to have
45 my house in **Sole Street** with th'appurtenances thereto belonging
46 as long as she liveth. And immediately after her
47 decease I will it to George, my son, to him, his heirs and
48 assigns for evermore. **Item:** I will to John Goodhew, my
49 son, my mede called the **Hurst mede** lying in the parish
50 of Seal at **Underriver**, after the decease of Julian,
51 my wife, or, if she chance to marry then I will the
52 said mede to John Goodhew, my son, to him, his heirs
53 and assigns for ever upon condition he pay to Richard

54 Goodhew £16 in time and days as hereafter
55 doeth follow, that is to say £4 to be paid in the
56 church porch of Seal between the hours of 6 and
57 7 of the clock before noon that day twelvemonth
58 after the said Julian is buried and yearly to the said
59 £16 to be fully contented and paid. And for lack of
60 payment at any the said days that then
61 the said Richard to have one half of the said
62 mede called Hurst mede, to have to him, his heirs and
63 assigns for ever. They be witness: **Sir William Mitte,**
curate; John Tebold; Richard Blatcher³⁰; Thomas Harry, the
elder; William Mytte and Thomas Pelsett.

30 probably the Richard Blatcher of Seal who died 1545

1 In the name of god Amen. In the year of our lord
2 god 1545, the twentieth day of October, I,
3 **Julian Goodhew** of the parish of Seal, **widow**,
4 of the county of Kent, whole of mind and
5 of good memory, thanks be unto god, make
6 my testament in manner and form following: **First**:
7 I bequeath my soul to god and my body to
8 be buried in the churchyard of Seal aforesaid.
9 **Item**: I bequeath to the high altar of
10 Seal for my tithes forgotten and negligently with
11 holden, 3s 4d. **Item**: I will it there be
12 bestowed at my burial to priest and clerk and poor
13 people 16s 4d **Item**: I will there be bestowed
14 at my months day 16s 8d in manner and
15 form as at my burial. **Item**: I bequeath
16 unto the mending of the highway between the
17 house I dwell in and the ? ?
18 ? ? **Item**: I bequeath

19 unto (Clyn..?)³¹, **my daughter**, two bed ??
20 ?? a mattress, 4 pairs of sheets, a ??
21 my best gown, my best petticoat, my ?
22 ??
23 **Item:** I bequeath to **John Goodhews, my son**, two ? of
24 3 years of age, my ?? and the wheat land

Richard Goodhew, my son ??
3 kine, a bullock of a year old

Johane (grandchild?); **son George**
my daughter

residue to John Goodhews, my son (*executor?*)

witnesses: **John Tebold, the older**³², **John Denman**³³ and others

31 in her husband's will, their daughter is given as Johane Grammell

32 John(2) Tebold (#673) wrote his will in June 1545 and could not, therefore, have witnessed a will in October of that year, unless he did not die soon after writing his will; it is too early for his burial to be recorded

33 John Denman was vicar of Seal 1545 to 1548

1 In the name of god Amen.
2 In the year of our Lord god 1563, the 28th
3 day of April in . . .
4
5
6 I, **John Goodhews**,
7 of the parish of Seal in the County of Kent, **yeoman**,
8 being sick in body and perfect remembrance, do make my
9 last will and testament in manner and form following:
10 **First:** I bequeath my soul into the hands of almighty
11 god, my Redeemer and Saviour and my body to be buried
12 in the churchyard of Seal aforesaid. **Item:** I
13 will and bequeath unto the poor inhabitants of Seal
14 aforesaid 13s 4d. **Item:** I will and bequeath unto
15 **Elizabeth Goodhews, my daughter**, £12 to be
16 paid by mine executrix at the day of her marriage
17 or else when she shall come to the full age of 20
18 years if she shall not be before married.
19 I bequeath unto **Johane Goodhew, my daughter**,

20 £10 to be paid at the day of her marriage or when
21 she shall come to the full age of 20 years if she
22 shall not be before married. **Item:** I bequeath unto
23 **Mildred, my daughter**, £10 to be paid as aforesaid
24 provided always, that if it shall fortune any of
25 my said daughters to decease before they shall be
26 married or accomplish their said age of 20
27 years, that then my will is that the bequest of
28 the deceased shall be distributed equally between the
29 survivors of them. **Item:** I will unto every of my
30 said daughters a two-yearling bullock. **Item:** I
31 bequeath unto **John Goodhew, my son**, a two
32 yearling bullock. **Item:** I bequeath unto **Richard**
33 **Goodhew, my son**, a two yearling bullock.
34 **Item:** I bequeath unto **Helinor Hilles, my sister**³⁴, a
35 cow. **Item:** I bequeath unto **John Johnson, my servant**,
36 a twelve monthly bullock. **Item:** I bequeath unto
37 **Richard Johnson, my servant**, a twelve monthling
38 bullock. **Item:** I bequeath unto **my brother Richard**
39 **Goodhews** my best coat and my best doublet and
40 my best hosen. **Item:** the residue of all my goods

41 and chattels, my debts and bequests paid, I will
42 and wholly with effect give unto **Johane, my wife**,
43 whom I ordain and make my whole and sole executrix
44 of this my present testament. And also I do
45 constitute and ordain my wellbeloved in ?? **John**
46 **Tebold³⁵ and John Stace**, my supervisors of this
47 my present testament and last will to see the
48 same accomplished and fulfilled if it shall happen
49 my said executrix to refuse the performance and
50 fulfilling of the same to the use and behalf of my
51 said executrix. Accordingly to my true meaning
52 and devise herein before and after expressed and in
53 their so doing, if my said executrix shall refuse
54 the performance hereof, I bequeath to either of them
55 a cow or otherwise together of them if my said
56 executrix shall not refuse to do and perform the
57 effect hereof to either of them 3s 4d over and
58 above their expenses.

59 This is the last will of me the
60 above said John Goodhews made and declared

35 John(3) Tebold (#1) married 1550 or just after

61 the day and year above written concerning all
62 my land, tenements and hereditaments what
63 soever with th'appurtenances set, lying and being in
64 the parish of **Seal aforesaid, Kemsing, Farningham**
65 and **Eynesford** or elsewhere in the said county
66 of Kent. And first I will, give and bequeath unto
67 John Goodhews, my son, all that my meadow
68 called **Hersemede**³⁶ containing by estimation 10
69 acres and a half and all those my two parcels of
70 land called **Dowle Bede** and **Shortcross Croft**
71 adjoining, containing by estimation, in the whole
72 7 acres. One other parcel of land called
73 **Roote**, containing by estimation 4 acres, one other
74 parcel of land called . . .³⁷ containing
75 by estimation 8 acres now in the occupance of
76 **William Stacie**³⁸ lying or adjoining to the
77 land of **John Tybold** against the north, to have

36 Hurst mede in his father's will

37 name left blank

38 #31 died in 1566 and his will has survived

78 and to hold all the said parcels of land, meadow,
79 and woods with the appurtenances to the said John
80 Goodhew, his heirs and assigns to the use and
81 behoof of the said John Goodhew, his heirs and assigns
82 for ever. **Item:** I will, give and bequeath unto my
83 **son, Richard Goodhew**, all that my messuage
84 or tenement wherein **Randolph Gyuge** now
85 dwelleth with a garden and croft of land thereto
86 adjoining, containing by estimation, in the whole, 3
87 acres, situated, lying and being in **Seal** and **Kemsing**
88 aforesaid. And also three other parcels of lands
89 and meadows called ?? containing, by estimation
90 8 acres together lying and being in Seal
91 and kemsing aforesaid and also one other messuage
92 or tenement wherein **Stephen Atherall**³⁹ now
93 dwelleth, with a garden adjoining, set, lying and
94 being in Seal aforesaid. And also all that my
95 part or . . . parcel, viz. the third part of a certain
96 messuage or tenement withall the land thereto
97 belonging which I late purchased and held of **Henry**
98 **Alchin**, set, being and lying in **Farningham** and

99 **Eynsford** aforesaid, to him and to his heirs . .
100 said
101 Richard, his heirs and assigns for ever.
102 **Item:** my will is that the said
103 Johane, my wife, and her assigns shall have, hold and
104 occupy all the said lands and tenements and all
105 other the premises with th'appurtenances before to the
106 said John and Richard, my sons, bequeathed and shall
107 enjoy the profit thereof until the said John and
108 Richard, and either of them, shall come to their full
109 age of 14⁴⁰ years. And that then and after, my will
110 is that the said Johane, my wife, her executors and
111 assigns shall take up and receive the yearly issues
112 and profits of all the said lands, tenements and
113 other the premises with th'appurtenances until
114 my said sons, and either of them, shall accomplish their
115 full age of one and twenty years and thereof shall
116 yield and make a perfect account to my said sons
117 and either of them of and for the several parts and
118 portions of all and single the premises to them and
119 either of them betimes. And by me bequeathed as

40 until her sons are 14, Johane does not have to account for how she spends the profits

120 afore is said. Except deducted and allowed all
121 all the charges and expenses out of the said part and
122 part which shall happen to the use and grow, of for
123 and concerning the necessary and needful
124 reparations of all the housing and . . of the
125 premises with also all rent yearly gone out of
126 the premises to the Chief Lord of the . .
127 During the said term of years which shall
128 . . between the years of their several ages
129 of 14 and 21 years aforesaid. And also deducted
130 and allowed to her sole use and behoof, her executor
131 and assigns, out of the premises yearly, £3 6s 8d
132 During the said term, that is to say, 40s yearly
133 out of the lands and tenements before given to the
134 said John and 26s 8d out of the lands
135 and tenements before given to the said Richard.
136 And the residue and overplus of the said issues and
137 profits, I will that my said wife, her executors and
138 assigns, shall satisfy and pay, or cause to be paid,
139 to the said John and Richard and either of them
140 at their said age and ages of 21 years as afore
141 is said. And, after the said accomplishment of
142 their said several ages of 21 years, I will that

143 my said sons, their heirs and assigns, shall
144 yearly pay, or cause to be paid, to my said wife
145 during her natural life, out of the premises, £3
146 6s 8d that is (40s from John, 26s 8d from Richard)
at feast of St. Michael and Annunciation by equal portions

non-payment after space of 20 days being lawfully demanded, it shall be lawful for the said Johane, my wife, and her assigns . . . to enter and distrain . . . lawfully to take, load, bear or drive away and the same towards her and them to retain, withhold and impound until the yearly payment of £3 6s 8d in manner and form aforesaid to be paid with all . . . be fully satisfied.

- Provided always and my will is that, if it shall be thought requisite or convenient to my said executrix and overseers at any time hereafter before my said son Richard shall accomplish his full age of 21 years, to sell or alien for more profit and advantage to the use and behoof of the said Richard all the said part or parcel, viz. the said third part of the said land and tenements with th'appurtenances before given to the said Richard, set, lying and being in Farningham and Eynsford,

aforesaid, that then I give full power and authority within my present and last will to my said executrix for most profit to sell the same premises with th'appurtenances by the advice of my said overseers and the money thereof coming to be employed to the only use and behoof of the said Richard, my son, anything or matter before mentioned to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding. **Item:** I will that **my sister, Helione Hilles**, if she shall depart from my said executrix and shall be more minded and desirous to be elsewhere or at her own finding, shall yearly have, . . . and take the sum of 6s 4d out of all my said land and tenements before given and disposed to my said sons, well and truly to her or her assigns by my sole executrix, her executors or assigns and the said John and Richard, my sons, and either of them, their heirs and assigns, during her natural life paid at 2 feasts

There being witnesses and present at the ensealing and delivery of this my last will

and testament: **John Tebold; John Stacie; John Smalham, William Masters, Reginald Pelset, Robert Pelset⁴², Richard Goodhew⁴³, John Hooper** with others

It was probably this John Goodhews who, in 1555 with Robert Blatcher, brought a case against John and Clemence Tebold regarding some land in Seal and another one in 1558 against Thomas Swaynsland and his wife - see [Seal Fines in Section Z of More Families & Transcripts](#).

⁴² Smalham: #159; Masters: #105; Reginald Pelset, #4126; Robert Pelset: #43

⁴³ the testator's brother, #116?

1 In the name of god Amen. In the year of our
2 lord god 1555 and the 5th day of
3 February, **I, George Goodhew** of the
4 parish of Seal in the County of Kent,
5 **husbandman**, being of good and perfect
6 memory do ordain and make this my
7 last will and testament in manner and form following:
8 **First** I bequeath my soul into
9 the hand of Almighty god, my maker and
10 Redeemer and desire his mother, Saint Mary,
11 and all the company of heaven to pray for me
12 And my body to be buried in the churchyard of
13 Seal according to the custom of all Christian people.
14 **Secondly** I will and bequeath that
15 **Johane, my wife**, shall dwell and occupy my
16 lands with th'appurtunances thereto belonging
17 either she or her assigns peaceably and
18 quietly to the end and term of five years after
19 my decease. And also, if it fortune that at

20 the end and term of five years that there
21 be any corn growing upon this my land
22 either lying in the barn or in any other
23 place of my house that Johane my wife shall
24 have sufficient time and leisure quietly to
25 keep her corn and to move sheep away and
26 she or her assigns to do ? ? ?
27 in the time and space of six weeks, that is to
28 say, if it might chance
29 or happen any unreasonable weather to cause
30 a backward harvest or any such lawful
31 impediment and also that no manner of
32 charge for reparations shall be demanded
33 to be due of Johane, my wife, or her assigns
34 during the term of five years aforesaid
35 neither that any man shall trouble or
36 annoy any part of this my tenement
37 with any timber, stone or any other noisome
38 thing not her names except it be at the
39 law or licence of Johane, my wife, or her
40 assigns. Also my will is that Johane, my
41 wife, shall have my gatehouse as it
42 standeth and the little garden between

43 the barn and the stable called the
44 bank which is paled in with saned pales⁴³
45 during her life, she to keep the reparations
46 and to have free passage in and out and in
47 all the said gate house and in part
48 thereof the stable ? for her and her
49 assigns during her life. And that my
50 **brother John Goodhews**⁴⁴ shall have the occu-
51 pying of the said gatehouse before any other
52 if Johane, my wife, do not occupy it herself,
53 paying and agreeing of the said Johane,
54 my wife, as she and he may agree. Therefore
55 and not to the contrary. And I bequeath to
56 Johane, my wife, two acres which I have
57 appointed already for her and that it shalbe
58 lawful for the said Johane, my wife, or her
59 assigns to fell, ?? and ?? the wood
60 of the aforementioned ??? at any time within
61 the term of 2 years after my decease. And

43 "paled" - fenced in with pales?;

44 #328; George and John (and Richard, below) were the sons of John and Julian

62 at the end of two years justly accounted after
63 my decease that John Goodhews, my eldest
64 brother shall pay

(his/my) **brother Richard Goodhew**, £60 of good and lawful (money of England) well and truly to be paid at one payment within the precinct of the church of Seal or in some convenient place thereof betwixt ten of the clock of the morning and four of the clock of the afternoon without any fraud or deceit.

... have called these men to witness:

James Porter⁴⁵

John Denman

William Arywand

Christopher Tomlyn

Thomas Hill with others

45 #229, died 1563

Other Goodhews

Recorded details of the rest of the Goodhews are difficult to fit together. Johane Goodhews (#246) married **Robert Godden** (#245) on 25th October 1563 and they had three children before she died in July 1579 - see **Godden**

A Richard Goodhews (#116) had a son, John (#4088), baptised 23rd April 1564 and Johane (#117), wife of Richard Goodhews, was buried on 8th January 1585. John and Johane's son, Richard, would have been too young to have a son in 1564. Richard, the son of John and Julian, was probably born in the 1520s but #4088 could have been his youngest child with others born before recording of baptisms started.

A Richard Goodhews (#1241) and **Elizabeth Kerwyne** (#1242) were married by a licence from the Faculties on 22nd June 1587 and thus were either not living in Seal at that time or did not want to have the bans read. Both the Goodhews and the Kerwynes were Seal families but Richard and Elizabeth may have been working outside the village and come back to Seal to be married.

Two sons of "Richard Goodhews" were baptised in Seal:

- Robert (#1814) on 17th February 1594 and
- John (#2759) on 11th May 1600

But there is a long gap between the marriage in 1587 and again between the two baptisms. There is also the possibility that, since the marriage of Richard and Elizabeth (who was only nineteen when she married) was two and a half years after the death of Johane, wife of Richard Goodhews, Elizabeth was #116's second wife. See [Kerwyne](#) for Elizabeth's parents and siblings.

The name Juliana, first met with the wife of John who died in 1542, continued in the family with Juliana Goodhews (#2791) marrying **William Love of Leigh** (#2792) on 17th February 1612. She could have been the eldest daughter of John Goodhews of Bitchet - see below.

Just as the events recorded for the various Richard Goodhews can be assembled in a variety of ways, so can those concerning the various John Goodhews. A number of children were recorded as the son or daughter of "[John Goodhews](#)", the first in 1588. Richard's son (#4088) would just about have been old enough to have a child in 1588 but all that can be done is to list the children with the one sure connection being that the John Goodhews of Bitchet (#118) who was buried on 5th October 1606 was the father of Peter (#2763) who was recorded as the "[son of John Goodhews, deceased](#)".

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M	C	Died
#118	<u>GOODHEWS, John</u> ----- of Bitchet				1	6	5 Oct 1606
• #1504	<u>GOODHEWS, John</u>	17 Feb 1588			0	0	25 Mar 1589 at 13 mnths
• #1580	<u>Goodhews, Mary</u>	6 Jul 1589 ⁴⁶	8 Jun 1607	Henry JONES #2024	1	0	
• #1605	<u>GOODHEWS, Richard</u>	20 Sep 1590			?	?	
• #1786	<u>GOODHEWS, John</u>	22 Apr 1593			0	0	10 Apr 1595 aged 2
• #2762	<u>GOODHEWS, John</u>	17 Jul 1603			0	0	
• #2763	<u>GOODHEWS, Peter</u>	22 Feb 1607			0	0	

There is a long gap between #1786 and #2762 so that if one man was the father of all these children, perhaps he married twice.

The burial of "[Joane, wife of John Goodhews](#)" (#2074) was recorded on 13th March 1619 and the burials of two John Goodhews on 20th March 1628 in Seal and 20th March 1629 in Ightham.

Mary Goodhews (#2774) married **Moses Chaundler** (#2773) on 16th January 1619. Only a month later, on 14th February, their son Moses was baptised.

46 baptised at Sevenoaks; she married at 18 (if it was this Mary who married Henry Jones)

Finally, there was the family of the Richard Goodhews:

Num	Name	Born	Married	Spouse	M C	Di ed
#1605	<u>GOODHEWS, Ri chard</u> ----- 		23 Sep 1610 in Shi pbourne	Margaret Rootes	1 5	
#2766	<u>Rootes, Margaret</u> -----				1 5	26 May 1636 in her 40s/50s
!	#2767 <u>GOODHEWS, John</u> ¹	25 Aug 1611	11 Nov 1641 married at 30	Mary Persolt #2764	1 1	
!	#2768 <u>Goodhews, Mi l dred</u>	14 Nov 1619			0 0	
!	#2769 <u>GOODHEWS, Ri chard</u>	30 Jun 1622			0 0	
!	#2770 <u>Goodhews, El i zabeth</u>	26 Sep 1624			0 0	
!	#2771 <u>Goodhews, Jane</u>	21 Mar 1630			0 0	

The name of Richard's wife was recorded as "Margaret" when the children were baptised and their first child was born in August 1611. It is thus likely that this Richard is the one who married Margaret Rootes on 23rd September 1610 in Shipbourne where Margaret may have lived.

1 This is the most likely John Goodhews to have married in 1641 when Mary Persolt was twenty-four. A son, Richard (#2765), was baptised on 19th September 1642 but his mother was buried on 30th September.

The Goodings of Hadlow

Two wills have survived for the Goodings of Hadlow:

Arthur Gooding	28 Feb 1595	CKS: Drb/Pw 17, Drb/Pwr 18.461	page g.62
William Gooding	20 Mar 1605	CKS: Drb/Pw 20, Drb/Pwr 19IIA.2	page g.73

The will of Arthur Gooding was written by Nicholas Hooper who wrote a large number of wills for villagers in this part of Kent. William's will was nuncupative and very short. The connection, if any, between Arthur and William is not known.

Arthur Gooding

There are a number of cases where a sum of money is to be paid to an adult to be "employed to the use of" a minor towards their maintenance, bringing up, education, etc. but with the sum being paid eventually to the actual legatee when they reached the age of twenty-one (or eighteen, or married). Thus it was the interest to be gained on the money which was to be spent on maintenance and upbringing, not the capital.

What is unusual with regard to Arthur Gooding's will is that his kinswoman, Dorothy Brincklow, had given him "in goods, the value of ten pounds" which was the amount left to be used for Dorothy's benefit with the actual sum of ten pounds being paid to her when she was eighteen. Perhaps Dorothy was an orphan who had been in his care.

Arthur obviously had some fairly high outstanding debts since the residue of all his goods and chattels and debts owing to him were to be priced and valued and either sold by his overseers toward the payment of them (if his wife so willed) or else she was to "put in good security" to creditors. If this was not sufficient to pay all his debts and legacies, two parcels of land totalling about nine acres, or as much of them as necessary, were also to be sold. All the rest of his land and tenements was left to his wife, Joyce, until his daughter, Rebecca, married or reached the age of twenty-one when she was to have half of them.

If his wife died before Rebecca was twenty-one, Arthur's brother was to have all the issues and profits from his land and tenements from which, "doing no manner of waste in any wise", he could take such "charges as lawfully, and by just occasion, he shall be driven to expend . . . upon reparations, lords rent, subsidy or otherwise". In addition, he could have only £8 per year towards her maintenance "excepted, by some extraordinary means, he shall be forced upon with occasion to lay out more" and, when Rebecca came of age or married, he was to make her a "true and just account" of the money he had received and spent.

If, after her mother's death, Rebecca died without an heir, all his land, etc., was to be divided equally between Arthur's brother and his wife's brother. Then follows an unusual proviso: if Rebecca, over twenty-one and after her mother had died but having no lawfully begotten heir, did try to "to frustrate the benefit of this my will unto my said brothers, George Johanes and Thomas Plane . . . then . . . my said brothers shall enter in and upon all my said land, tenements and hereditaments . . . and enjoy them . . . in as ample manner as if my said daughter were deceased". What could she have done to frustrate the will: try and appoint as her heir someone other than a child lawfully begotten?

Will of Arthur Gooding

written 28th February 1595

transcript from original supplemented by probate copy

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

1 In⁴⁸ the name of god Amen. The last day of the month of
2 February in the year of our lord god one thousand, five hundred, fourscore

48 decorated "I"

3 and fifteen and in the eight and thirtieth year of the reign of our sovereign
lady
4 Elizabeth, by the grace of god Queen of England, France and Ireland,
defender
5 of the faith, I, Arthur Gooding of Hadlow in the county of Kent, **yeoman**,
6 being⁴⁹ at the time of making hereof sick and weak in body but yet (thanks
be to
7 God) in good and perfect mind and remembrance, do ordain and make this
my
8 present testament and last will in manner and form following⁵⁰. And **First**:
and
9 principally, I give and commend my soul to Almighty god, my creator. And
to
10 Jesus Christ, his dear son, my only saviour and redeemer, by whose merit,
11 precious death and blood shedding⁵¹, I trust only to be saved. And my
body to the
12 earth to be buried in the churchyard of Hadlow aforesaid. **Item**: I will

49 "beeing", "bee", etc. throughout, including "beesides" on line 35 and "beegotten" on line 100

50 "folowing", another characteristic of Nicholas Hooper

51 "bludshedding"

13 there shalbe bestowed, among poor people of the parish of Hadlow
aforesaid,
14 ten shillings. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Rebecca, my daughter,**
15 my cupboard standing at **my father-in-law's Wyatt Plane's**⁵³. **Item:** I will
16 there shall be employed to the use of **Dorothy Brincklow, my kinswoman,**
and
17 toward her maintenance and bringing up, the sum of ten pounds lawful
18 money to be paid unto **my brother, George Johanes**⁵⁴, and by him, his
executors
19 or assigns, to be paid to her, the said Dorothy, at her age of eighteen years.
20 In consideration that I have heretofore received with her in goods, to the
value of
21 ten pounds.
22 The residue of all my goods and cattells and debts to me owing, I wholly,
23 fully and with good effect, intent and purpose, give and bequeath to **Joyce,**
my well beloved
24 **wife,** towards the payment of debts and legacies. And to that effect I will
that the

53 Wyatt Plane's wife, that is Arthur's mother-in-law, was called Rebecca

54 see [Wyat Plane in More Families & Transcripts](#) for a discussion of the possible relationship between these families

25 said moveable goods shalbe priced and valued within convenient time
after my
26 decease and either sold by my overseers hereafter named toward the
payment of
27 the same, my debts and legacies whether the same be due upon land or
otherwise, (if
28 my wife will) or else she shall put in good security to my creditors and all of
29 them to their full contentation of such debts as I severally owe unto them
or other
30 wise of so much of them as my said goods (being truly and indifferently
valued
31 shall extend unto, the which Joyce I make and ordain my whole and sole
32 executor of this my last will. And I devise my good father-in-law Wyatt
Plane
33 and **my brother-in-law Edward Dennis**⁵⁴ to be supervisors and overseers of
34 this my will, to whom I give towards their pains, as a token of my good
35 will, 5s a piece besides their charges and expenses about this my will to be
36 laid out.

37 This is the last will of me, the said Arthur Gooding, made and

54 another sister's husband?

38 declared the day and year first above written, concerning the order and
disposition
39 of all my land and tenements whatsoever. And first I will that, if my said
40 goods and cattells afore mentioned shall not suffice to discharge all my
said debts and
41 legacies, that all those two parcels of land called **Westcroft and Nettlestead**
Broomes,
42 containing in the whole, by estimation, nine acres whether more or less
thereof be
43 together, lying and being within the **parish of Nettlestead** in the said
county of Kent,
44 shalbe sold by mine overseers afore named, or one of them, for the most
and best
45 price he, or they, lawfully can. Or so much as shall suffice to pay my said
46 legacies and debts (either upon land or otherwise) together with the money
or sum arising
47 of my said moveables (except the cupboard afore mentioned given to my
said daughter).
48 And I will that the sale thereof, or so much thereof as shall suffice (as
aforesaid) shalbe
49 good and effectual in law to him or them so buying the same, his and their
heirs

50 and assigns forever (only one lease of the same amongst others heretofore
made to
51 **Richard Johnson** excepted) out of which lease and rent I will there shalbe a
reasonable
52 portion reserved to the said buyer or buyers according to the equality
thereof. **Item:**
53 I will and give unto the said Joyce, my wife, in full extinguishing and
recompense of all
54 and every jointure and dower or annuities by me heretofore to her made
and towards
55 the bringing up and maintenance of the said Rebecca, my daughter, during
her
56 minority. All and every other and the residue of all my lands and
tenements whatsoever,
57 with all and singular th'appurtenances lying and being in **East Peckham** in
the said county of Kent or
58 elsewhere within the said county of Kent together with the parcel of land
59 in Nettlestead aforesaid (if the same not be sold, and so much as shall
remain
60 unsold). To have and to hold the same withall and singular
th'appurtenances unto the said
61 Joyce, my wife, and her assigns until my said daughter Rebecca Gooding
shall or

62 should attain and come to he full age of one and twenty years, doing no
manner of
63 strip or waste in or upon the same other than necessary timber for
reparations and
64 hedgeboot to be taken in reasonable sort and manner. She, the said Joyce
or her
65 assigns keeping all the reparations of the same my houses and edifice in
good and
66 reasonable sort. And after that my said daughter, Rebecca shall reach her
67 said age of one and twenty years, I will and bequeath the one half of all my
68 said land and tenements, withall and singular th'appurtenances unto the
said Rebecca
69 Gooding, my daughter, to have and to hold the same, with
th'appurtenances, to the said
70 Rebecca, my daughter, her heirs and assigns forever. And the other half of
71 all my said lands and tenements, withall and singular th'appurtenances, I
give and
72 bequeath unto the said Joyce, my wife, to have and to hold to the said
Joyce and her
73 assigns during the whole term of her natural life, doing no strip or waste
and
74 keeping the one half of the reparations aforesaid. And after her decease, I
give and

75 bequeath all my said lands and tenements, withall and singular
th'appurtenances unto
76 the said Rebecca, my daughter, her heirs and assigns forever. Willing
77 notwithstanding that, if it shall happen the said Joyce, my wife, to decease
before
78 my said daughter, Rebecca, shall attain to her said age of one and twenty
years
79 or be married, that then I will my good brother, George Johanes, or his
assigns,
80 shall have the education and bringing up of my said daughter until she be
of age
81 or day of her said marriage which shall first happen and, during the said
time, shall
82 have the receiving and taking up of all the issues and profits of all my said
land
83 and tenements and the disposition and use of the same, doing no manner
of waste,
84 (in any wise) in and upon the same. And I will that the said George
85 Johanes, or whomsoever he shall appoint thereunto, shall make a true and
just account unto
85 the said Rebecca, my daughter, at her said age or marriage which shall
first happen, of

86 all and every the same, deducting thereof, towards the maintenance of the
said Rebecca,
87 my daughter, yearly, the sum of eight pounds only (except, by some
extraordinary
88 means, he shalbe forced upon just occasion to lay out more) and such
charge
89 as lawfully, and by just occasion, he shall be driven to expend and lay out
otherwise
90 upon reparations, lord's rent, subsidy or otherwise. Provided always that,
91 if it shall happen the said Rebecca, my daughter, to decease before she
shall
92 attain to her said age of one and twenty years or without heirs of her body
93 lawfully begotten, then I will, give and bequeath all and every my said land
and
94 tenements and hereditaments, withall and singular th'appurtenances,
(after the decease of the said
95 Joyce, my wife) unto my brothers⁵⁵, George Johanes, aforesaid, and
Thomas
96 **Plane**, to have and to hold the same, withall and singular
th'appurtenances, unto the

55 "brothers" followed by "in-law" which was crossed out; Wyatt Plane had a son Thomas so that the Thomas Plane mentioned here was presumably Joyce's brother.

97 said George Johanes and Thomas Plane, equally between them ,their heirs
98 and assigns forever. Provided furthermore, that if my said daughter
99 happen to live until her said age of one and twenty years and have no issue
of her
100 body lawfully begotten, and shall then (or at any time after having no issue
as
101 aforesaid) make do or acknowledge any Reco-ie or other act whatsoever to
frustrate
102 the benefit of this my will unto my said brothers, George Johanes and
Thomas Plane
103 and their heirs, willed (as aforesaid) contrary to the purport of this my will
104 That then I will presently after such act done (my said wife being
deceased), that my
105 said brothers shall enter in and upon all my said land, tenements and
hereditaments,
106 with all and singular th'appurtenances, and the same shall hold, possess
and enjoy to them,
107 their heirs and assigns forever, in as ample manner as if my said daughter
were
108 deceased without heir of her body lawfully as aforesaid and any thing
herein before
109 mentioned to the contrary hereof in any wise notwithstanding. Provided,
in like manner,

110 that if the said Joyce, my wife, shall not prove this my will within
convenient time after
111 my decease and shall not pay all my said debts as well upon land as
otherwise, and shall
112 not free and redeem such land as I have mortgaged for any debt at such
time as any such
113 shalbe due, or shall at any time hereafter claim any jointure, dower or other
gift heretofore by
114 me to her made, then I will she shall loose the benefit of this my will as
well in land
115 as goods. And then I will make my said brother George Johanes my whole
and sole executor
116 of this my will and he to have and receive and pay all and every thing and
?? as my
117 said wife should do if she had taken it upon her, any thing herein before
mentioned to the
118 contrary hereof in any wise notwithstanding. In witness whereof to this
my present
119 last will and testament I, the said Arthur Gooding, have set my hand and
seal yeven
120 the day and year first above written in the presence of me, **Nicholas
Hooper**, witnesses:
Thomas Maman, Francis Salmon, Thomas Marten with others.

1 These words, or the like in effect, spake William Gooding of the
2 parish of Hadlow in the county of Kent, **miller**, being sick in
3 body but of perfect memory, the eight and twenty day of
4 March in the year of our lord god 1605 in the presence of
5 **Walter Pawley and John Barton**. My will, is said he, that
6 **Mary, my wife and John Gooding, my son**, shall
7 have all the goods that I have, paying my debts out of the same.

The mark of Walter Pawley
John Barton

Henry Gransden, gent. of Tonbridge

Henry Gransden's will was written on 16th June 1623; "Mr. Henry Gransden" was buried on 26th October 1623.

Henry was married twice with both his wives being called Alice. His first wife had a daughter Jane Cadman who, since she was to receive her legacy when she reached the age of twenty-one or married, was born after 1602. But Henry had a married daughter, Elizabeth Newman, who had three children in 1623. If Henry married his first wife in 1603, Elizabeth must have been born very soon after that, married very young and had three children in quick succession.

By his second wife, Henry had seven daughters but no son (or at least not one who survived to 1623). By his will, Nicholas Harris, the father of Henry's second wife, gave to all of Henry's children by his daughter that should live to the age of fourteen years, twenty pounds each out of certain lands. Henry had entered into a bond to discharge the heir of these lands of four score pounds to such four of his children as should first reach fourteen years and, in his will he made arrangements for these four children to each receive a quarter of a four acre parcel of land called Postern Field in lieu and full recompense of their grandfather's gift. But if any of the four children disliked this arrangement and would not accept it in

This will (CKS: Drb/Pw 26; Drb/Pwr 21.55) was written by **John Hooper**, notary public and parish clerk of Tonbridge, one of the Hooper family who wrote a large number of wills in the area from the 1560s up to 1650 and beyond. The only other Gransden wills which have survived for the area are those of John Gransden of Wrotham (1609; PCC will) and Thomas Gransden of Meopham (1632; Deanery of Shoreham will). John's was possibly written by Charles Hutchinson, clerk, but neither have been investigated.

The will is written in the same hand as those of William Daulton (June 1626) and Nicholas Locke (September 1630) but at the end there is a note, in latin, signed by **Israel Poisnell, notary public**, saying that it is an accurate copy of the original. It thus looks as if John Hooper not only wrote the original will but also made the copy. From the wording ("By me Henry Gransden") the testator signed the original himself. The will was proved on 12th December 1623.

1 In⁵⁶ the name of god Amen. The sixteenth day of June in the
2 year of our lord god one thousand, six hundred, twenty and three. And in
the
3 years of the reign of our sovereign lord James, by the grace of God, king of
England,
4 Scotland, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, etc. viz. of England,
France
5 and Ireland the one and twentieth and of Scotland the six and fifty, I,
Henry
6 Gransden of Tonbridge in the county of Kent, **gent.**, being⁵⁷ at this time in
7 reasonable good health of body and of perfect memory (thanks be given to
god)
8 do ordain and make this my testament and last will in manner following:
9 that is to say **First** and principally I yield my soul to Almighty god, my
10 maker, with an assured hope of salvation through his mercy in the merit
and mediation
11 of his dear son, Jesus Christ, my saviour and my body to the earth in
decent manner to

56 slightly decorated "I"

57 "beeing", "bee", throughout

12 be buried. **Item:** I will and give to the poor of Tonbridge three pounds. And
to the
13 poor of **Stanstead**⁵⁸ forty shillings to be distributed within short time after
my
14 decease. **Item:** I will that there be a sermon at my burial for the good and
benefit
15 of those which shall hear the same. **Item:** I give and bequeath unto **Jane**
Cadman,
16 **daughter of Alice, my first wife,** five pounds of lawful english money to be
paid
17 her within one month after her day of marriage or age of 21 years which of
them shall
18 first happen (notice of her said age or day of marriage, which shall first
happen, being
19 given to mine executrix within the said month), she, the said Jane, giving a
sufficient
20 discharge⁵⁹ for the same upon payment thereof then to be made. **Item:** I
will and give unto

58 Stansted, about three miles north of Borough Green

59 "discharge"; also on line 43

21 **Elizabeth Newman, my daughter**, five pounds to be paid within one year
next
22 after my decease. And to **Henry Newman, son of the said Elizabeth**, and to
her two
23 **daughters**, fifty shillings a piece to be paid to the said Henry and the said
two daughters, at
24 their ages of twenty and one years. And if any of them decease before their
said ages
25 they or any of them so deceasing to be quit of their said several legacies.
And I will
26 that upon payment of their said legacies they give acquittances for the
same. **Item:** to
27 **John Gransden, my brother's son**, I will and give ten shillings. And to
Elizabeth, his
28 **daughter, my goddaughter**, I give other ten shillings. **Item:** I will and give
to **Sibble**
29 **Hubbert, my sister**, for a token of my love, twenty shillings. **The residue**⁶⁰
30 and all other my goods, cattells and chattels, I wholly and fully give and
bequeath unto
31 **Alice, my loving wife**, whom I make and ordain the sole executrix of this
my testament

60 "reaside", and also on line 74

32 and last will. And I desire and appoint my good friends **James Launce of**
33 **Stanstead**
34 and **William Barthall of Tonbridge**, yeomen, to be overseers of the same,
desiring
35 their pains to see that the same may take effect according to my intent and
true meaning
36 so much as in them shall lie. In consideration whereof I will unto either of
them twenty
37 shillings over and above their charges. **This is also** the last will of me the
said
38 Henry Gransden made and declared the day and year first above written
touching
39 the ordering, disposing and devising of all my lands and tenements. **And**
first
40 whereas **Nicholas Harris, deceased, (my wife's father)** hath, by his will
given to all
41 and every my children (by Alice his wife) that shall live to attain to their
ages of
42 fourteen years, twenty pounds a piece out of certain lands called **Cleywent**
43 (lying in Tonbridge). And whereas I, the said Henry, have entered into
bond to
44 discharge the heir of the said lands called Cleywent and the said lands of
four score

44 pounds to such four of my children as shall first be capable of the said gift
and shall
45 first attain to their said ages of fourteen years, **Now** to those and such four
of my
46 children as shall first and soonest come and live to be of the age of fourteen
years,
47 I will, give and devise all that parcel of my lands commonly called or
known by the name of
48 **Postern Field** containing, by estimation, four acres, be it more or less, lying
and
49 being in Tonbridge aforesaid. And adjoining to the lands of **Alexander**
Rottenbridge on the
50 east side thereof. And to the **Withenden** lands on the south part thereof.
To have and
51 to hold the said Postern Field with th^lappurtenances unto those my four
children, their
52 heirs and assigns for ever. In lieu and full recompense of the gift and
several
53 gifts of £20 a piece willed to be paid them by the testament and last will of
the said
54 Nicholas Harris, their grandfather. And they, my said children as they
shall accomplish
55 their said ages of 14 years, to enter upon the said Postern Field and to hold

56 every one a fourth part thereof. **And if** they, my said four children, or any of
57 them, shall dislike and not accept thereof in lieu and recompense of their
said
58 grandfather's gift, I will and devise the part and parts of them and every of
them, in and
59 to the said Postern Field that refuse and so disliketh unto Alice, my wife,
her heirs and
60 assigns for ever, she, the said Alice and her heirs, paying to my said child
and
61 children so refusing the said twenty pounds to them and every of them (so
refusing)
62 belonging by virtue of their said grandfather's will and acquitting the said
lands
63 aforesaid called Cleywent and the heirs thereof of and from the same. **And**
I will
64 that the said Alice, my wife, shall have the use and occupation of the said
Postern Field
65 wholly to her self and her assigns until the first of my children shall come
to the age of
66 fourteen years. And afterwards shall receive three parts of the rent for the
whole
67 field until another of them shall come to the said age. And then the one
half of the

68 rent thereof until a third shall come to that age. And then only a fourth
part of the said
69 rent until the fourth that shall be capable of their said grandfather's gift
shall come
70 to the said age of fourteen years. If those my four children shall and will
accept
71 thereof in lieu and recompense of their said grandfather's gift, otherwise
my said
72 wife and her heirs to hold the said Postern Field, or their parts so refusing
as aforesaid
73 of, in and to the said field, to her, my said wife and her heirs, for ever as
aforesaid. **The**
74 **Residue** and all other my lands, tenements and hereditaments, as well
those
75 which are situated, lying and being in **Stanstead, Wrotham and Ashe** in
the said county
76 of Kent as those which are situated, lying and being in Tonbridge
aforesaid, I will
77 unto the said Alice, my wife, for term of her natural life. And after her
decease
78 I will, give and devise all and singular the said lands, tenements and
hereditaments with

79 their and every of their members and appurtenances, in all and every the
parishes aforesaid,
80 unto **Johane, Alice, Anne, Marie, Frauncis, Sara and Martha, my
daughters,**
81 their heirs and assigns, to the only use and behoof of the said Johane,
Alice, Anne,
82 Marie, Frauncis, Sara and Martha, their heirs and assigns, for ever. **Not**
83 **withstanding** my will and mind is that, as my said daughters shall
84 accomplish their ages of twenty and one years, one after another, or shall
happen
85 to be married, which of them shall first come, they and every of them
shalbe paid by
86 my said wife out of my lands and tenements aforesaid to be holden by her
during her
87 life, the sum of five pounds a piece of lawful english money, yearly and
88 every year after their said ages of 21 years or days of marriage which shall
first
89 happen, towards their maintenance during the whole term of the natural
life of
90 my said wife, half yearly by equal and even portions. And for default of
payment
91 thereof accordingly or within fourteen days next after every half year and

92 in or at my now dwelling house, situated in Tonbridge aforesaid (it being
there
93 lawfully demanded) it shall and may be lawful for my said daughters to
enter
94 and distrain for the same, in and upon all or any part of my messuages,
lands
95 and tenements and such distress and distresses as shalbe taken for the
same,
96 it shalbe lawful for them, and every or one of them, so unpaid to carry
away,
97 detain, hold and keep till they, and every of them shalbe thereof fully and
truly
98 paid, from time to time, according to the purport of this my will. **And
farther**
99 I will that my said wife shall bring up and maintain all my said daughters
100 until their several ages of 21 years or days of marriage (which shall first
101 happen). **Provided** always, if the said Alice, my wife, shalbe with child
102 at the time of my decease and shall bring forth a manchild, then I will, give
103 and devise to the said manchild, his heirs and assigns for ever (after his
mother's
104 decease) all my lands and tenements, situated, lying and being in
Stanstead, Wrotham

105 and Ashe aforesaid. And then my foresaid daughters to have only my
tenement and
106 lands aforesaid, lying and being only in Tonbridge aforesaid to them and
their heirs for
107 ever (the Postern Field aforesaid excepted, to be had and holden as
aforesaid). And if
108 my said wife shall bring forth a daughter, that daughter to have equal part
to her
109 and her heirs into all and every my lands, tenements and hereditaments
formerly
110 willed to my said other daughters. And to have five pounds per annum out
of my
111 lands in such manner to be paid as to my other daughters is appointed for
her
112 maintenance after her age of 21 years or day of marriage which shall first
happen (any
113 thing in this my will mentioned or contained to the contrary thereof in any
wise not
114 withstanding. In witness whereof I have to this my testament and last will
set

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

By me Henry Gransden

These being witnesses

Richard Smythe

John Hooper, notary pub.

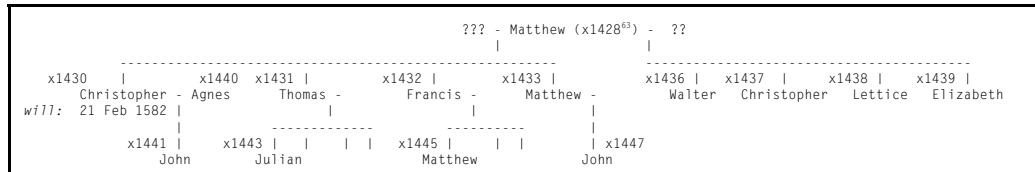
1 In the name of god Amen. The seventh day of May in the year
2 of our lord god one thousand five hundred ninety one, I, Richard Grinstead
3 of the parish of Hever in the diocese of Canterbury⁶¹, sick in body but of
perfect
4 memory, thanks be unto almighty god, do make this my last will and
testament
5 in manner and form following: **Imprimis** I commend my soul unto almighty
6 god and my body to be committed to the earth. **Item:** I give and bequeath
unto
7 **my daughter, Margaret**, five pounds of lawful money of England to be
8 paid unto her within half a year next after my decease. All the rest of
9 my goods not given nor bequeathed, I give and bequeath to **Thomas, my
son,**
10 whom I make my whole and sole executor. I do ordain **Frances Russell**
11 to be my overseer of this my last will and testament. Witnesses hereunto
12 **Thomas Barsty, Thomas Woodgate and Laurence Atwill.**

61 actually Hever is in the diocese of Rochester

Christopher Gurley of Leigh

The will of Christopher Gurley (CKS: Drb/Pw 13, Drb/Pwr 16.191) was written by Nicholas Hooper, curate of Shipbourne, who wrote a many wills between 1578 and 1618. It is a long will and the relationships are difficult to sort out.

No Gurleys are recorded in the parish records for Leigh. The simplest solution to the relationships obtained from Christopher's will seems to be that Matthew Gurley, the father of all the brothers and sisters mentioned, married twice and that he had a Christopher in both his sets of children. This leads to the following tree:



The testator of this will was probably the eldest and therefore the responsibility of executing his father's will had been his with the children of his father's second

marriage being underage at the time of their father's death and, probably, still underage when Christopher wrote his will.

Will of Christopher Gurley of Leigh

written 21st February 1581/2; codicil 22nd February
transcript from original supplemented by probate copy

Nicholas Hooper's
mark

1 In⁶⁴ the name of god Amen. The one and twentieth day of February in the
2 year of our lord god a thousand, five hundredth, four score and one and in
the four and twenty
3 year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of god,
Queen of
4 England, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, I, Christopher Gurley of
5 Leigh next Tonbridge in the County of Kent, **yeoman**, being sick and weak
in body but yet of

64 decorated "I" but no more decoration in the will

6 perfect mind and remembrance, thanks therefore be given to Almighty
god, do ordain and
7 make this my present testament containing in it my last will in manner
and form following:⁶³
8 And **first** and principally I give, commend and bequeath my soul to
almighty god,
9 my maker, saviour and redeemer, Jesus Christ, by whose merit, precious
death and
10 blood shedding⁶⁴, I trust to be saved and by body to be⁶⁵ buried in the
church of Tonbridge
11 or Leigh aforesaid in whichever of them it shall please god to call me.
Item: I give and bequeath to
12 the box or chest of the poor of Leigh aforesaid five shillings. And to be
distributed among the
13 poor people resorting to my burial such portion of money as shall seem
good to mine

63 "following"

64 "blodshedding"

65 "bee", "mee", etc. here and for the next few lines only

14 overseers hereafter named. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Agnes, my**
15 **wellbeloved wife**, a featherbed
16 and a flock bed which she hath now in occupying with all such sheets,
17 blankets and furniture to
18 them belonging as she now hath in her occupying and keeping, a little
19 brass pot, a little kettle,
20 a chafer of brass, two pewter plates, two pewter dishes, two salvers and
21 half a dozen tin
22 spoons. **Item:** whereas I have a stock of money in the hands of **John**
Frankelyn, late of Bromley
in the county of Kent to the value of three score pounds to be due and
payable,
to me the said Christopher⁶⁶, mine executors and assigns, at the feast of
th'annunciation of the blessed virgin Mary which
shalbe in the year of our lord god one thousand, five hundredth, fourscore
and three, as by an
indenture bearing date the first day of June in the 20th year of our said
sovereign lady Queen

66 a number of the "Christophers" are abbreviated to "Xopher" in the probate copy whilst appearing in full in the original

23 Elizabeth's reign⁶⁷, it doth and may appear. And whereas also, by virtue of
the said indenture, there
24 is also yearly due and payable to me the sum of fourteen pounds lawful
money⁶⁸ at such
25 feasts and times as therein is also set down. **I will**, give and bequeath to
Francis Gurley, my
26 **brother, Matthew, his eldest son** and his executors, all the said sum or
stock of three score pounds
27 to be due as is aforesaid and also the said rent of £14 to be due and
payable as afore is said by virtue
28 also of the said Indenture, under condition that the **said Francis**, his
executors, administrators
29 or assigns shall satisfy, content and pay, or cause to be paid, yearly, £3 12s
due by virtue of the
30 same indenture to the **right honourable Anthony, Viscount Montagne,**
knight, of the most noble
31 order of the garter. And also shall pay, or cause to be paid, to **Matthew**
Gurley, his brother, the sum

67 1578

68 if this was interest on the £60, the yearly interest rate was 23.33%

32 of £3 6s 8d lawful money within one whole year next after my decease.
And to **Walter Gurley**,
33 **his brother**, the sum of thirteen pounds, six shillings and eight pence lawful
money. And to
34 **Christopher Gurley, his brother**⁶⁹, also £13 6s 8d of like lawful money. And
to **Lettice Gurley, his sister**,
35 thirteen pounds six shillings and eight pence of like lawful money. And
also to **Elizabeth Gurley**,
36 **his sister**, another £13 6s 8d of like lawful money. All which sums⁷⁰ of £13
6s 8d willed to Walter Gurley,
37 £13 6s 8d willed to Christopher Gurley, £13 6s 8d willed to Lettice Gurley
and £13 6s 8d willed to
38 Elizabeth Gurley, I will shalbe paid to them, and every of them, at such
times and in such order,
39 manner and form as is set down and expressed in the last will and
testament of the said **Matthew**
40 **Gurley, their father**, and in performance of the same and of this my will.
And under condition

69 the "said Francis" who is to pay these sums is described (line 25) as the testator's brother and therefore these recipients would have also been **his** brothers. Were there two Christophers in the family? This phrase was, however, taken from the probate copy, the name and relationship not being legible on the original

70 these sums, including that to Viscount Montague total £59 15s 4d, practically all of the £60

41 also that the said Francis Gurley, his executors or administrators, shall,
with a sufficient suretie or two,
42 stand bounden to mine overseers hereafter named, or one of them, their
executors or assigns, in such
43 sufficient bond as they, or either of them, shall reasonably request or
demand, as well to satisfy and
44 pay all and every the sum and sums of money to the said Walter,
Christopher, Lettice and Elizabeth,
45 his brothers and sisters, at the said time and according to the true meaning
of his said father's will and of
46 this my will as also to acquit and discharge me, the said Christopher
Gurley, mine executor and administrators
47 and all other to whom the promises shall appertain of all and every the
same sum and sums and all other
48 things and legacies contained in their said father's will. Also I will and
bequeath to him, the said Francis
49 Gurley, one obligation of £10 to me from **Walter Pelsett of Wrotham** made,
and the bond and forfeiture
50 of the same. **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Thomas Gurley, my brother**, the
sum of 20s to be paid
51 to him within one year next after my decease by my overseers hereafter
named and to his children,

52 equally to be divided among them, the sum of forty shillings (except **Julian**
53 **Gurley, his daughter,**
54 to which Julian Gurley, I will the sum of forty shillings lawful money). All
55 which legacies, to the
56 said Thomas and his children and the said forty shillings to the said Julian,
57 his said daughter, I will shalbe paid
58 to them also within one whole year next after my decease by my said
59 overseers. And if the said
60 Thomas Gurley happen to decease within the said year, then I will also the
61 said 20s to him willed
62 shalbe equally divided among them, his said children, by my said
63 overseers. **Item:** I will and
64 bequeath to **Ursula Denman, my kinswoman,** the sum of forty shillings
65 lawful money to be paid
66 to her within one whole year next after my decease by my said overseers.⁷¹
67 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **my very friend,**
68 **Richard Waller, gent.** my gelding to be delivered to him immediately after
69 my decease by my said overseers.

71 In the original will the following item, which is more or less a copy of the previous one, was written and then crossed out. This looks very much like the type of mistake which can be made when someone is copying from a draft or notes. **Item:** I will and bequeath to **Ursula Denman, my kinswoman,** the sum of forty shillings lawful money to be paid to her within the said time by my said overseers." Similarly, on line 62 "Richard Wallers" was written first with thw Wallers changed to "Waters".

62 **Item:** I will and forgive **Richard Waters, tanner**, 10s which he oweth me.
Item: I will to

63 **Custome Cowper, als. Paler and to Christopher, her brother**, 20s a piece to
be paid, by my said overseers,

64 within one whole year next after my decease. **Item:** I give to **Trewe Perret,**
my goddaughter,

65 five pounds; To **Mildred, her sister**, 40s; To **her brother, John**, £3, all which
legacies last above willed,

66 I will shalbe paid, by my said overseers, within one whole year next after
my decease. Nevertheless, I

67 desire my said overseers, or one of them, at the payment of every of the
same legacies, or immediately after,

68 to place and bestow the said money to some honest man or men for the
most profit they can (being godly)

69 till such times as the said maidens shalbe married and as the said John
shall come to the age of 20 years.

70 **Item:** I give and bequeath to **Thomas Andrew, Andrew Brytt, Thomas**
Herrington, Jerome Bowle,

71 **Walter Harman, Alice Perret and Lettice Harman**, to every of them 3s 4d a
piece. All which I will shalbe paid,

72 by my said overseers, within one whole year next after my decease. **Item:**
I give and bequeath to **goodwife**

73 **Codd** 2 ells⁷² of fine holland cloth, parcel of a pair, which I have in the
custody of **goodwife Perret**; to **Johane**,
74 **servant** to the said goodwife Cad, one ell parcel of the same. And to **my**
son John 3 ells parcel
75 also of the same. And to the said **goodwife Perret** the residue of the same
pair and also a parcel of new ?? now in her occupying to be divided
between **my said wife** and her. **Item:** whereas I am
76 to pay to **John Gurley, son of the said Matthew**⁷³ **Gurley, my brother**, the
sum of ten pounds lawful
77 money at his age of 20 years, In recompense of the same, I give to him, the
said John, the sum of fifteen pounds
78 to be paid to his master, **Mr. Audeley of London**, at the feast of the
Annunciation of the virgin Mary
79 next ensuing, Under condition that the said John shall not claim the said
legacy of ten pounds, or any
80 parcel thereof. And I will that my said overseers shall take sufficient bonds
of the said Mr. Audeley, or one or two

72 an ell is a measure of length equal to 45 inches

73 was this the Matthew above who was to receive £3 6s 8d or were there two Matthews as well as two Christophers?

81 sureties, with them at the discretion of my said overseers for the payment
of the said £15 at such time as they, the said
82 Mr. Audeley and my said overseers shall agree upon. **Item:** I give to **my**
brother Thomas Gurley all my wearing
83 gear and apparel which I have in the house of **Thomas Codd** wherein I now
lie and one of my best sheets. To **John, my son**, my gown,
84 satin doublet, best black hose, two black coats and a blouse and my cloak;
and to **Francis**, a blue coat. And to **Walter Perret**,
85 myne old gown. **Item:** I will that all my table and stools in the mansion
house wherein **John Lamb** now dwelleth shall stand there
86 as implements and standards during my interest therein.

87 **The residue** of all my goods and cattalls, leases and debts, as well
moveable as unmoveable, I will and give to **my son**
88 **John Gurley** which John I make and constitute my whole and sole executor
of this my will. Nevertheless my will is that
89 **my very friends, Thomas Tuttesham, gent.** and **Edmund Mylles** shall have
the occupation and
90 governance of all my said moveable goods and cattalls and receive the rent
and profit of my said leases
91 whatsoever (except the profit given before, in this my will, to Francis
Gurley) for, by and during the

92 space of one whole year from the feast of Saint Michael th'archangel next
after my decease for
93 and toward the payment of my debts, the payment and discharge of my
legacies before mentioned by my
94 overseers to be paid and for and towards the probaton of this my will and
their expenses by them, in
95 that cause or any other cause, concerning this my will laid out which
Thomas Tuttesham and Edmund
96 Mylles I appoint and desire to be overseers of this my will. And I will that
they, or one of them, shall
97 make a true and --st Account of the bestowing or rightful laying out of any
of my said moveable
98 goods, cattalls, rent and debts whatsoever, at the end and term of the said
year, to the said John, myne executor,
99 his executors or assigns and the overplus of the same remaining shall place
unto the said John, my
100 son, at the end of the said term.

101 **This is the last will** of me, the said Christopher Gurley, made and declared
the day
102 and year first above written concerning the ordering and disposition of all
my lands and tenements whatsoever, lying

103 and being in **Leigh aforesaid and Tonbridge aforesaid** or in any of them or
elsewhere in the county
104 of Kent. **First:** I will that my said overseers, Thomas Tuttesham and
Edmund Mylles, or either of them, shall
105 have, receive and take up those of the issues, rent, profit and revenues of
all my
106 said lands and tenements whatsoever with thappurtenances for, by and
during the time and space of one whole
107 year from and after the said feast of Saint Michael Th'archangel next after
my decease and
108 to let and set the same, or any of them, now out of lease at their will and
pleasure during the said space.
109 And I will that they, my said overseers, shall devise all my land and
tenements now in the occupancy of **Walter Perret** to him the said Walter
until the said one year next after the feast of Saint Michael th'archangel
next after my decease for the rent of ten pounds by the year to be⁷⁴
110 paid. In consideration that they, the said Thomas and Edmund, or one of
them, their executors or
111 assigns, shall pay my legacies before mentioned by them to be paid. And
also shall pay to the said **Agnes**,

74 this is an insertion in the original, the text being taken from the probate copy

112 **my said wife**, the sum of five pounds of lawful money at the feasts of
Thannunciation and Michaelmas,
113 by equal portions, during the said term. And also shall, at the end of the
said term, make a --st account of
114 the overplus of the said profit and revenues of my said land and the same
overplus to be paid to the said
115 John, my son, or his heirs, executors or assigns, deducting and keeping, out
of the same account, to them
116 the sum of 20s a piece, for and towards their pains and travail, besides
their expenses.
117 And after the end and expiration of the said term, I will and bequeath all
my said land and tenements, with
118 all and singular thappurtenances whatsoever, to my said son John Gurley,
To have and to hold all the said
119 land and tenements whatsoever, with thappurtenances, to him, the said
John, my son, and to his heirs forever.
120 **Provided** always, and my very will and mind is, that the said John Gurley,
my son, and his
121 heirs shall, after the expiration of the said term and for and during the
natural life of the said Agnes,
122 my wife, satisfy, content and pay, or cause to be paid, to the said Agnes,
my wife, yearly the sum of

123 five pounds of lawful money at the feast of Thannunciation of the virgin
Mary and Saint
124 Michael Th'archangel by equal portions to be paid. And for lack of
payment of the same, or any parcel thereof,
125 I will it shalbe lawful for her, or her assigns, to enter in and upon any of
may said land
126 and there to distrain and the same distress to hold until the said £5 yearly
to be fully satisfied,
127 contented and paid, any thing herein before mentioned to the contrary in
any wise notwithstanding.
128 **Provided** furthermore, and my will is, that if my said wife shall claim,
demand or have
129 any jointure or dower out of my said land, or any parcel thereof, then I will
that all my
130 bequests or legacies of £5 by the year, and also my said moveable goods
whatsoever to her herein
131 before willed, shalbe utterly void, frustrate and of none effect, strength or
virtue (anything
132 herein also before mentioned to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding).
In witness whereof

133 I, the said Christopher Gurley, to this my present⁷⁵ last will and testament
have set

134 my hand and seal yeven⁷⁶ the day and year first above written in the
presence of

Thomas Codd

William Harris, jun.

Walter Perret

Francis Gurley

Nicolas Hooper and others.

- Furthermore, I will that this Codicil shall stand and be part of this my will immediately following,
- that is to say that my two overseers aforesaid, or one of them, shall at their will and pleasure
- sell and assure to **my very friend, Humfrey Dixon⁷⁷**, for the sum of twenty and four pounds

75 "writing" entered here, crossed out and "last will" substituted

76 given

77 the will of Humphrey Dixon, written 1586, has survived, see [Dixon](#).

- by him to them to be paid, All those three acres of meadow called **Home Buddles** adjoining to
- **Buddlemeade in Tonbridge** aforesaid, to have and to hold the same, with all and singular th'appurtenances,
- to him, the said Humfrey Dixon, and his heirs forever (anything before herein mentioned
- to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding. In witness whereof I have set my
- seal, the two and twentieth day of the month of February above written in the
- presence of **William Harris, the elder, John Rolfe,**
- **Nicolas Hooper** and others.

John Gurly of Leigh

Although no burial was recorded for John Gurly his widow, Elizabeth, was appointed his administrator on 12th January 1603. Twenty-five years later, in 1628, another administration was granted to **John Fordell**, husband of Elizabeth Fordell, alias Gurley, deceased. (Duncan, A.C.Vol. 18)

Presumably Elizabeth Fordell was John's daughter.

Nothing more is known of this family but it shows how long it could take to finalise an estate.